



# WILLIAMS DIGEST OF LAWS

being the

Constitution, Rules and General Laws

of the

Grand Lodge of Mississippi  
Free and Accepted Masons



Compiled by Gary B. Jones, P.M.  
Chairman, Grand Lodge of Mississippi Jurisprudence Committee - 2026

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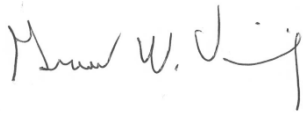
## CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certify that the codification of the Act of Incorporation, Constitution, General Laws, and Judicial Decisions contained in this, the Twentieth Edition of Williams Digest of Laws of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, Free and Accepted Masons, are true and correct. We further certify that the same is in accordance with, and conform to the acts of, this Grand Lodge in its Annual and Special Communications.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the seal of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, Free and Accepted Masons this, the first day of May, A.D. 2026, A.L. 6026.



GARY B. JONES, P.M., Chairman,  
Law and Jurisprudence Committee



GROVER W. VINING  
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Mississippi



GARY B. JONES, P.M., Chairman,  
Law and Jurisprudence Committee



**J. Rice Williams, P.G.M.**

Compiler of the Digest  
From First Edition - 1920  
Through Ninth Edition – 1953

“A friend to truth; of soul sincere,  
In action faithful and in honor clear;  
Who broke no promise, served no private end.  
Ennobled by himself, by all  
approved and praised by all he truly loved.

## RESOLUTION

The following Resolution, submitted by M.W. Brother William D. Neal, P.G.M. was adopted:

RESOLVED by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi in its One Hundred Thirty-ninth Annual Communication assembled, that in recognition of the many benefits accruing to this Grand Lodge through the years because of the labors of the late Dr. J. Rice Williams, and more particularly because of his attachment to the duties involved in regularly compiling the Digest of Laws of this Grand Lodge and interpreting its provisions for nearly two score years, that, beginning with the Eleventh Edition of same that it be officially titled "Williams Digest of Laws of the Grand Loge of Mississippi, Free and Accepted Masons."

This Resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. &A. M., in Annual Communication at Jackson, Mississippi, this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 1957.  
(Proceedings 1957, Page 71)



William D. Neal, P.G.M.  
Compiler of the Digest  
From Tenth Edition – 1956  
Through Seventeenth Edition – 1983



A. J. Tullos, P.G.M.  
Compiler of the Digest  
From Eighteenth Edition – 1991  
Through Nineteenth Edition – 1998



Gary B. Jones, P.M.  
Compiler of the Digest  
Twentieth Edition – 2011  
through present

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## LAWS OF MASONRY

The laws of Masonry applicable to the government of Subordinate Lodges may be divided into three classes:

**First**, Landmarks not subject to change, and binding absolutely on all Masons and Ancient Usages. (1871-100)

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Our Institution is based on immutable laws and principles, which are characteristic of the Order. These fundamental principles and laws mark its identity, and are termed Landmarks, which admit of no change or modification that would impair its unity, as it was in the beginning, is now, and must ever remain. These Landmarks consist of Moral, Physical, and Religious qualifications, and of peculiar Rites and ceremonies which are beyond the control of Masonic legislation. It is not in the power of any man or body of men, to make innovations therein. **(1871-52) (1872-65)**
2. A landmark in a religious, civic, or fraternal institution is something agreed on at its organization as being essential to the perpetuity of the aims and purposes of that institution as set forth at its organization, the changing of which would change the meaning and purposes of the institution. For instance, belief in Deity is a landmark in religion; liberty is a landmark of the Constitution of the United States; equality is a landmark of Masonry. **(Digest 1958-52)**
3. A rule or regulation formulated at the institution of Freemasonry for the purpose of transmitting the true principles of Freemasonry unimpaired to future generations may also be considered a landmark. **(Digest 1958-52)**
4. Landmarks are found in and based on the fundamental principles of Freemasonry; hence it is impossible to catalogue them and number them. **(Digest 1958-52)** The following are generally considered Landmarks: a. Modes of recognition.
  - b. The division of Symbolic Masonry into three degrees.
  - c. The Legend of the Third Degree.
  - d. The government of the Fraternity by a presiding officer, called a Grand Master, elected from the body of the Craft.
  - e. The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every Assembly of the Craft, wherever and whenever held, if he be present.
  - f. The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodge.
  - g. The necessity for the Craft, when congregated in a Lodge, to have a Master and two Wardens.
  - h. The necessity that every Lodge, when congregated, shall be duly Tiled.
  - i. The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft and to instruct his Representative.
  - j. The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his Brethren in Lodge to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons.
  - k. That no visitor, unless known as a Mason, to at least one of them, can enter a Lodge without first passing an examination according to ancient custom.
  - l. That no Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge or give degrees to persons under the Jurisdiction of other Lodges, except by request.
  - m. That ever Mason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction where he resides or sojourns, although he may not be a member of any particular Lodge.
  - n. A belief in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.
  - o. A belief in the resurrection to a future life.
  - p. That a "Book of the Law", the Bible, constitutes an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge. q. The secrecy of the Institution.
  - r. The foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and the symbolic use and explanation of the terms of that are for the purpose of moral teaching.
  - s. The last and crowning Landmark is that of our first Most Excellent Grand Master, that these Landmarks cannot be changed. "Remove not the ancient Landmarks, which thy fathers have set," Prov. XX 11-28; the Ancient Constitutions. **(Digest 1958-52)**

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- t. The Bible is essential in every Lodge, without which the Lodge cannot be opened, nor a candidate obligated. **(1898-54)**
  - u. No candidate can be initiated who denies that the Bible is the inestimable gift of God to man, and the rule and guide of his faith. **(1883-60)**

The Ancient Charges, as published by order of the Grand Lodge of England, in Anderson's Constitutions, contain all or nearly all the Ancient Landmarks and Usages of Masonry that are proper to be written. No Grand Lodge has the right to alter, change or amend any portion of said Ancient Constitution, as contained in the first edition of Anderson's Constitutions, is, or should be, regarded as the highest Masonic authority on which to found a Code of Laws for the good of the Craft. **(1870-53)**

**Second**, the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and not subject to legislation by Subordinate Lodges. **(1871-100)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The power of the Grand Lodge to legislate for its own government or that of the Subordinate Lodges is not given by the Constitution, nor is it necessary that it should be given, for by virtue of the Ancient Constitutions and Regulations of Masonry and Grand Lodge is the only true and legitimate source of Masonic authority. Subordinate Lodges congregate under this Warrant. With it resides the inherent power to enact laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, to alter and repeal such laws and regulations, preserving the Ancient Landmarks. **(1885-52)**

**Third**, By-Laws, usually the subject of such legislation, with the approval of the Grand Lodge, and under the restrictions the Grand Lodge imposes. **(1871-100)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Lodges cannot change the By-Laws except to fill up, or change, the blanks. **(1887-57)**
2. It is within the province of the Grand Master to suspend portions of the By-Laws. **(1892-60) (1897-24) (1898-87)**

*The following was included in previous editions of Williams Digest but is superseded by Resolution adopted at the 2008 Annual Communication and codified in Section 1-1.1 of the General Laws.*

*To obtain uniformity in the government and working of Subordinate Lodges, and to save the time of the Grand Lodge and its Committees in examining, revising and correcting their By-Laws, the present Code has been adopted. It is divided into four parts: **(1961-139)***

*First, a compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge relating to Subordinate Lodges, their officers and members, and their respective duties **(1961-139)***

*Second, By-Laws for the government of Subordinate Lodges **(1871-100)***

*Third, Rules of Order for the dispatch of business at their meetings **(1901-62)***

*Fourth, Rules for their government at trials **(1871-100)***

*All of these emanate from the Grand Lodge and are imposed by its authority, but, for sake of convenience, are kept separate. **(1854-83) (1961-139)***

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## ACT OF INCORPORATION

An ACT to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes.

**SECTION 1.** Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, that the officers and members, and all others who may hereafter become officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Mississippi, be and they are hereby declared to be a body corporate and politic under the name and style of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi; and by that name and style shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, in any court of law or shall have full power and authority to make and enforce such by-laws, rules and regulations as may be agreed upon by the members thereof, and to alter and amend the same at pleasure; provided, the same are not inconsistent with or repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this State, or of the United States.

**SECTION 2.** Be it further enacted, That the Grand Lodge of Mississippi shall have full power and authority to hold, possess, and enjoy real and personal property, and to sell and convey the same at pleasure; also to take, receive, and apply such bequests or donations as may be made to and for the uses and purposes intended by such institution.

**SECTION 3.** Be it further enacted, That all regular Subordinate Lodges constituted under the power and Jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, together with such other regular Subordinate Lodges as may be hereafter constituted under the Jurisdiction of said Grand Lodge, be and they are hereby, declared to be bodies corporate and politic, in name and deed, by whatever name or style they may be called or known, with equal rights and powers to those which are by this Act granted to the Grand Lodge, so long as the said Subordinate Lodges shall remain under the power and Jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge.

**SECTION 4.** Be it further enacted, that this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved April 10, 1871.

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The Act of Incorporation of 1871 created the Grand Lodge of Mississippi as a body corporate, and at the same time creates each Subordinate Lodge in the state a body corporate with the right to manage its own property. So long as it does not violate the constitution or the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge, it has the perfect right to deal with its own property as it may see fit. **(1936-27)**
2. The corporation is not required to make publication of its Charter. It issues no shares of stock, divides no dividends or profits among its members, makes suspension the only remedy for non-payment of dues, vests in each member the right to one vote in the election of all officers, makes the loss of membership, by death or otherwise, the termination of all interest of such member in the corporate assets.
3. There is no individual liability against the members for corporate debts, but the entire corporate property is liable for the claims of creditors.
4. The Lodge is the same as any other corporation. It acts through its officers or a committee, as it may elect, or it may transact business for itself. **(1902-94)**
5. It may delegate authority to anyone it chooses, and it may require those who act for it to report their Proceedings and confirm their acts before they take effect, or vest in them discretionary powers. With the exception of its records and Charter, a Lodge contemplating the surrender of its Charter, may do what it pleases with its property. **(1902-94)**
6. Deeds should be made to the Lodge by name and number. Deeds from a Subordinate Lodge should be signed by the Master and attested by the Secretary. Deeds from the Grand Lodge should be signed by the Grand Master and

attested by the Grand Secretary. These officers must be authorized by specific Lodge or Grand Lodge action to execute such deeds. **(Digest 1958-28)**

7. A Lodge can mortgage its property. A mortgage should be signed by the Master and attested by the Secretary. The Lodge, by majority vote, must have given its consent. **(1893-50)**
8. Property of Subordinate Lodges passes to the Grand Lodge only when the Subordinate Lodge becomes defunct. **(1917-142)**
9. No Masonic Lodge, under its corporate name, can allow its name to be used to advertise a product or to increase the sale of anything. **(Digest 1958-10)**

**CONSTITUTION  
of the  
GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

**ARTICLE I - OF THE GRAND LODGE**

**ITS CONSTITUTION**

**SECTION 1** - The Grand Lodge of Mississippi shall consist of the Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Masters of Subordinate Lodges (having been such by office), Masters and Wardens of Subordinate Lodges for the time being, or the Representatives of said Lodges. (1919-80)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Past Master of another Jurisdiction, who has affiliated with a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, is not a Mississippi Past Master and is not entitled to vote in this Grand Lodge. (1922-167)

**ITS MEMBERS**

**SECTION 2** - Every member of the Grand Lodge must be a member of some Subordinate Lodge. When a member of the Grand Lodge demits or is suspended from a Subordinate Lodge, his Grand Lodge membership is in abeyance during the time that he is demitted or suspended. When a sentence of expulsion from a Subordinate Lodge has been approved by the Grand Lodge, the seat of the expelled member in Grand Lodge becomes, ipso facto, vacated, and his membership ceases. (1936-42)

*Cross References: §§5-1.1, 5-1.3, 5-1.5; 5-1.7; 13-5.1; 13-5.3; 13-5.5; 13-5.7; 13-5.9;13-5.11;13-5. 13; 23-1; 23-3.1*

**ITS AUTHORITY**

**SECTION 3** - The Grand Lodge shall have authority to hear appeals, redress grievances, and remove complaints from Subordinate Lodges; to relieve distressed Brethren, their widows and orphans; to assess such contributions from Subordinate Lodges for charitable and other purposes, from time to time as they shall judge right and proper for the good of Masonry, and to correspond with other Grand Lodges. (1819-7)

*Cross References: §§3-1.1; 13-1.1; 19-21.1; 19-21.3; 19-23.7; 25-11.5; 25-1.9, 11, 13; 25-13.1, 3, 5*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. By virtue of the Ancient Constitutions and Regulations of Masonry, the Grand the only true and legitimate source of Masonic authority; Subordinate Lodges congregate under its Warrant; with it resides the inherent power to enact laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, to alter and repeal such laws and regulations, preserving the Ancient Landmarks of the Institution. (1899-25)
2. The Grand Lodge has the authority to declare what bodies claiming to be Masonic, within its territory, are lawfully such, and with what such Masonic bodies Master Masons may lawfully affiliate. (1899-25)
3. It has authority to declare what organizations that take only Master Masons as members conform to the true principles, teachings, and practices of Freemasonry, and to forbid Master Masons to join, or retain membership in, any organization that pretends to have any kind of Masonic connection if that organization teaches or practices anything that contravenes the true principles and fundamental teachings of Freemasonry. (1899-25)

4. The Grand Lodge is clothed with authority and charged with the duty to enforce the above mentioned American Doctrine in its entirety. **(1874-84) (Digest 1958-9)**
5. It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, By-Laws, and Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline to the Lodges for their action. It is necessary to submit amendments to the Constitution to the Subordinate Lodges. **(1885-82)**

### **ITS DUTIES**

**SECTION 4** - The Grand Lodge shall have the superintendence and care of all Subordinate Lodges under its Jurisdiction, and direct all their work and designs, and see that they are executed agreeably to the laws, usages and customs of Ancient Masonry, and determine matters brought before the Grand Lodge by votes. (1919-80)

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. See Constitution, Section 3 (above)
2. The Grand Lodge may appoint a committee to investigate the misconduct of a Lodge. The committee is a court, constituted by the Grand Lodge for the purpose of investigating charges against the Lodge and arriving at the truth on issues submitted, and it must proceed in an orderly, legal way. The committee should follow the well fixed rules of evidence and not be governed in reaching its conclusions by anything which cannot be submitted as testimony. **(1903-15)**

### **ITS POWER ON APPEALS**

**SECTION 5** - Whenever this Grand Lodge shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a Subordinate Lodge expelling or suspending a Brother, and shall restore said Brother to the benefits and privileges of Masonry, nevertheless, he shall not, thereby be restored to membership within the body from which he has been expelled or suspended, without the consent of the Subordinate Lodge. **(1871-93)**

*Cross References: §§25-5.9; 25-3.13D; 25-3.22; 25-11.5; 25-1.9; 25-1.11; 25-13.1; 25-13.3; 25-13.5*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Grand Lodge possesses power to reverse or abrogate the decision of a Lodge expelling or suspending a Mason, but it cannot restore an expelled or suspended Mason to membership in the Lodge that expelled or suspended him, no matter how far the Proceedings may be tainted with illegality, unfairness or Masonic impropriety. **(1884-56) (1875-92)**
2. When the Grand Lodge sets aside a sentence of expulsion the expelled Mason does not thereby become a member of the Lodge from which he was expelled. His status is that of a non-affiliate, **(1902-130)**. Although he is not restored to membership in the Lodge expelling him except by the favorable action of that Lodge, if he pays his dues to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides, he has the right of visitation. **(Digest 1958-73)**

### **ITS ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

**SECTION 6** - The Grand Lodge shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine at its previous Annual Grand Communication, which shall be the Annual Communication, when reports shall be received and committees appointed to examine them and the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, hear complaints and appeals and determine all matters and questions submitted to it for investigation. **(1902-63)**

*Cross References: §§5-1.1; 5-1.3; 5-1.5; 5-1.7; 5-9.1; 7-11; 7-15.1; 13-5.1; 13-5.3; 13-5. 5; 13-5.7; 13-5.9; 13-5.11; 13-5.13*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The practice of closing the Grand Lodge every day during the Annual Communication is regarded as inexpedient and unnecessary and does not meet the approbation of the Grand Lodge. **(1865-33)**

### **ITS MODE OF VOTING**

**SECTION 7 -** (a) In the election of officers the voting shall be by written ballots, and every Lodge present by officers or representatives shall be entitled to three votes, whether represented by one or more Brethren, and every officer or member of the Grand Lodge shall have one vote, and if the representative of a particular Lodge, he may cast its vote in addition to his own vote. (1885-87)

(b) In the determination of all matters brought before the Grand Lodge the vote shall be taken by the display of his Voting Coupon Book or by secret ballot as the presiding officer may decide. In event of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote. (1885-87) (2001-52) (2004-43)

(c) In the determination of all amendments that were included in the call of the Annual Communication, as required by Amendments, Section 59, How Made, the vote shall be by written ballots. Every Lodge present represented by officers or representatives shall be entitled to three votes, whether represented by one or more Brethren, and every officer or member of the Grand Lodge shall have one vote, and if the representative of a particular Lodge, he may cast its vote in addition to his own vote. In the event of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote. (2004-22)

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Past Master of another Jurisdiction, who has affiliated with a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, is not a Past Master and not entitled to vote in this Grand Lodge. (1922-167)
2. A motion to table cannot be entertained in a Masonic Lodge or Grand Lodge. Motion to cut off debate should not be entertained. The Master determines when debate shall cease. (Digest 1958-78)

### **ITS QUORUM**

**SECTION 8 -** The Grand Lodge shall not be open for business except there be present the officers or representatives of at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the chartered Subordinate Lodges. (1818-7) (2023-22)

### **ITS STANDING COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 9 -** The Grand Master (and in his absence the Deputy Grand Master), the Senior Grand and Junior Grand Wardens, shall be the Grand Committee of Charity, each shall have authority to draw on the Grand Treasurer for any sum deemed necessary to relieve a suffering Brother, his widow, or orphans. (1871-94)

*Cross References: §§5-9.1; 11-1*

**SECTION 10 -** The aforesaid Grand Officers shall be the Standing Committee of Accounts, and are authorized to settle the contingent expenses of the Grand Lodge and draw on the Grand Treasurer for the same. (1818-9)

## **ARTICLE II - OF GRAND OFFICERS**

### **WHO AND HOW CHOSEN**

**SECTION 1 -** The officers of the Grand Lodge shall consist of

1. The Most Worshipful Grand Master,
2. The Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden,

3. The Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden,
4. The Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer,
5. The Right Worshipful Grand Secretary,
6. The Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer,
7. The Right Worshipful Grand Tiler,

who shall be elected from among the members of the Grand Lodge and the following, who shall be appointed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master-elect, from among the members of the Grand Lodge:

8. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master,
9. The Right Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon,
10. The Right Reverend Grand Chaplain,
11. The Right Worshipful Grand Marshal,
12. The Right Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer,
13. The Right Worshipful Grand Pursuivant,
14. The Right Worshipful Grand Orator (1999-82)

The following shall be appointed by the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden-elect:

15. The Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon (1933-91)

*Cross References: §§5-3.1; 5-3.3; 5-3.5; 5-3.7; 5-3. 9*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A proposed amendment to this section, the effect of which would have been to make the office of Deputy Grand Master elective, failed passage by Grand Lodge. (1973-116) (1993-59, 60)

#### **ELECTION AND INSTALLATION**

**SECTION 2** - The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be chosen at the Grand Communication annually, and duly installed, except the Grand Lecturer, who shall be elected biennially. (1885-88)

*Cross References: §§5-3.1; 5-3.3; 5-3.5; 5-3.7; 5-3. 9*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. It is unmaasonic and reprehensible for one aspiring to office in the Grand Lodge, or a Subordinate Lodge, personally to solicit votes for himself. (1875-11, 69)

#### **SUCCESSION**

**SECTION 3** - In case of the death, removal, or incapacity to act, by sickness or otherwise, of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, all his powers and privileges shall devolve upon the following Brethren, according to rank: First, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master; Second, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden; Third, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden; Fourth, Past Grand Officers, according to rank; Fifth, presiding officers of Subordinate Lodges, according to their rank; Sixth, Past Masters, according to seniority. (1871-94)

### **GRAND TREASURER**

**SECTION 4** - The Grand Treasurer shall lay a statement of his accounts before the Grand Lodge at their Annual Grand Communication; and, in other respects, perform his duty as such agreeably to immemorial usage. (1819-9)

*Cross References:* §§7-13.1; 13-1.3; 5-7.1; 15.5-11

### **GRAND SECRETARY**

**SECTION 5** - The Grand Secretary shall attend at every assembly of the Grand Lodge and the Annual Grand Communications, to lay before the Grand Lodge his books in good order, and his papers duly filed, and do the duties of his office agreeably to immemorial usage. (1818-9)

*Cross References:* §§1-1.3; 5-7.1 ; 5-7.3 ; 5-7.7; 5-11.1; 7-13.1; 15-3.3; 19-1.7

**SECTION 6** - The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge shall receive such salary as may be annually determined by the Grand Lodge, which shall be in full for all recording, copying, correspondence, and all other official business done for the Grand Lodge, Dispensations and charters excepted, they being otherwise provided for; and he shall also receive for copies from the records, files and Proceedings of the Grand Lodge the sum of twenty-five cents for every one hundred words; and for affixing the seal of the Grand Lodge to any instrument of writing, the sum of one dollar, to be paid by the party applying for the same. (1922-157)

*Cross References:* Const. Art. IV, Secs. 1, 2.

**SECTION 7** - But for affixing the seal of the Grand Lodge to any instrument of writing for the use of the Grand Lodge, summons, and copies of Proceedings and communications to foreign Grand Lodges, and such like services, the Grand Secretary shall receive no compensation. (1871-95)

### **WORK AND LECTURES**

**SECTION 8** - In order, as far as possible, to prevent the introduction of in the Ancient Work and Lectures in Symbolic Masonry, a Board of Custodians of the Work shall be appointed, in such manner and under such regulations as the Grand Lodge shall, by statute, from time to time prescribe; and the Grand Lodge, in each alternate year, shall elect some expert and well-informed member as Grand Lecturer, to disseminate the Adopted Work and Lectures, and shall fix his compensation, to be paid out of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer's Fund. (1885-88) (1995-87)

*Cross References:* Const. Art. 1, Sec. 4: §§9-9.1; 9-9.3; 9-9.5; 9-9.7; 9-9.9; 9-9.11; 9-7.1; 9-7.3; 9-7.5; 9-1.1; 9-1.3; 9-1.5; 9-1.7; 9-1.9

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Adopted Work is the work taught by the Grand Lecturer and approved by the Board of Custodians of the Work. (1882-52) (1883-59)
2. The Grand Lodge officers, in opening and closing, and in all other work of the Grand Lodge should conform to the Adopted Work. (Digest 1958-10)
3. The Blue Lodge Textbook is adopted, its use enjoined, and all others prohibited. (Digest 1958-15)
4. Any Mason owning, harboring, or using a cipher ritual or exposé of Masonry MUST be expelled. This is mandatory on the Lodge in whose Jurisdiction the Mason resides or sojourns. (1917-142)
5. The Board of Custodians is composed of five Past Masters. The Grand Lecturer is one member and ex-officio Chairman of the Board. Four Past Masters who are in possession of the Adopted Work are appointed by the Grand

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Master. One member is appointed for a term of four years at each Annual Session of the Grand Lodge, by the incoming Grand Master, in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-7.3 of the Statutes. **(Digest 1958-27)**

6. It is the duty of the Board of Custodians to attend the Annual Sessions of the Grand Lodge, witness the exemplification of the work by the Grand Lecturer and his deputies, and report to the Grand Lodge whether the Adopted Work is being taught. **(Digest 1958-27)**

## ARTICLE III - OF THE GRAND MASTER

### IN CONVOKING THE GRAND LODGE

**SECTION 1** - The Most Worshipful Grand Master shall have the power, at any time, to convene the Grand Lodge for the benefit of Masonry. (1818-8)

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The Grand Master has no authority, either by his own act or by the advice of the Lodges, to change the date or place of meeting of the Grand Lodge previously selected by it. **(1894-14)**

### IN GRANTING DISPENSATIONS FOR NEW LODGES

**SECTION 2** - The Most Worshipful Grand Master shall have the power to grant Dispensations for new Lodges in the recess of the Grand Lodge, upon the condition that the Brethren to whom such Dispensation may be granted make application to the Grand Lodge, at its next Annual Grand Communication, for a Charter or Warrant, and if such application shall not be made, or the Charter or Warrant be not granted by the Grand Lodge, the Lodge erected by such Dispensation shall be dissolved, and the funds and Jewels thereof become the property of the Grand Lodge. (1818-8)

*Cross References: Const. Art. IV, Sec. I; §§7-1.11; 9-3.1; 9-3.3; 9-3.5; 19-5.1; 19-5.3; 19-5.5; 19-5.7; 19-5.9; 195.11; 19-7.1*

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The power of granting Dispensations for new Lodges is vested in the Grand Lodge. During the interval between Annual Communications the Grand Master has that power. **(1854-105) (1871-10) (1876-75)**
2. No Dispensation should be issued to form a new Lodge if its purposes to use a hall jointly with another society or fraternity. Permission of the Grand Lodge is required before a Lodge can use its hall in common with any other body, no matter how lawful and laudable its objects may be. **(Digest 1958-32)**
3. The Grand Master cannot exercise any of his prerogatives to the injury of another the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge to grant Dispensations to new Lodges is restricted to this state. **(1928-82)**

### IN APPOINTING A DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

**SECTION 3** - The Most Worshipful Grand Master shall appoint some suitable member of the Grand Lodge as Deputy Grand Master, to be commissioned under his hand and seal, and duly installed. (1818-8)

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The Deputy Grand Master has no powers except those which are clearly defined in the Constitution, those derived from the Grand Master or by death or removal of that officer. **(Thomas Digest, 1914)**

### **IN VISITING SUBORDINATE LODGES**

**SECTION 4** - It shall be the duty of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, during his term of service, to visit the several Subordinate Lodges under his Jurisdiction, and see that no innovation be committed in the works of Masonry, to teach and instruct them in the laws, usages and customs of the Sublime Art; or to appoint and authorize any skillful and well-informed member of the Grand Lodge for that purpose. (1818-8)

### **INSTALLING OFFICERS**

**SECTION 5** - It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to install his Deputy and other officers of the Grand Lodge, and the officers of the Subordinate Lodges; but if it be inconvenient for him or the Deputy Grand Master to attend in person, any Past Master, being a member of the Grand Lodge, or some Subordinate Lodge, may install the officers of Subordinate Lodges, and make a return of his Proceedings to the Most Worshipful Grand Master. (1826) (1831-121)

*Cross References: §§5-3.1; 5-3. 3; 5-3.5; 5-3.7; 5-3.9; 19-19.13*

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. No one is a Grand Lodge officer, unless (and until) he has been installed into that office. (Digest 1958-46)

## **ARTICLE IV - OF SUBORDINATE LODGES**

### **(A) LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION**

**SECTION 1** - A competent number of Master Masons, of regular standing, upon petition to the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, may receive a Dispensation authorizing them to congregate and work until the next Annual Communication, for which Dispensation the petitioners shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge the sum of fifty dollars, and to the Grand Secretary for his services the further sum of ten dollars, before the Dispensation shall be issued. Lodges working under Dispensation, not being permanently constituted, are not entitled by the Constitution of Ancient Freemasonry to representation in the Grand Lodge. The fees paid by the said Lodges for their Dispensation and Charter are considered ample compensation to the Grand Lodge for the privileges said Lodges enjoy while under Dispensation, and they shall not be required to pay *annual dues*. (1871-96)

*Cross References: §§19-5.1; 19-5.3; 19-5.5; 19-5.7; 19-5.9; 19-5.11; 19-7.1*

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The power of granting Dispensations for new Lodges is vested in the Grand Lodge. During the interval between Annual Communications, the Grand Master has that power. (1876-75)
2. The Grand Master has the power to grant Dispensations to form a new Lodge, when recommended by the two nearest Lodges, (1858-86) if a safe and suitable room has been secured, (1871-10) if the room meets the approval of the Grand Lodge Building Committee and if the room is under the exclusive control of the Lodge. (Digest 1958-48)
3. The Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge to grant Dispensation to new Lodges is restricted to this state. (1828-82)
4. Lodges under Dispensation are not regularly constituted, but they are regular as a chartered Lodge. (1856-63)
5. In a Lodge under Dispensation, there is no ceremony. All three of the principal officers must be present. (1853-114)
6. The sole and only powers of a Lodge under Dispensation are to confer degrees, dispense charity, and bury the dead. (1854-161)
7. Lodges under Dispensation can bury their dead, (1856-63) they cannot elect officers, (1839-181) they cannot grant demits or certificates of good standing. (1853-129) (1898- 68) (1956-95)

8. The Brethren composing a Lodge under Dispensation cannot try their members. They remain under the Jurisdiction of the nearest Lodge to their place of residence, and by that Lodge can be tried for a Masonic offense. **(1854-161)**
9. Lodges under Dispensation are not entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge. **(1857-47) (1885-79)**
10. The officers of the under Dispensation are not installed. The Brother appointed Master takes the chair and discharges all duties of Master without any further qualification than his appointment. **(1853-114)**
11. Initiates of a Lodge under Dispensation do not vote therein, but Brethren made in such Lodges should be consulted. Those raised under the Dispensation are members when the Lodge is chartered, and can then vote and hold office. **(1852-566)**

## **(B) CHARTER LODGES**

**SECTION 2** - Upon obtaining from the Grand Lodge, at an Annual Grand Communication, a Charter or Warrant authorizing them to congregate and work as a regularly Constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, the petitioners shall pay a further sum of twenty dollars, and to the Grand Secretary for his services, the further sum of ten dollars, before the Charter or Warrant shall be issued; and no Subordinate Lodge shall confer any other degrees than those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft or Master Mason, which shall be so expressed in its Dispensation, Charter or Warrant. **(1871-96)**

*Cross References: §§19-3.1; 19-3.3; 19-3.5*

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. All the functions of a Lodge under Dispensation cease at the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. It cannot meet until the day appointed for constituting it under the Charter. **(1887-60)**
2. When a Charter shall be issued to form a new Lodge, it shall be accompanied by an order signed by the Grand Master, with the seal of the Grand Lodge attached, and attested by the Grand Secretary, directed to some present or Past Master (in case the Grand Master or his Deputy cannot attend in person), with instruction to constitute the Lodge, install the officers named in the Charter and set them to work, agreeably to ancient custom and usage. The Charter shall be delivered to the Master at his installation and not before. The Master who acts shall make a return of his Proceedings to the Grand Secretary, who shall then record the Lodge on the list of regular Lodges. All these things **MUST** be done before the Lodge can have representation in the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary must report to the Grand Master. **(1857-47)**
3. No election of officers is held. The officers named in the Charter are installed. **(1887-60)**
4. After receiving Charter, when constituted and set to work, they elect officers at the next November or December Stated Communication, preceding the festival of St. John the Evangelist, like any other chartered Lodge, **(1887-60)**
5. After the installation of the officers named in the Charter, the Lodge must thereafter proceed in every stage of its existence precisely as any other chartered Lodge. **(1887-60)**

### **THEIR OFFICERS**

**SECTION 3** - Neither the Master nor Warden(s) can resign. Removal from the Jurisdiction of the Lodge of the Master vacates his office unless, in the discretion of the Lodge, the Master lives within a reasonable distance so that he may transact the duties of his office. Similar provisions shall apply to all other officers of the Lodge. **(1962-122)**

If the Master shall remove from the Jurisdiction of the Lodge, as hereinbefore explained, or be incapacitated from performing the duties of his office, the Senior Warden, or if there be no Senior Warden, then the Junior Warden shall execute the office of Master until a Master shall be elected and installed. **(1888-54) (1962-122)**

An election may be held at any Stated Communication provided the date of the election is fixed at a previous Stated Communication. **(1933-1 36) (1962-122)**

*Cross References: §§19-15.3; 19-15-13; 19-19.1; 19-19.3; 19-19.5; 19-19.7; 19-19. 9; 19-9.11; 19-19.15; 19-19.19; 19-19.21*

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Neither Warden can be elected to fill a vacancy in the office of Master. **(1871-56)(1892-59)(1896-37)(1923-131)**
2. If the Lodge determines that the Master lives within a reasonable distance of the Lodge, it should so state by Resolution duly adopted and recorded on its minutes. Lack of such a record would indicate that the Lodge has not so determined. If the Lodge does not affirmatively find that the Master lives within such reasonable distance, the remaining provisions of the section become mandatory. The office is vacant. **(1971-76)**
3. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Master, the Senior Warden performs all of the duties of that office until a Master is elected and installed to serve for the remainder of the year. He appoints a Senior Warden at each meeting. In such cases the Junior Warden does not perform any of the duties of the Senior Warden. **(1874-14) (1881-11) (1908-112) (1971-76)**
4. When a vacancy occurs in any of the first three offices, it may be filled by the Lodge passing a Resolution at a Stated Communication, setting forth that an election will be held at the next Stated Communication to fill such vacancy. **(1896-37)** If a vacancy occurs in any other office, it is filled by an election held at a Stated Communication, of which notice should be given to each member, if practicable. **(1873-66)**
5. If there are vacancies in all of the first three offices, no meeting can be held without a Dispensation from the Grand Master, in which Dispensation, if granted, he should designate who shall act as Master. **(Digest 1958-81)**
6. When the Master has moved temporarily from the Jurisdiction of his Lodge, his family remaining at the old home, his office is not vacated. **(1950-53)**

#### REPRESENTATION IN GRAND LODGE

**SECTION 4** - Every Subordinate Lodge shall be represented in the Grand Lodge by its Officers, Representatives, or Proxies, who must be Master Masons and members of the Lodge which they represent, and such appointment whether of Representatives or Proxies, must be certified by the Secretary, and the seal of the Lodge affixed thereto. **(1871-96)**

*Cross References: §§5-1.1; 5-1.3; 5-1.5; 5-1.7; 19-5.3*

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The first right to represent a Lodge is in the Master and Wardens collectively. If only one attend, he is entitled to represent the Lodge. If neither the Master nor Wardens attend, then the representative elected by the Lodge is entitled to represent it. If neither the Master, Wardens or Representative elected by the Lodge attend, or if the Lodge fails to elect a representative, the Master and each Warden may appoint a Proxy, who only represents the officer appointing him. The Lodge cannot elect a representative to the exclusion of the Master and Wardens. The proxy must be a Past Master or a Past Warden. **(1897-36)**

**SECTION 5** - Whenever a Subordinate Lodge fails to be represented for two successive Grand Communications, or is in arrears to the Grand Lodge for the same term of time, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to suspend said Lodge from working, and order the Grand Secretary to immediately take charge of the Charter, books, Jewels, furniture and other effects of said Lodge. **(1876-55)**

#### CONFERRING DEGREES

**SECTION 6** - No Subordinate Lodge shall initiate, pass to the degree Fellow Craft, nor raise to the degree of Master Mason, any applicant, unless the vote be unanimous in his favor. **(1834-143)**

*Cross References: §§17-1.1; 17-3.1; 17-3.3; 17-3.5; 17-3.7; 17-3.9; 17-2.11; 19-1.1; 19-13.5; 19-13.17; 19-15.13(A); 19-17*

## **ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS**

### **HOW MADE**

**SECTION 1** - Whenever the Grand Lodge shall deem it expedient to amend any article or section of this Constitution, the proposed amendment shall be reduced to writing and committed to record on the first day of the Annual Grand Communication; a copy of which shall be transmitted to every Subordinate Lodge, and laid over for consideration until the next Annual Grand Communication, when, if two-thirds of the members of the Grand Lodge shall concur therein, the same shall be considered as part of the Constitution. (1880-66)

**SECTION 2** - No amendment can be offered to a proposal for amending the Constitution of the Grand Lodge after the same has been submitted to and acted upon by the Subordinate Lodges; but the same must be adopted or rejected without alteration, except by unanimous consent of the Grand Lodge, given previous to the vote being taken upon the adoption of the proposed amendment. (1879-63) No modification, however, shall be made not germane to the matter contained in the original proposed amendment. (1880-52)

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. No amendment can be offered to an amendment to the Constitution after it has lain over one year, except by unanimous consent. No modification can be made, not even by unanimous consent that changes the sense of the amendment. If such amendment to the amendment is proposed, it must lie over until the next Annual Communication. The amendment must be adopted or rejected without amendment. (1829-91)

**SECTION 3** - No amendment to the Constitution is of such binding force as to preclude a reconsideration of the vote adopting it, until the close of the Grand Communication at which it shall have passed.

**SECTION 4** - Each Lodge shall carefully consider every amendment proposed to the Constitution, after it has been transmitted to it by the Grand Secretary; and may instruct its Representatives as to the vote they shall give in the Grand Lodge upon its adoption.

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**GENERAL LAWS  
Of  
THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**SECTION 1 - LAWS AND STATUTES**

**CHAPTER 1      GENERAL**  
**CHAPTER 3      DEFINITIONS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

**CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL**

**RULE**

**§1-1.1            CONTENTS OF WILLIAMS DIGEST OF LAWS**  
**§1-1.3            DISTRIBUTION**  
**§1-1.5            EFFECTIVE DATE**  
**§1-1.7            HOW AMENDED**  
**§1-1.9            URGENT AMENDMENTS**

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**§1-1.1            CONTENTS OF WILLIAMS DIGEST OF LAWS**

Williams Digest of Laws of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F&AM shall contain the Landmarks of Masonry; the Act of Incorporation of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Mississippi; all sections of and amendments to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F&AM; and the General Laws of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi; and the Judicial Decisions adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The General Laws shall consist of the Statutes; Rules and Regulations Relating to Subordinate Lodges, Officers and Members; Bylaws for the Government of Subordinate Lodges; and the Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline and Trial in Grand Lodge as set out in the Nineteenth Edition of Williams Digest of Laws and as amended. (2008- 36, 59)

**§11-1.3            DISTRIBUTION**

A copy of the most recently issued Williams Digest of Laws shall be available on the desk of the Secretary at every meeting of the Lodge. The Grand Secretary is authorized and directed, upon receipt from the printers of each new edition of the Digest, to mail a copy of the same to each Lodge in this Jurisdiction and forward a statement covering the cost of the same to each Lodge, said statement to include only the cost of printing and mailing. It shall be the duty of the Lodge, at its next Stated Communication, to allow the claim and forward payment to the Grand Secretary therefor. Proceeds from the sale of all Digest shall be placed in the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

**Statutes §44 (1983-84)**

**§ 1-1.5 EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Twentieth Edition of Williams Digest of Laws of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M. shall take effect October 1, 2012.

**§ 1-1.7 HOW AMENDED**

These General Laws may be amended at any Annual Communication, by written Resolution submitted to the Grand Secretary not later than 120 days prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge Communication.

An amendment to these Laws may be proposed by: (1) a Subordinate Lodge; (2) any member of Grand Lodge. (Constitution Article I, Section 2) The proposed amendment shall be in writing, giving the section to be amended and stating specifically how the section will read when amended. The Grand Secretary shall include the proposed amendment in the call of the Annual Communication.

Proposed amendments must be submitted to and reported upon by the Law and Jurisprudence Committee who shall report before the end of the Annual Communication, and no action shall be taken by the Grand Lodge prior to the Committee's report.

A proposed amendment to these General Laws submitted in accordance with the rules outlined in this section is hereinafter called a PRIMARY AMENDMENT. An amendment to a Primary Amendment is hereinafter called a SECONDARY AMENDMENT. A Secondary Amendment that receives a second shall be submitted to the Law and Jurisprudence Committee, which shall determine whether the Secondary Amendment constitutes a material or non-material alteration. The Law and Jurisprudence Committee shall report its determination to the floor of the Grand Lodge. If the Secondary Amendment is deemed to be material and is thereafter approved by the Grand Lodge, the Primary Amendment shall be tabled and held over to the Grand Lodge session the following year. If the Secondary Amendment is deemed non-material, the Primary Amendment shall be considered, with the modifications approved by the Secondary Amendment, during the current session of Grand Lodge. If the Secondary Amendment fails, the Primary Amendment is considered during the current session of Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge's ability to consider an Urgent Amendment under §1-1.9 is unaffected by the determination of the Law and Jurisprudence Committee regarding the Secondary Amendment, provided such proposal and approval occurs separately.

This provision does not apply to amendments to the Constitution.”

**Statutes §59 (1994-69; 1995-71, 72) (2013-61) (2022-23)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Resolution to change law must specifically state the proposed change and how the entire section will read when so changed. The law cannot be changed otherwise. **(Digest 1958-11)**
2. A Resolution or recommendation that does not contravene statute law even when adopted by the Grand Lodge does not change the law. The mere adoption of a committee report does not have the effect to set aside, amend, or contravene any section of the law. **(1892-49)**
3. A Resolution or recommendation that does not contravene statute law when adopted has the force of law. **(Digest 1958-24)**
4. The Grand Lodge can, by unanimous vote, suspend a rule of legislative procedure. **(1916-134)**

5. The date of the succeeding session of the Grand Lodge is set prior to adjourning each session. The date for submitting propose amendment to the General Laws is then set accordingly. The fact that an emergency situation arises that necessitates moving the session to a later date does not change the previously set deadline.

### **§1-1.9 URGENT AMENDMENTS**

If the Law and Jurisprudence Committee deem it to be urgent and necessary, the Committee may present an amendment for consideration at any time during the Annual Communication. In addition, any member of the Grand Lodge may bring a proposed amendment, which he deems to be urgent and necessary but was not included in the call of the Annual Communication, to the Law and Jurisprudence Committee. The Law and Jurisprudence Committee at any time during the Annual Communication will state the purpose of the proposed amendment and bring it to the floor of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge by a majority vote will decide if the Resolution is to be received during the Annual Communication. If the Grand Lodge votes to receive the Resolution, the proposer may give it, and the Law and Jurisprudence Committee will give a supplemental report on the proposed amendment.

When the Committee reports the vote must be taken. If a majority of the votes cast are for the amendment, the section is amended.

**Statutes §59 (1994-69; 1995-71, 72)**

### **§1-1.10 UPDATING WILLIAMS DIGEST**

The Grand Secretary, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Law and Jurisprudence Committee, shall, within one hundred sixty (180) calendar days following the official closing of the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, update and publish all adopted changes to the Constitution and General Laws.

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**SECTION 3 - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**CHAPTER 1      GENERAL**  
**CHAPTER 3      POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

**CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL**

**RULE**

**§3-1.1            JURISDICTION**  
**§3-1.3            NO LODGE TO CONFER DEGREES BEYOND JURISDICTION**  
**§3-1.5            SEAL – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

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**§3-1.1            JURISDICTION**

The Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi extends over the State of Mississippi, and also into any territory or country in which no regular Grand Lodge has been organized. Such unoccupied country it holds in common with every other Grand Lodge that chooses to exercise Jurisdiction.

**Statutes §1 (1871-97)**

**Cross References: Const. Art. 1, Sec. 3**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. American Doctrine. The boundaries of the Grand Lodge Jurisdiction correspond with those of the State and such Jurisdiction is absolute and conclusive.
2. The Grand Lodge is the sovereign governing power within its territorial Jurisdiction with the authority and the duty to declare what bodies claiming to be Masonic, within its territory, are lawfully such, and with what such Masonic Bodies Master Masons may lawfully affiliate.
3. Bodies that recruit and retain their members strictly on their standing as Master Masons are considered by the public to be Masonic and any unmasonic conduct indulged in at one of their meetings is a serious reflection on Freemasonry and dishonors the Body from which they recruit and retain their membership.
4. The Grand Lodge is clothed with authority and charged with the duty to enforce the above-mentioned American Doctrine in its entirety. **(1871-9) (1874-9, 84) (1899-25)**
5. Authority of Grand Lodge. It is the province of every Grand Lodge to determine the regularity of everything claimed to be Masonic within its Jurisdiction, and there can be nothing Masonic therein which it does not expressly recognize as Masonry. Its decision is binding everywhere.
6. The power to legislate for its own government or that of the Subordinate Lodges is not given by the Constitution nor is it necessary that it should be given, for by virtue of the Ancient Constitutions and Regulations of Masonry the Grand Lodge is the only true and legitimate source of Masonic authority. Subordinate Lodges congregate under this Warrant. With it resides the inherent power to enact laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, to alter and repeal such laws and regulations, preserving the Ancient Landmarks. It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Bylaws and Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline to the Lodges for their action. It is necessary to submit amendments to the Constitution to the Subordinate Lodges.
7. The Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge over the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry in the United States is coextensive with their respective state lines. All Lodges established therein without their authority are clandestine lodges.
8. The authority of this Grand Lodge to grant Dispensations to form new Lodges is restricted to this state. **(1852-585) (1855-36) (1874-84) (1885-82) (1901-78) (1936-27)**

**§3-1.3 NO LODGE TO CONFER DEGREES BEYOND JURISDICTION**

No Lodge within this Jurisdiction shall initiate, pass or raise persons residing beyond it without previous request from the Lodge nearest their place of residence, given by unanimous ballot, and at a stated or Called Communication. And it is considered a trespass on this Jurisdiction for a Lodge out of it to confer degrees on persons residing within it, except by request similarly given.

**Statutes §2 (1871-97)**

*Cross References: §§17-1.3, 17-1.5, 19-1.1, 19-11.7*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a Lodge learns that it has initiated or passed a person residing in the Jurisdiction of another Lodge, it cannot proceed. The Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he resides cannot waive its Jurisdiction, nor give its consent to the other Lodge to proceed. A Lodge forfeits its Charter for "waiving Jurisdiction". **(1874-432) (1880-75)(1888-48)(1890-46)**

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**SECTION 5 - THE GRAND LODGE**

- CHAPTER 1 MEMBERS**
- CHAPTER 3 OFFICERS**
- CHAPTER 5 MEETINGS**
- CHAPTER 7 PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ITS PROCEEDINGS**
- CHAPTER 9 SPECIAL COMMITTEES – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**
- CHAPTER 11 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE**

**CHAPTER 1 - MEMBERS**

**RULE**

- §5-1.1 SHALL APPEAR CLOTHED MASONICALLY**
- §5-1.3 MAY REPRESENT ONLY ONE LODGE**
- §5-1.5 CREDENTIALS MUST BE AUTHENTICATED**
- §5-1.7 PROXIES MUST BE OF EQUAL STATION**

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**§5-1.1 SHALL APPEAR CLOTHED MASONICALLY**

Officers and members of the Grand Lodge and Representatives and Proxies, shall appear clothed Masonically; and Representatives and Proxies shall wear the Jewels of the officer they represent.

*Statutes §3 (1871-97; 1938-108)*

**§5-1.3 MAY REPRESENT ONLY ONE LODGE**

No Brother, Proxy or otherwise, shall represent more than one Lodge at the same Annual Communication.

*Statutes §4 (1871-97)*

**§5-1.5 CREDENTIALS MUST BE AUTHENTICATED**

No Representative or Proxy shall be admitted to a seat as such unless his credentials are authenticated in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and the returns from his Lodge have been handed in to the Grand Secretary.

*Statutes §5 (1871-97)*

*Cross References: Const. Art. I, Sec. 2; Gen. Laws §§13-5.1, 13-5.9, 13-5.13, 17-5.3*

**§5-1.7 PROXIES MUST BE OF EQUAL STATION**

Proxies of Masters in the Grand Lodge must be Past Masters; of Senior Wardens, Past Masters or Past Senior Wardens; of Junior Wardens, Past Wardens, Senior or Junior.

Representatives of Lodges must be Past Masters, but the Lodge may elect any member thereof as Representatives, but not to the exclusion of the Master and Wardens, which election may take place at any Communication of the Lodge and be duly certified to the Grand Lodge.

**Statutes §6 (1871-97; 1925-143)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. I, Sec. 2; Gen. Laws §§13-5.1, 13-5.9, 13-5.13, 19-5.3*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The first right to represent a Lodge is in the Master and Wardens collectively. If only one attend, he is entitled to represent the Lodge. If neither the Master nor Wardens attend, then the Representative elected by the Lodge is entitled to represent it. If neither the Master, Wardens nor Representative elected by the Lodge attend, or if the Lodge fails to elect a Representative, the Master and each Warden may appoint a proxy, who only represents the officer appointing him. The Lodge cannot elect a representative to the exclusion of the Master and Wardens. The Proxy must be a Past Master or a Past Warden. **(1897-36)**

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**CHAPTER 3 - OFFICERS**

- §5-3.1 ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER AND GRAND WARDEN**
- §5-3.3 WHEN GRAND OFFICERS ELECTED AND INSTALLED**
- §5-3.5 OFFICERS MUST BE INSTALLED**
- §5-3.7 OFFICERS HOLD OVER**
- §5-3.9 REINSTALLATION NECESSARY**
- §5-3.11 HONORARY MEMBERS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

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**§5-3.1 ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER AND GRAND WARDEN**

Only Masters of Lodges and past Masters are eligible to the office of Grand Master and Grand Wardens; and Deputy Grand Masters must have the same qualifications.

*Statutes §11 (1871-97)*

**§5-3.3 WHEN GRAND OFFICERS ELECTED AND INSTALLED**

The election of Grand Officers shall be held at such time during the Annual Communication as the Grand Lodge may determine, and nominations shall be in order prior to such election. The Grand Officers shall be installed on the last day of the Annual Communication, and this installation shall be private, unless otherwise ordered.

*Statutes §7 (1917-142)*

*Cross References: Const. Art. II, Secs. 1, 2; Art. III, Sec. 5*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. It is unmasonic for a Lodge to adopt a Resolution endorsing anyone for any office in the Grand Lodge. (**Digest 1958-37**)
2. It is unmasonic and reprehensible for one aspiring to office in the Grand Lodge, or a Subordinate Lodge, personally to solicit votes for himself. (**Digest 1958-37**)
3. In the election of Grand Lodge officers nominations shall be made. (**1854-58**)
4. It has always been usual to invite a Past Grand Master to install the Grand Master elect, but it is not imperative. He may be installed by a Past Master, (**1851-504**) but on account of the great dignity of the office, the ceremony should be performed by a Past Grand Master. (**1854-124**)

**§5-3.5 OFFICERS MUST BE INSTALLED**

No officer shall be installed by proxy. When the officer-elect, or appointed, is absent at the time of installation, his election may be annulled by the Grand Lodge and a new election be held at once or the Grand Master may be authorized to depute some member of the Grand Lodge to install such officer in the presence of a Subordinate Lodge, but in no case shall an installation be dispensed with.

*Statutes §8 (1879-62)*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. No one is a Grand Lodge Officer unless (and until) he has been installed into that office. **(Digest 1958-46)**

**§5-3.7 OFFICERS HOLD OVER**

In all cases officers hold over until their successors are regularly installed.  
**Statutes §9 (1891-97)**

**§5-3.9 REINSTALLATION NECESSARY**

In case of the re-election of any installed officer, a reinstallation shall be necessary.  
**Statutes §10 (1871-07)**

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**CHAPTER 5 - MEETINGS**

**§5-5.1            DATE AND PLACE – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**  
**§5-5.3            VOTING**  
**§5-5.5            ORDER OF BUSINESS**  
**§5-5.7            RULES OF ORDER – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

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**§5-5.3            VOTING**

In the determination of all matters, excluding those covered by paragraph (b) herein, brought before the Grand Lodge the vote shall be taken by a show of hands, or by rising, or by secret ballot as the presiding officer may decide. In event of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.

In the determination of all resolutions to amend these General Laws, the vote shall be by written or electronic ballot unless the Grand Lodge shall vote to adopt by unanimous consent.

Every Lodge present represented by officers or representatives shall be entitled to three votes, whether represented by one or more Brethren, and every officer or member of the Grand Lodge shall have one vote, and if the representative of a particular Lodge, he may cast its vote in addition to his own vote. In the event of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.

(2020-45)

**§5-5.5            ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Order of Business for the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be as follows:

1. Opening of Grand Lodge
2. Adoption of printed minutes of the preceding Annual Grand Communication
3. Address and report of Grand Master, which shall have been printed before the Communication of the Grand Lodge, and which shall be referred, without debate to the Apportionment Committee, which shall classify and refer same to the proper committees for consideration
4. Report of Reporter on Foreign Correspondence. This should be filed with the Grand Secretary. It may be taken up for consideration at any time, on motion
5. Report of the Grand Secretary, which shall have been printed before the Communication of the Grand Lodge.
6. Report of Grand Treasurer, which shall be submitted in print, and referred, without debate, to the Finance Committee
7. Report of Grand Lecturer
8. Report of the Standing Committees in the following order:
  - a) Credentials Committee
  - b) Masonic Law and Jurisprudence
  - c) Complaints and Appeals
  - d) Finance and Printing
9. Reports of Special Committees

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

12. Selection of Time and Place of succeeding meeting

Election of Grand Officers, at such time as the Grand Lodge may fix, which may be done by motion at any time during the session. **(1901-62) (2010-40)**

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**CHAPTER 7 – PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ITS PROCEEDINGS**

**§5-7.1 PERMANENT COPY PRESERVED**

**§5-7.3 NUMBER OF COPIES OF PRINTED PROCEEDINGS**

**§5-7.5 COPY OF PROCEEDINGS TO REMAIN IN THE LODGE ROOM**

**§5-7.7 NAMES OF REJECTED APPLICANTS NOT PUBLISHED**

**§5-7.9 CERTAIN REPORTS PRINTED IN ADVANCE OF GRAND LODGE  
LODGE SESSION**

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**§5-7.1 PERMANENT COPY PRESERVED**

One printed copy of the Proceedings of each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be well bound and, after being carefully compared, shall be certified by the Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, as a true and correct copy, and shall be filed in the Grand Secretary's office, as archives of the Grand Lodge, and no manuscript copy of the Proceedings need be preserved.

**Statutes §48 (1906-112)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A manuscript record of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge was dispensed with and five bound copies of the printed Proceedings substituted as the official record. **(1858-92)**

**§5-7.3 NUMBER OF COPIES OF PRINTED PROCEEDINGS**

The Grand Lodge shall print one copy of the Proceedings for each Subordinate Lodge, one copy for each Grand Lodge Officer, one copy for each living Past Grand Master, one copy for the Chairman of each Standing Committee, five copies for the Grand Lodge Library, and as many digital copies as the Office of the Grand Secretary deems appropriate. A form shall be provided at Annual Communications for those wishing to order additional proceedings for \$20.00.

**§5-7.5 COPY OF PROCEEDINGS TO REMAIN IN THE LODGE ROOM**

The copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge sent to each Subordinate Lodge shall be the property of the Lodge and shall not be taken from the Lodge room except in emergency cases, of which the Worshipful Master shall be the judge, and then for a period not exceeding one week at any one time.

**Statutes §43 (1880-53)**

**§5-7.7 NAMES OF REJECTED APPLICANTS NOT PUBLISHED**

The names of rejected applicants for degrees shall not be published with the Proceedings.

**Statutes §47 (1871-99)**

**§5-7.9 CERTAIN REPORTS PRINTED IN ADVANCE**

There shall be printed, in advance of the Annual Communication and for the use of the members of the Grand Lodge, as many copies as may be necessary of the address of the Grand Master, reports of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, the Grand Lecturer, the Finance Committee, and the Committee of Masonic Law and Jurisprudence. Copies of all such reports must be in the hands of the Grand Secretary at least two weeks in advance of the convening of the Grand Lodge; otherwise, the requirements of this section may be of no effect.

**Statutes §45 (1961-139; 1975-125) (2010-44)**

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**CHAPTER 9 – STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**RULE**

**§5-9.1**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**§5-9.3**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

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**§5-9.1**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge shall be as follows: Finance and Printing; Law and Jurisprudence; Credentials; Complaints and Appeals; Subordinate Lodges; Lodges under Dispensation; Unfinished Business; Internet; Education Committee; and Ten-Year Planning Committee.

Each committee, except the Internet Committee and the Ten-Year Planning Committee, shall consist of three members, but may be increased at the ensuing session of the Grand Lodge, from among the Representatives in attendance, to any number necessary for the dispatch of business. The Internet Committee shall consist of three Master Masons in good standing in a Subordinate Lodge within this Grand Lodge. The Grand Master shall designate the Chairman of each Committee.

Members of the Committees on Finance and Printing, Law and Jurisprudence, Credentials, Internet, and Complaints and Appeals shall serve for three years. Said committees, except for the Internet Committee, shall meet one day prior to the convening of the Grand Lodge so that the Grand Secretary may place before them all papers requiring their attention and in order that they may be prepared to report there on the first day of the Communication.

The Committees on Subordinate Lodges, Lodges Under Dispensation, Unfinished Business and all other regular and special committees, shall be appointed for one year at the opening of or during each Annual Communication or as otherwise required.

The Ten-Year Planning Committee shall consist of the immediate Past Grand Master, Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, and three Past Masters who are not Past Grand Masters. The three Past Masters shall be appointed for three-year terms. The Ten-Year Planning Committee shall meet as needed. Members of the Ten-Year Planning Committee shall be appointed, for the year subsequent to the Two Hundredth Annual Grand Communication, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years. At each succeeding Annual Communication, the Grand Master shall appoint one member to the committee to serve for three years.

Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the remainder of the term of the member being replaced. The Grand Master shall designate the Chairman of each Committee.

**Statutes §12 (1955-81; 1961-139; 1970-97; 2003-62; 2010-43; 2014-39; 2018-60)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A recommendation from a member, an officer, or from a committee, even when adopted by the Grand Lodge, does not change the law.
2. The law itself provides for how amendments may be made, and they cannot be made in any other manner. Therefore, the mere adoption of a committee report does not have the effect to set aside, amend, or contravene, any section of the law. **(1892-49)**
3. A Resolution or recommendation that does not contravene statute law, when adopted, has the force of law. **(Digest 1958-24)**

**CHAPTER 11 – FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE**

**RULE**

**§5-11.1 REPORTER APPOINTED EACH YEAR; TO REPORT TO GRAND LODGE**

**§5-11.3 REPORT TO FOLLOW ADDRESS OF GRAND MASTER TO PUBLISHED**

**§5-11.5 COMPENSATION**

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**§5-11.1 REPORTER APPOINTED EACH YEAR; TO REPORT TO GRAND LODGE**

The Grand Master shall appoint at each Annual Communication a Reporter of Foreign Correspondence to whom shall be referred all the Proceedings, documents, and other papers emanating Masonic bodies in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, or received through the Grand Secretary, and whose duty it shall be to report upon the same at the next Annual Grand Communication.

**Statutes §13 (1871-98)**

**§5-11.3 REPORT TO FOLLOW ADDRESS OF GRAND MASTER TO BE PUBLISHED**

The report of the Reporter of Foreign Correspondence shall be presented immediately after delivery of the Grand Master's Address and be placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary, to be taken up for consideration at any time on motion, which shall be a preferred motion. The entire report of the Reporter of Foreign Correspondence shall be published in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

**Statutes §14 (1961-139; 1971-103)**

**§5-11.5 COMPENSATION**

The reporter preparing the report shall receive for his services such amount as may be fixed by the Grand Lodge annually.

**Statutes §15 (1961-139; 1969-101; 1971-103)**

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**SECTION 7 - GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

- CHAPTER 1 GRAND MASTER**
- CHAPTER 3 GRAND WARDENS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**
- CHAPTER 5 GRAND TREASURER – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**
- CHAPTER 7 GRAND SECRETARY**
- CHAPTER 9 GRAND LECTURER – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**
- CHAPTER 11 GRAND TILER**
- CHAPTER 13 APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS**
- CHAPTER 15 GRAND REPRESENTATIVES**

**CHAPTER 1 - GRAND MASTER**

**RULE**

- §7-1.1 DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE GRAND LODGE**
- §7-1.3 DEPUTY GRAND MASTER – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

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- §7-1.1 DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE GRAND LODGE**

The official decisions of the Grand Master, made in the performance of the duties of his office, shall be binding upon all Masons subject to the authority of the Grand Lodge, until reversed, or set aside by it. All such decisions shall be submitted for the approval of the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Grand Communication, and referred to the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence for examination and comparison with the existing laws of Masonry and of the Grand Lodge and unless enacted into law by the Grand Lodge shall cease to have any binding force and effect after the close of the Annual Communication to which they are reported.

**Statutes §19 (1879-64, 1880-52, 1921-153)**

**Cross References: Coast. Art. 111 , Sec. 2; Gen. Laws §§11-1; 19-1.5; 19-3.1; 19-3.3; 19-3.5; 19-5.1; 19-5.3; 19-5.5; 19-5.7; 19-5.9; 19-5.11; 19-25**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Granting of Dispensations: Request for Dispensation must come from, and be by, Lodge action. (1886-8) (1898-9)
2. Rulings as to Law: It is improper for a Mason, or a Lodge, to send the same question to the Grand Master and the Jurisprudence Committee. When the same question is submitted (to both) the Grand Master's opinion prevails. The Committee shall not express an opinion on a question which is sent both to the Grand Master and to them, unless directed to do so by the Grand Master. (1878-41)
3. It is entirely optional with the Grand Master whether he shall refer questions of law to the (law) committee, but they should not be submitted to both, for the Grand Master's decision is law (at least until approved or set aside by the Grand Lodge), while the opinions of the committee are merely advisory (until approved or set aside by the Grand Lodge), (1890-45) if sent to both, the committee will express no opinion, (1874-41) unless directed to do so by the Grand Master. (1894-31)

**The Grand Master May:**

4. The Grand Master may grant a Dispensation to temporarily set aside some portions of the By-Laws (only). (1899-91)

5. The Grand Master has authority to issue an edict ordering Lodges that are not doing so to conform to specified Masonic law. (He) has authority to issue an edict ordering Lodges that are violating specified Masonic law to refrain from doing so. (Digest 1958-36)
6. The decision of the Grand Master on points of law has the force of law until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. (1887-12)
7. He has the power to grant Dispensation to open a Lodge in the absence of the Master and both Wardens, in which case he shall designate who shall act as Master. (Digest 1958-48)

**The Grand Master May Not:**

8. The Grand Master has no authority to issue an edict that is subversive of the true principles of Freemasonry, that changes or removes a Landmark, that contravenes the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline, or any part of the Adopted Work as promulgated by the Board of Custodians of the Work. (1899-91)
9. The Grand Master is not vested with authority to set aside the action of the Grand Lodge. (1880-75) (188455)
10. There is no prerogative of the Grand Master which permits him to set aside one of our written laws except a few By-Laws. He is the executive officer of the Grand Lodge during the interim between Grand Lodge Communications, but he has no authority to change any action of the Grand Lodge, or the Adopted Work. Like everyone else, he must bow before the law as the Grand Lodge makes it. (1876-47)
11. No Dispensation can be granted to hold a special meeting and call it a regular meeting. (Digest 1958-32) He cannot grant a Dispensation for a Subordinate Lodge to hold a Stated Communication at any other time than the regular time fixed by the By-Laws. (Digest 1958-47)
12. No Dispensation can be given which gives a Lodge the right to ballot on a petition for the degrees or for affiliation at a Called Communication. Balloting must be done at a Stated Communication. (1849-418) (187715) (1896-29)
13. It is not within the power of the Grand Master to direct a ballot or order the conferring of a degree. (1897125) (1898-87)
14. The Master cannot order a new ballot after the communication is closed. The only way to reach such a case is for the Lodge to adopt a Resolution petitioning the Grand Master for a Dispensation to retake the ballot. (1896-283)
15. The Grand Master cannot reverse the action of the Lodge at a trial, nor order a new trial. He cannot set aside the Proceedings of the Lodge in suspending or expelling a Brother, however erroneous the Proceedings may be. The Grand Lodge alone can disturb the action of the trial of a brother, and then only, when the case comes before it on appeal. (1884-56)
16. The Grand Master has no control over a Lodge trial, unless there are disorders in the Lodge, or it refuses to do its duty, and in such an event his action can not extend to interference with the judgment of the Lodge. He may arrest the Charter for inadequate penalty or for failure to do its duty, but he cannot direct its decision. (1876-77) (1884-56)
17. The right of the Grand Master to make Masons "at sight" does not exist by virtue of any Landmark or ancient regulations, and is not conferred by the Constitution or laws of this Grand Lodge. (1896-70)

**CHAPTER 7 – GRAND SECRETARY**

**§7-7.1 ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY**

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**§7-7.1 ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY**

The Grand Secretary shall divide the state into not more than six (6) Administrative Districts and appoint one Assistant Grand Secretary for each District. The Assistant Grand Secretary shall act as a liaison with their assigned Lodge Secretaries and assist with instruction and training of Lodge Secretaries as to their duties and responsibilities, including use of the adopted membership management program. (2026-\_\_)

**CHAPTER 11 - GRAND TILER**

**§7-11.1 GRAND TILER**

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**§7-11.1 GRAND TILER**

The Grand Tiler shall repair to the place appointed for the Annual Communication at least one day prior to the time appointed for the assembling of the Grand Lodge, and see that suitable rooms are prepared for the committees of the Grand Lodge, and that the Grand Lodge hall is properly arranged, secure and comfortable.

For attendance at Grand Lodge, he shall be allowed a sum equal to the mileage and per diem for a Representative of Subordinate Lodges to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and such other compensation for his services as the Grand Lodge may from time to time direct.

**Statutes §31**

*Cross Reference: Const. Art. 11, Sec. 1.*

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**CHAPTER 13 - APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS**

**§7-13.1 GRAND LIBRARIAN**

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**§7-13.1 GRAND LIBRARIAN**

The Grand Master shall annually designate one of the Grand Lodge Officers to perform the functions of Grand Librarian, or he may appoint a Grand Librarian from amongst the members of the Grand Lodge, whose duty it shall be to take charge of and preserve all the books, manuscripts, charts, pictures, and other property of the Grand Lodge not forming a working portion of the records of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer's offices. The Grand Librarian shall make a report at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and perform such other duties as the Grand Master may direct.

For attendance at Grand Lodge, he shall be allowed a sum equal to the mileage and per diem for a Representative of Subordinate Lodges to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and such other compensation for his services as the Grand Lodge may from time to time direct.

*Statutes §30 (1879-63; 1994-74)*

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**CHAPTER 15 – GRAND REPRESENTATIVES**

**§7-15.1 PURPOSE AND DUTIES**

**§7-15.3 RECEIVED BY GRAND LODGE**

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**§7-15.1 PURPOSE AND DUTIES**

The Grand Master shall, under the seal of the Grand Lodge and in its name and by its authority, commission some worthy Brother as Representative and guarantor of amity of the Grand Lodge near every other Grand Lodge recognizing the Grand Representative system. Such Representatives shall hold the honorary rank of Deputy Grand Master in this Grand Lodge so long as he shall hold such commission and shall be a member of the Grand Lodge to which he shall be commissioned. **Statutes §32 (1879-63)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Resolution adopted by Grand Lodge that does not contravene Masonic law has the effect of law, until repealed. In 1977 the Grand Lodge adopted a Resolution providing that when any duly accredited Grand Representative shall have failed to attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge for three consecutive years without proper written excuse there for issued by the Grand Master, then the position shall automatically become vacant and the Grand Master, upon notification by the Grand Secretary of such vacancy, shall forthwith appoint a new Grand Representative. **(1977-105)**

**§7-15.3 RECEIVED BY GRAND LODGE**

The Grand Lodge shall appoint a time for the reception of the Grand Representatives of other Grand Lodges, near this Grand Lodge, at each Annual Communication and the names of Grand Representatives present shall appear upon the minutes of each Communication immediately after those of past Grand Officers present. **Statutes §33 (1879-63)**

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**SECTION 9 - MASONIC RITUAL**

- CHAPTER 1 THE WORK AND LECTURES**
- CHAPTER 3 ANCIENT CEREMONIES AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS**
- CHAPTER 5 MASONIC FUNERALS**
- CHAPTER 7 THE BOARD OF CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK**
- CHAPTER 9 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURERS**

**CHAPTER 1 – THE WORK AND LECTURES**

**RULE**

- §9-1.1 ESTABLISHED BY GRAND LODGE**
- §9-1.3 ONE CANDIDATE AT A TIME**
- §9-1.5 SUITABLE PROFICIENCY REQUIRED BEFORE ADVANCEMENT**
- §9-1.7 LECTURE MUST BE DELIVERED**
- §9-1.9 ITINERANT LECTURERS FORBIDDEN**

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**§9-1.1 ESTABLISHED BY GRAND LODGE**

Lodges are required to conform to the Work and Lectures established by the Grand Lodge as a uniform system.

**Bylaws §32 (1871-101)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. II, Sec. 8, Gen. Laws §§9-1.3; 9-1.5; 9-1.7; 9-1.9; 9-7.1; 9-7.3; 9-7.5; 9-9.1; 9-9.3; 9-9.5; 9-9.7; 9-9.9; 9-9.11*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The candidate cannot be permitted to substitute the word "affirm". One who thinks that the word "swear" as we use it, is blasphemy, cannot be made a Mason. **(Digest 1958-17)**
2. Lodges must observe the mode of work, usages, and customs prescribed by the Grand Lodge, as interpreted by the Board of Custodians. Corrections are prohibited when opening or closing a Stated Communication and when conferring degrees on a candidate. **(1833-136) (1850-464)**
3. A Lodge cannot confer the degrees outside the Lodge Hall. **(1925-142)**
4. Also see decisions following sections listed under Cross References shown herein above.

**§9-1.3 ONE CANDIDATE AT A TIME**

Lodges are forbidden to confer any degree, in the working part, on more than one candidate at a time. The second section of the Fellow Craft degree is not considered a working part.

**Bylaws §33 (1854-84)**

**§9-1.5 SUITABLE PROFICIENCY REQUIRED BEFORE ADVANCEMENT**

Two degrees shall not be conferred on the same person at any one meeting, nor on the same day, except under Dispensation from the Grand Master, not at any time, unless such person has made suitable proficiency in the preceding degree.

**Bylaws §34 (1854-84)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §17-7*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Lodge possesses full powers of determination as to what constitutes an "examination" that displays "suitable proficiency" to the "satisfaction" of a majority of the members present. But such discretion as is vested in the Lodge membership is a wide discretion to be used both wisely and, in some cases, charitably. **(1974-102)**

**§9-1.7 LECTURE MUST BE DELIVERED**

The presiding officer must deliver the lecture pertaining to each degree when the same is conferred, or cause the same to be done, and should he fail to perform this duty, any member of the Lodge may report the fact to the Grand Master.

**Bylaws §35 (1871-104)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Masters must give the lecture when the degree is conferred or cause the same to be given. In the absence of anyone competent to give the lecture, it is better not to confer the degree. (1854-119) (1866-48)

**§9-1.9 ITINERANT LECTURERS FORBIDDEN**

Lodges must not permit an itinerant Masonic lecturer to visit them for the purpose of lecturing in lieu of any of the Adopted Work as approved by the Board of Custodians of the Work. An itinerant lecture may be given strictly as an educational presentation and not during a degree.

**Bylaws §36 (1871-104) (2022-40)**

**Cross References: Const. Art. II, Sec. 8, Gen. Laws §§9-7.1; 9-7.3; 9-7.5; 9-9.1; 9-9.3; 9-9.5; 9-9.7; 9-9.9; 9-9.11**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. One who undertakes to lecture a Lodge outside of the Jurisdiction of the Lodge where he holds membership is an "itinerant lecturer". Itinerant lecturers are forbidden to lecture Lodges. (1848-384) (1853-9)

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**CHAPTER 3 – ANCIENT CEREMONIES AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS**

**§9-3.1 CEREMONIES PERFORMED BY GRAND MASTER**

**§9-3.3 HOW LODGES MAY PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS**

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**§9-3.1 CEREMONIES PERFORMED BY GRAND MASTER**

Ceremonies of laying cornerstones, constituting new Lodges, and dedicating and consecrating halls can only be performed by the Grand Master, or someone deputized by him for that purpose.

**R&R §49 (1871-101)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §9-1*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The cornerstone of Masonic and public buildings only can be laid with Masonic honors. The request for laying the cornerstone must come through, or be by the approval of, the local Lodge under the seal of the Lodge. **(1900-44)**
2. The stone must be perfectly square on its surfaces and in its solid contents a cube. There must be cut on one side of its faces the year of Masonry and the name of the Grand Master, whether he or another conducts the ceremony. This inscription must face either East or North. The stone must be placed in the northeast corner and must be laid before the walls are built. **(1890-8) (1899-11) (Thomas Digest 1914-1192) (1927-115)**
3. A cornerstone cannot be properly placed at the beginning of the second story, or some distance below the second story level. It must be laid before the walls are built. **(1927-115)**
4. A cavity must be provided beneath the stone for the deposit. The deposit must include a copy of the Holy Bible and other appropriate articles, excluding articles of personal interest. The receptacle for the deposit should be glass sealed with glass cement, or a copper box soldered so as to exclude moisture. A list of all the articles to be deposited must be given to the Grand Secretary before the ceremony begins. There must be provided corn, wine, oil, and salt. The corn is not maize but wheat. The wheat should be in a golden vessel, and the other elements in silver vessels. All this must be furnished by the local Lodge or the body for whom the ceremony is performed. If for a Lodge, it pays all expenses. If for another body, the body pays all expenses. **(Thomas Digest 1914-1192)**
5. The Grand Master selects the Masonic orator or makes the address himself. If there are to be other addresses, they must precede or follow the Masonic ceremony and not be injected into it. **(Digest 1958-27)**
6. The cornerstone cannot be laid on Sunday. **(Digest 1958-27)**

**§9-3.3 HOW LODGES MAY PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS**

Lodges have discretionary powers to participate in public demonstrations of respect for the presence or the memory of any distinguished member of the fraternity. Processions for such purposes, where the Brethren are subject to the control of their own Master, and on any occasion where the honor of the institution at large is concerned, are allowable without Dispensation from the Grand Master. Where Brethren from other Lodges are concerned, not being subject to the control of the Master of the particular Lodge, Dispensation is required.

Lodges and Master Masons, in Good Standing, may participate in a local parade in celebration of national, state, and community events under the following rules:

1. The Worshipful Master of the Lodge, which is sponsoring the event, must approve of the appearance and record this approval in the minutes of his Lodge;
2. The Grand Master is informed at least 30 days prior to the event.

3. Each event and the participation in it must reflect credit upon Masonry as it is presented in the Ancient Landmarks, the written law of Masonry, and other Usages and Customs of the Fraternity.
4. The Worshipful Master of the Lodge, which is sponsoring the event, should take care that Masonry is represented in good taste, and that the Members adhere to a minimum casual dress code with shorts and/or T-shirts being allowed in the summer if needed due to heat.

**R&R §50 (1871-101; 2018-62) (2026-\_\_)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §9-1*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a public procession composed of two or more Lodges is held, it must be under the control of the Master of the local Lodge. **(Thomas Digest 1914-1192) (1929-56)**

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**CHAPTER 5 - MASONIC FUNERALS**

**RULE**

- §9-5.1 DUTY OF MASTER TO SUMMON LODGE MEMBERS, ATTENDANCE**
- §9-5.3 JEWELS, OTHER REGALIA**
- §9-5.5 LODGES MAY CROSS STATE LINES FOR FUNERAL CEREMONIES**
- §9-5.7 ELIGIBILITY FOR GRAND LODGE FUNERAL**

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**§9-5.1 DUTY OF MASTER TO SUMMON LODGE MEMBERS, ATTENDANCE**

Upon receiving notice of the death of a member of his Lodge, accompanied by a request made by the deceased prior to his death, or from his family, for a Masonic burial, the Master shall summon the members of his Lodge to attend the funeral, unless in the exercise of his immemorial discretionary powers he shall deem that the cause of Masonry, or the harmony of his Lodge would be marred or broken by its participation in such funeral obsequies. In case the Master shall decline to summon the Lodge, he shall be answerable to the Grand Lodge for any abuse of his power, and any person aggrieved thereby may lay the facts before the Grand Master, who shall cause the matter to be investigated and report the results to the Grand Lodge at its next Communication. A funeral summons may be either in writing or verbal, and it shall be the duty of each member receiving the same to respond thereto, sickness, absence, or the unavoidable vocation of life alone preventing.

**Bylaws §47 (1880-58)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Every Mason in good standing is entitled to a Masonic burial. The request must come from the Brother, now deceased, prior to his death, or from some member of the family. The Master must not volunteer to perform the ceremony. **(Webb’s Monitor 1816 Edition)**
2. It is a matter of obligation to attend the funeral of a Brother. It is a sacred covenant that exists between Master Masons, and that can be kept only at the open grave. A ceremony at some other time or place cannot be substituted. Omitting to call the Lodge to attend at the time of the interment of a Brother, or failing to attend when called is disregarding the obligation that we owe to the dead. **(1883-16)**
3. If the Lodge attends in a body, the funeral must be under the direction of the Master. Unless it is, he should not order the Lodge to attend, as it is only under his direction that Master Masons can congregate as such or wear the clothing and insignia of the Lodge in public. If members of other Lodges attend, it is by his invitation. Since the entire ceremony is under his direction, he and the officers of the Lodge must be duly honored and cheerfully obeyed. **(1891-53) (1894-30)**
4. The Master should be foremost in showing attention to the sick and destitute and in the relief of their wants, but he should under no circumstances volunteer or suggest a Masonic funeral. It should be remembered that it is as delicate a matter for the widow or other near relatives, of the deceased to decline the proffered services of the Lodge, as it is for the Master to be compelled to deny funeral honors to those who are not entitled to them. **(1884-37)**
5. The funeral ceremony in the Blue Lodge Textbook must be used at funerals. All other ceremonies are prohibited. **(1879-59)**
6. The Charter need not be present at a funeral. **(1877-64)**
7. None except Master Masons in good standing can march in a Masonic funeral procession or act as Masonic pallbearers. **(Digest 1958-44)**
8. There is no law which requires a Lodge to refund to another Lodge the funeral expenses paid by it for the burial of its member who died within the Jurisdiction of the Lodge burying him. **(1877-80)**

9. A member of a defunct Lodge, not indebted to such Lodge, who has paid dues for the current year to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides, can receive funeral honors. **(1898-67)**
10. One who demits during the year is in good standing until December 1, following, and may receive funeral honors. **(1922-161)**
11. One suspended for non-payment of dues cannot be buried by the Lodge. **(1872-15) (1883-19) (1892-57)**
12. One cannot be buried with Masonic honors if the family of the deceased objects to his Lodge acting with all officers in their places. **(Digest 1958-15)**
13. A Lodge of Sorrow is intended to be used only when it is impractical to have the funeral ceremonies at the time of the interment. **(1881-61)**
14. Lodges under Dispensation can bury their dead. **(Digest 1958-60)**
15. A Mississippi Lodge cannot give Masonic burial to a suspended member of a foreign Jurisdiction even though the laws of that Jurisdiction permit. **(1929-123)**

### **§9-5.3 JEWELS, OTHER REGALIA**

On funeral occasions, officers of Lodges may wear their Jewels, but all other regalia than white gloves and aprons are prohibited.

**Bylaws §48 (1871-101)**

### **§9-5.5 LODGES MAY CROSS STATE LINES FOR FUNERAL CEREMONIES**

Lodges are permitted to cross the boundary line of the State of Mississippi into the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of an adjacent State to perform or assist at the funeral ceremonies of one of their own members, residing or temporarily sojourning in such adjacent State.

**Bylaws §49 (1871-101)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §9-3.3*

### **§9-5.7 ELIGIBILITY FOR GRAND LODGE FUNERAL**

Those eligible for a Grand Lodge Funeral shall be: Past Grand Masters, Honorary Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Current Grand Lodge Officers, Past Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Current District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and Ten-Year District Deputy Grand Lecturers.

**Statutes §11A (2004-30 & 32)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. I, Secs. 2, 3, 7*

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## CHAPTER 7 – THE BOARD OF CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

### §9-7.1 BOARD OF CUSTODIANS

### §9-7.3 HOW APPOINTED

### §9-7.5 EXEMPLIFICATION OF WORK BY DEPUTY LECTURERS

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### §9-7.1 BOARD OF CUSTODIANS

The Board of Custodians of the Ancient Work and Lectures in Symbolic Masonry shall, after the expiration of the term of office of the present members, consist of four members, and the Grand Lecturer as a member ex-officio.

**Statutes §27 (1885-88)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. II, Sec. 8*

### §9-7.3 HOW APPOINTED

The Board of Custodians of the Work shall be appointed in the following manner; After the installation of officers at the Annual Grand Communication in the year A. L. 5885 and annually thereafter the Grand Master, on nomination of the Junior Past Grand Master and the Grand Wardens, shall appoint some expert and well-informed member of the Grand Lodge a member of said Board, who shall hold his office for the four years next succeeding his appointment; and all vacancies in said Board shall be filled in like manner.

**Statutes §28 (1885-88)**

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The Adopted Work is the work taught by the Grand Lecturer and approved by the Board of Custodians. **(1883-59) (1908-42)**
2. The Blue Lodge Textbook is adopted, its use enjoined, and all others prohibited. **(1873-43)**
3. Any Mason owning, harboring, or using a cipher ritual or exposé of Masonry must be expelled. This is mandatory on the Lodge in whose Jurisdiction the Mason resides or sojourns. **(1917-142) (Digest 1958-22)**
4. Custodians of the Work cannot be removed by the Grand Master, being constitutional officers, as much so as a Grand Warden. Their successors can only be appointed on the nomination of the Junior Past Grand Master and the Grand Wardens and the Grand Master must appoint whosoever they nominate. **(1897-17, 126) (1898-87)**

### §9-7.5 EXEMPLIFICATION OF WORK BY DEPUTY LECTURERS

The Board of Custodians of the Work and the District Deputy Grand Lecturers may, at the discretion of the Grand Master, hold an annual session at the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge on the day preceding the opening of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of perfecting themselves in the Adopted Work. If so held, the Board of Custodians shall make a report at the ensuing session of the Grand Lodge.

For this service and attendance at the Grand Lodge, the Board of Custodian of the Work and District Deputy Grand Lecturers shall receive from Grand Lodge funds a sum equal to the per diem of a representative of Subordinate Lodges to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge

for each day and mileage as set by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge, provided no compensation or mileage is received in any other capacity.

This revision supersedes any other reference in Williams Digest of Laws pertaining to compensation for District Deputy Grand Lecturers and Board of Custodians of the Work previous to this date.

**Statutes §29 (1998-56) (2025-39)**

***Cross References: Gen. Laws §§9-1.1, 3, 5, 7, 9; §§9-9.1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11***

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Board of Custodians has authority to say what the Adopted Work is. **(1897-42)**
2. It is the office of the Custodians to keep the Work, and that of the Deputies to teach it. The Custodians are not authorized to propagate the Work and District Deputies have nothing whatsoever to do with what is the Work; they must teach that and nothing but that which is retained in the custody of those appointed by the Constitution to retain it, as it has been adopted by the Grand Lodge. **(1897-127) (1898-87)**

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## CHAPTER 9 - DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURERS

### RULE

- §9-9.1 DISTRICTS IN STATE; EACH LODGE TO BE VISITED BY DEPUTY**  
**§9-9.3 WHERE LODGE UNABLE TO PAY**  
**§9-9.5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION**  
**§9-9.7 ANNUAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION**  
**§9-9.9 GRAND LECTURER MAY ALSO SERVE AS LECTURER TO LODGE**  
**§9-9.11 ANNUAL REPORT TO GRAND LODGE REQUIRED; DUTIES**

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### **§9-9.1 DISTRICTS IN STATE; EACH LODGE TO BE VISITED BY DEPUTY**

The Grand Lecturer shall divide the state into districts and appoint one District Deputy Grand Lecturer for each District.

The Deputy shall visit each Lodge in his district once in each year, and lecture such of said Lodges as he finds in need thereof.

For each Lodge visited, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be paid out of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer Fund a sum equal to the per diem for a representative of Subordinate Lodges to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, limited to one day per year and mileage as set by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication. Lodges requesting additional lecturing from the District Deputy Grand Lecturer shall compensate him in like manner for each additional day that his services are requested and rendered. If any Deputy is unable to visit a Lodge in his district, he shall so report to the Grand Lecturer, who shall send a Deputy to visit said Lodge in his stead.

Immediately after each visitation, the Deputy shall make a report to the Grand Lecturer on blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary.

This revision supersedes any other reference in Williams Digest of Laws pertaining to compensation for District Deputy Grand Lecturers and Board of Custodians of the Work previous to this date.

#### **Statutes §21**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§9-9.3; 9-9.5; 9-9.7; 9-9.9; 9-9. 11*

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. None but Masters and Past Masters are eligible to the position of District Deputy Grand Lecturer. **(1856-11)**
2. The Deputy should visit every Lodge in his district once each year. The Deputy's visit must be made either at a Stated Communication or a called meeting. He cannot call on the Secretary and/or the Master and claim an official visit. He cannot claim as official a visit made to the Lodge when degrees are conferred or when anything is being done that would interfere with his teaching. **(1920-33)**
3. Immediately after his visitation the Deputy must make report to the Grand Lecturer on blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary for that purpose. **(1925-143) (Digest 1958-33)**
4. District Deputies are not installed and, therefore, are not Grand Lodge Officers. **(Digest 1958-33)**
5. One who undertakes to lecture a Lodge outside of the Jurisdiction of the Lodge where he holds membership is an "itinerant lecturer". Itinerant lecturers are forbidden to lecture Lodges. **(1859-9, 103)**
6. The District Deputy cannot claim the right to preside at any time. The Master is under no obligation except that of courtesy to yield the gavel to him. His duty is to ascertain and report the condition of the Lodge and teach the Adopted Work. **(Digest 1958-33)**

**§9-9.3 WHERE LODGE UNABLE TO PAY**

The Grand Master may instruct the District Deputy Grand Lecturer to make additional visits, not to exceed three additional visits on anyone year, to any Lodge in his jurisdiction which, in the judgement of the Grand Master, is unable to pay the DDGL for his services. The District Deputy shall be paid from the District Deputy Grand Lecturer fund when approved by the Grand Lecturer Statutes §22 (1957-112; 1962-119; 1997-73; 1998-55)(2020-50)

**§9-9.5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION**

There shall be held annually in each Congressional District one or more Schools of Instruction at such time and place as the Grand Lecturer may determine. The Grand Lecturer shall assign each Deputy to a school. Each District Deputy shall be required to attend the School of Instruction and shall receive a sum as set by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Grand Lodge. These expenses shall be paid from the District Deputy Grand Lecturer Fund on an account to be approved by the Grand Lecturer. Statutes §23 (1957-112; 1962-119; 1997-73; 1998-55)(2020-50)

**§9-9.7 ANNUAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION**

The District Deputy Grand Lecturers and the Board of Custodians of the Work shall assemble annually as such place as the Grand Lecturer may designate for the Annual School of Instruction to rehearse and perfect themselves in the Work and Lectures, as promulgated by the Custodians of the Work and the Grand Lecturer. The School shall be under the direction of the Grand Lecturer. District Deputy Grand Lecturers and Custodians of the Work shall receive a sum as set by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge. Motel and meal expenses shall be paid from the District Deputy Grand Lecturer Fund on an account to be approved by the Grand Lecturer. This revision supersedes any other reference in Williams Digest of Laws pertaining to compensation for District Deputy Grand Lecturers and Board of Custodians of the Work previous to this date.  
Statutes §24 (1957-112; 1962-119; 1997-73; 1998-56)

DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Time consumed in going to and returning from annual school is to be included in per diem charge and expenses.

**§9-9.9 GRAND LECTURER MAY ALSO SERVE AS LECTURER TO LODGE**

The Grand Lecturer may also discharge the duty of Lecturer to Lodges when requested by them and authorized by the Grand Master.  
Statutes §25 (1957-112; 1962-119; 1997-73)

**§9-9.11 ANNUAL REPORT TO GRAND LODGE REQUIRED, DUTIES**

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It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer to make an annual report to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, showing the number of lodges visited by himself and the Deputies, together with information as to the attendance, interest shown, and efficiency of officers in conferring degrees, and the total number of days spent in lecturing Lodges. In addition to the foregoing, the Grand Lecturer and each District Deputy Grand Lecturers shall bring to the attention of the Grand Master any irregularity in any of his Lodges, which shall call for the interposition of his authority. **(prior to 1925)**

The Grand Lecturer and District Deputy Grand Lecturers are required to examine carefully into the condition of the Lodges under their charge; to examine their records and correct any irregularities therein; to point out all errors in their manner of working; to instruct them in every particular where they think information is required; to recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of Masonry, caution in the admission of Candidates, punctual attendance at all meetings and representation at every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

**Statutes §26 (1933-89)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. II, Sec. 8: Gen. Laws §§7-1.1; 7-1.3; 7-1.5; 9-1.1; 9-1.3; 9-1.5; 9-1.7; 9-1.9*

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The Deputy should examine Lodge records and see whether they are duly kept; examine by-laws; ascertain the number and attendance of members; inquire as to the condition of the Lodge; point out errors; give instruction; caution against the admission of unworthy persons, and report to the Grand Lecturer anything that he thinks should be brought to his attention. **(Digest 1958-33)**

**SECTION 11 - GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES**

**CHAPTER 1      LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE**  
**CHAPTER 3      COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**  
**CHAPTER 5      FINANCE – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**  
**CHAPTER 7      FRATERNAL RELATIONS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**  
**CHAPTER 9      EDUCATION**  
**CHAPTER 11     SPECIAL COMMITTEES – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

**CHAPTER 1 - LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE**

**RULE**

**§11-1.1            OPINIONS ADVISORY UNTIL APPROVED BY GRAND LODGE**

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**§11-1.1            OPINIONS ADVISORY UNTIL APPROVED BY GRAND LODGE**

The decisions of the Committee on Law and Jurisprudence shall be submitted to the next ensuing Grand Lodge after their rendition, for its approval, and until so approved shall be deemed advisory, unless ordered to be enforced by an Edict of the Grand Master.

**Statutes §26 (1880-52)**

***Cross References: §7-1.1***

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. All questions submitted to the Law Committee shall be counter-signed by the Secretary under seal of the Lodge and should say "This question has not been submitted to the Grand Master". **(Digest 1958-54)**
2. It is entirely optional with the Grand Master whether he shall refer questions of law to the committee, but they should not be submitted to both, for the Grand Master's decision is law (at least until approved or disapproved by the Grand Lodge), while the opinions of the committee are merely advisory (until approved or disapproved by the Grand Lodge **(1890-45)**), if sent to both, the committee will express no opinion **(1889- 41)**, unless directed to do so by the Grand Master. **(1894-31)**

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**CHAPTER 9 - EDUCATION**

**RULE**

**§11-9.1 APPOINTMENT**

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**§11-9.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Educational Committee shall be composed of five Master Masons who shall be appointed by the Grand Master-elect for 1973, one for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years. At each succeeding Annual Communication, the Grand Master shall appoint one member to serve for five years. The Grand Master shall designate the chairman at each Annual Communication. The Worshipful Master of, or a member selected by the Mississippi Lodge of Research No. 640 shall serve as an aid to the Education Committee.

**Statutes §57 (1973-115)(2020-55)**

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**SECTION 13 - FINANCE**

- CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**
- CHAPTER 3 DUES AND FEES**
- CHAPTER 5 PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP**
- CHAPTER 7 COMPENSATION TO REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS**
- CHAPTER 9 COMPENSATION TO BOARD OF CUSTODIANS AND DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURERS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**
- CHAPTER 11 GRAND LODGE ENDOWMENT FUND**

**CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**RULE**

- §13-1.1 REMITTANCES MADE AT RISK OF LODGE MAKING SAME**
- §13-1.3 RESTRICTIONS ON TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF SECURITIES**
- §13-1.4 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**
- §13-1.5 BUDGET FOR GRAND LODGE AND THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION**
- §13-1.6 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACT OF 2020**
- §13-1.7 GRAND MASTER’S DINNER**
- §13-1.9 CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF FUND FROM SALE OF GRAND MASTER’S PINS**
- §13-1.11 RETIREMENT PLAN FOR GRAND LODGE EMPLOYEES**

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**§13-1.1 REMITTANCES MADE AT RISK OF LODGE MAKING SAME**

All remittances of money to the Grand Lodge by its subordinates shall be at the risk of those remitting the same.  
R&R §52 (1871-102)

**§13-1.3 RESTRICTIONS ON TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF SECURITIES**

The investment policy of funds belonging to this Grand Lodge shall be reasonable, stable, and protected in-so-far as possible. In addition to investments in United States Government Bonds, Agencies of the United States Government Bonds, Certificates of Deposit issued by financial institutions; investments in high quality investment grade corporate bonds that are not rated less than BBB, investments in high grade corporate notes that are not rated less than BBB, investments in taxable municipal bonds that are not rated less than AAA, and investments in ultra conservative fixed and fixed indexed annuities may be considered. In addition to the above investments, the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund and the Perpetual Membership Fund may also invest in mutual funds and index funds with a minimum Morning Star rating of 3 stars. The Investment Committee shall make sure that the portfolio of investments is balanced.  
Statutes §18 (1939-106; 2014-38; 2018-57)

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**§13-1.4 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

There shall be an Investment Committee composed of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, and three (3) Master Masons who have knowledge and work experience in investments and/or money management. At the 2014 Annual Communication the Grand Master shall appoint one Master Mason to a one-year term, one for a two-year term, and one for a three-year term. At each succeeding Annual Communication, the Grand Master shall appoint one member to a three-year term. The Grand Treasurer shall serve as chairman of the committee. The Grand Secretary shall serve as its secretary and maintain the minutes of meetings.

The Investment Committee shall annually investigate the Grand Lodge's investment opportunities, and, while retaining a very conservative nature, prepare recommendations for the management of Grand Lodge funds for the ensuing year. The Investment Committee's recommendations shall be transmitted to the Finance Committee for evaluation and use in preparation of the Annual Budget. (2014-38)

**§13-1.5 BUDGET FOR GRAND LODGE AND THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION**

The Finance Committee will present to the Grand Lodge each year a balanced budget by category with line-item explanation of each category, by cutting appropriations or raising per capita for Grand Lodge approval or by using retained earnings as evidenced by cash-on-hand at the end of the Grand Lodge Budget Year. The proposed budget shall be made available electronically on Grand View fourteen (14) days prior to the annual Grand Lodge Session. Statutes §18-A (1994-72, 73) (2022-39)

**§13-1.6 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACT OF 2020**

The total annual budgeted expenditures for the operation of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Fraternity through budget year 2031 shall not exceed the sum of: (1) the total budgeted expenses as approved in the 2022 Grand Lodge of Mississippi Fraternity budget; (2) an amount as may be reasonably determined from year to year by the Finance Committee to adjust the total budgeted expenditures for inflation, by taking into account various data metrics as the committee may see fit, including but not limited to the United States Consumer Price Index; and (3) any other sums as may be approved from time to time by a vote of the members of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi as being necessary to the operation of, or in the best interest of, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi Fraternity will set aside up to ten percent (10%) of each approved budget to be kept as an emergency fund until a total of twenty-five (25%) of the total Annual Budget is reached. This will ensure that the Grand Lodge of Mississippi has access to funds to address any emergency, i.e., Acts of God or payment of insurance deductibles. These emergency funds will be kept separate in the general accounting ledger and be available for immediate use should an emergency need arise. These emergency funds shall not be used to offset items normally contained in an Annual Budget. For the budget years 2023 and 2024, any and all budgeted monies not utilized by December 31 of the proceeding budget years can be used to supplement the budget income for the year 2023 and/or 2024. (2023-32).

Any and all budgeted monies not encumbered or utilized by December 31 of any budget year shall be deposited into the Anderson/Alexander Grand Lodge Endowment Fund within forty-five (45) days in order to allow for any outstanding payments to be reconciled and assigned or credited to the appropriate budget year. Funds necessary for specific projects that overlap more than one budget year will be identified to allow for continuity of specific projects, for example capital expenditures involving infrastructure to include computer software or building improvements. All funds that are of necessity to be used in this manner shall be so identified and the status and progress of each specific project will be reported on at Annual Communications by the appropriate Committee.

Any and all budget shortages in each Annual Budget shall be addressed by either a reduction in total expenditures or by an increase in per capita dues, dependent upon recommendations and guidance received from the Grand Lodge Finance Committee. Spending more than the amount of income does not in any way constitute a balanced budget. Beginning with the 2021 budget, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Fraternity shall be forbidden from receiving a management fee of any kind from the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation to use as general revenue funding source. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi Fraternity will utilize a balanced budgeting approach to develop an annual budget, and all Annual Budgets submitted at the Grand Lodge Communications to the voting members for approval shall begin and end with a zero-dollar balance. Annual budget expenditures shall be based upon both the actual and projected expenses, and not past historical expenses alone.

Funding requests for special projects shall be sponsored by a Grand Lodge Committee and shall provide written justification to the Grand Lodge Finance Committee for each annual budgeted category expenditure in order to develop each Grand Lodge Annual Budget, and an itemized line item Audit Report for the preceding years will be reviewed by the Grand Lodge Finance Committee to determine appropriate funding levels for the ensuing year. (2020-48)(2021-56)

### **§13-1.7 GRAND MASTER’S DINNER**

There may be a Grand Master’s Dinner held annually, the decision as to the holding of same being vested in the Grand Master. Rules governing the dinner shall be those established by the Grand Lodge at the 1977 Annual Communication. Provided, however, that beginning with the Annual Communication for 1982 the number of tickets that may be furnished without charge to individuals shall not exceed twenty in number and shall be limited to guest as designated by the Grand Master. It is the manifest intention of the Grand Lodge that after the Annual Communication of 1981 all Mississippi Masons shall be placed on the same basis, this, that any may attend, together with their guests, but that tickets for all shall be paid for by individuals in the manner and for the price set forth in said rules of 1977, except for the special guest herein provided for.

**Statutes §58 (1979-95)**

### **§13-1.9 CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS FROM SALE OF GRAND MASTER’S PINS**

It shall be the sole responsibility and duty of the Grand Master to design his Grand Master pin, and all monies generated by the sale of these pins shall accrue to the credit of the Grand Master Pin Fund. The Grand Master Pin Fund is not a budgeted fund. The funds generated through the

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sale of the Grand Master Pins, net of manufacturing cost, shall be disbursed at the direction of the Grand Master only for Grand Lodge approved projects.

The Grand Master is accountable for all funds raised and shall make a report to the Grand Lodge about the use of these funds.

**Statutes §18-C**

The following is included since we still have former employees receiving retirement benefits under this section of the General Laws of the Grand Lodge. It is for informational purposes only.

**§13-1.11 RETIREMENT PLAN FOR GRAND LODGE EMPLOYEES**

*Any person who has attained the age of at least sixty-five years and who has been a fulltime salaried employee of the Grand Lodge for at least ten consecutive years immediately preceding the date of retirement shall be entitled to a retirement payment from said Grand Lodge, payable monthly, for as long as such person shall live. The amount of annual benefits payable under the plan is to be determined as follows: The average annual salary earned during the final three years of employments multiplied by the total percentage product reached by multiplying the number of years of covered service two and fifty one hundredths per cent (2.5%), plus a base sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); provided, however, that the total amount shall never exceed sixty-five percent (65%) of the aforesaid average annual salary earned from all sources combined during the final three years of employment, nor less than the sum of six thousand dollars per year, whichever is greater. This limitation does not apply to those covered employees who were employed prior to the adoption of this revised section.*

*For retirees whose salary has been paid from more than one fund, the amount of retirement entitlement shall be computed on the combined amount of salary, and payment of benefits apportioned between the funds in the same proportion as salary received.*

*Termination of employment, either before or after entitlement benefits may accrue, shall be at the election of either the employee or the Grand Lodge Retirement Plan Committee composed of the following members: The Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Grand Lodge shall appropriate and contribute an amount equal to one dollar (\$1.00) per paying member from the per capita dues as reported on the official membership rolls of the Grand Lodge on August 31 annually*

*These funds shall be deposited and invested in a separate retirement fund and administered in accordance with Section 13-1.3 of the statutes of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi on investments. Payments from said fund shall be based upon calculated estimates of the Retirement Plan Committee and recommendations by the Finance Committee. These provisions shall retroactively apply and be applicable to Carolyn D. Hodge.*

*Statutes §56 (1968-109; 1975-125; 1986-65; 1994-72; 2010-40)(2020-38)*

**§13-1.11 SIMPLE IRA RETIREMENT PLAN FOR GRAND LODGE EMPLOYEES**

Any full-time salaried employee of the Grand Lodge who has been employed as such for a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days and is reasonably expected to receive at least \$5000 in salary in the then current year shall be eligible to open a Savings Incentive Match Plan for

Employees (SIMPLE) IRA (an “IRA”) through the Grand Lodge’s chosen investment advisor pursuant to the terms of the adoption agreement for such SIMPLE IRA plan (the “Plan”) as adopted by the Grand Lodge Retirement Committee. Upon an employee’s establishment of an IRA pursuant to the terms hereof and in accordance with the Plan, such employee is eligible to make tax deferred contributions to his or her IRA up to the annual limits (as modified by any applicable catch-up contribution limits) as established by the Plan and the Internal Revenue Service. Pursuant to the Plan, the Grand Lodge shall match such employee contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to an annual cap of three percent (3%) of such employee’s total annual salary. Participating employees shall be immediately vested and have full ownership of all investments and earnings in their respective accounts. The Grand Lodge Retirement Committee shall be responsible for and have full control of the establishment of the Plan and determining the other terms of the Plan not specifically set forth herein. (2023-23)

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## CHAPTER 3 - DUES AND FEES

### RULE

**§13-3.1 DUES PAID FOR ALL MEMBERS; EXCEPTIONS**

**§13-3.3 RULES PERTAINING TO EXEMPTION**

**§13-3.5 DUES AND FEES FROM SUBORDINATE LODGES TO GRAND LODGE**

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**§13-3.1 DUES PAID FOR ALL MEMBERS; EXCEPTIONS**

Lodges must pay dues to the Grand Lodge for all their members, except the insane and those under suspension and those exempted as hereinafter provided.

**R&R §53 (1881-54; 1965-113)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§13-1.1, 13-3.3, 19-1.7, 19-19.21*

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. From the money collected from each member for dues, the Lodge should set aside in its book of accounts, (1965-113) an amount equal to the Grand Lodge dues. This money so set apart should not be paid out for any purpose except to pay Grand Lodge. **(1958-35)**
2. A Lodge must pay dues to the Grand Lodge on every non-exempt member on its roll August 31, and on every contributing non-affiliate, notwithstanding it may have remitted the dues of same. **(1896-36) (1903-80)**

**§13-3.3 RULES PERTAINING TO EXEMPTION**

A Master Mason whose membership aggregates twenty-five (25) years and who is over the age of seventy-two (72) years, shall, upon application there for, be exempt by his Lodge from payment of dues to the Lodge and Grand Lodge, except for any amount of charity assessment by the Subordinate Lodge for its own use for purposes of charity, as it may determine by Resolution properly entered and adopted. When any Lodge shall exempt its members, the Secretary of the Lodge shall notify the Grand Secretary, and certificates of said exempt status shall be furnished to exempt member by the Grand Lodge, attested by the Grand Secretary, and be by him made a matter of record, and no credit for exemptions shall be allowed Lodges except where certificates have been registered and attested by the Grand Secretary.

**R&R §54 (1903-80; 1965-114; 1978-118; 1979-96)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§13-3.1, 19-1.7, 19-1.9, 19-19.21, 19-21.3*

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. It is not the duty of a Secretary to solicit applications for exemption from payment of dues. The obligation to make application rests upon the member. The law reads, "upon his application therefore".
2. Lodges cannot take credit for exempt members until all the requirements of the law are complied with. **(1903-68)**
3. A Mason moving from another Jurisdiction into Mississippi and affiliating with a Mississippi Lodge and being more than seventy-two years of age and having been a Mason for more than twenty-five years, is not entitled to exemption from dues because his membership has not aggregated twenty-five years in a Mississippi Lodge. **(1940-89) (1979-96)**

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**§13-3.5 DUES AND FEES FROM SUBORDINATE LODGES TO GRAND LODGE**

Every Subordinate Lodge shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge annually as of August 31, the following contributions:

- a) From every member whose name appears on roll August 31 who has not secured exemption under the provisions of Section 13-3.3 the sum of twenty-six dollars (\$35.00);
- b) For every non-affiliate who has paid dues for the current year, the sum of twenty- six dollars (\$35.00);
- c) For every Entered Apprentice Degree conferred, the sum of thirteen dollars (\$13.00);
- d) For every Fellow Craft Degree conferred, the sum of thirteen dollars (\$13.00); and
- e) For every Master Mason Degree conferred, the sum of thirteen dollars (\$13.00).

The money due the Grand Lodge on dues shall be accounted for separately in the books of accounts of the Lodge for the benefit of the Grand Lodge and paid to the Grand Secretary in accordance with the provisions of Section 19-1.7.

**R&R §55 (1940-108; 1976-125 2008-23; 2010-43)(2026-\_\_)**

**Cross References: Gen. Laws §§13-1.1, 13-3.2, 13-3.1, 19-1.7, 19-1.9, 19-19.21, 19-21.1, 19-21.3**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge must pay dues to the Grand Lodge on every non-exempt member on its roll August 31, and on every contributing non-affiliate notwithstanding it may have remitted the dues of the same. **(1896-36) (1903-80)**
2. Lodges cannot take credit for exempt members until all requirements of the law are met. **(1903-68)**
3. There are no dues to be paid to the Grand Lodge for one who is non compos mentis. **(1900-45) (1922-162)**

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**CHAPTER 5 - PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP**

**RULE**

<b>§13-5.1</b>	<b>GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS</b>
<b>§13-5.3</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>
<b>§13-5.5</b>	<b>COST OF THE PLAN</b>
<b>§13-5.7</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>§13-5.9</b>	<b>CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP</b>

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**§13-5.1 GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

This program shall be known as “The Perpetual Membership Plan” of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as “the plan”.

The Plan is to be operated and administered by a committee consisting of three Brethren appointed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master to serve as follows: one member to serve for three years, one member to serve for two years, and one member to serve for one year, at the end of which all successive appointments are to be for three years, except for appointments to fill unexpired terms. The Most Worshipful Grand Master shall appoint one of the members to serve as Chairman of the Committee. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of this committee for advisory purposes only.

The Plan Committee is hereby empowered to invest all funds received by the Grand Lodge for this program in reasonable, stable, and protected in-so-far-as possible, insured instruments, government certificates, certificates of deposit, and other such instruments including ultra conservative fixed and fixed indexed investments as may be most expedient and advantageous to grow the Fund following the advice of the Fund's Investment Advisor.

Distribution of proceeds from the investments will be made at the end of the calendar year, based upon each Lodge's pro rata contribution to the plan, as of January 1st in the following manner: 20% of total earnings shall be retained in the fund to grow the Lodge's investment account; balance of the total earnings (if more than \$10) shall be payable to the Lodge. Amounts less than \$10, shall automatically be retained in the participating Lodge's account. In addition, 1% of the total fund earnings during the year may be set aside by the Committee for administrative costs.

Any matter not specifically covered by this section shall be resolved by a committee consisting of the Most Worshipful Grand Mastery Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and the Plan Committee. The results of such meeting will be reported at the next Grand Lodge Communication, and any changes resulting there from shall be subject to the vote of the members of this Grand

**Lodge. R&R §54-A (1995-68-70) (2005-21, 42; 2018-57)(2019-46)**

**§13-5.3 ELIGIBILITY**

Any Constituent Lodge may, by the vote of the members, participate in this plan, subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth.

Any member within this Grand Jurisdiction, may become a participant in this Plan and receive a “Perpetual Membership Certificate” and a Perpetual Membership Card” by paying into the Plan an amount as set forth in “Cost of the Plan”. **R&R §54-A (1995-68, 69, 70)**

### **§13-5.5 COST OF THE PLAN**

The entire cost of a Perpetual Membership shall be paid by the participating member, or his Lodge, in accordance with the formula set forth herein.

The formula used to compute the cost of the plan will use the annual dues of the Constituent Lodge which will be multiplied by 15. Since the Lodge will not receive any interest from the Perpetual Membership Plan for the year the funds are received, the Lodge may require the applicant to pay an additional year’s dues which will be kept by the Lodge.

Upon receipt of a completed application for Perpetual Membership Form as prepared by the Office of the Grand Secretary (obtained from the Grand Secretary’s office or from the Grand Lodge website) and payment of an amount computed from the above formula, the Subordinate Lodge Secretary will transmit to the chairman of the Plan Committee, or to the Grand Secretary, the payment plus the application. The application form should include the name of the applicant, the name and number of this Symbolic Lodge, his birthday, the date when he became a Master Mason and the inclusive dates of any suspension for non-payment of dues. The Chairman of the Plan Committee shall deposit any funds received, verify the payment plus the application. The application form should include the name of the applicant, the name and number of this Symbolic Lodge, his birthday, the date when he became a Master Mason and the current amount of Lodge dues. The Perpetual Membership Plan Committee shall deposit any funds received. The Grand Secretary will issue a Perpetual Membership Certificate and a Perpetual Membership Card and send them to the Lodge Secretary. The Lodge Secretary will present the Certificate and Card to the Brother and will continue to issue the Brother and annual dues card. Should there be a discrepancy in information or computation, it must be resolved prior to the issuance of the Certificate.

**R&R §54-A (1995-68-70) (2005-21, 42; 2018-58)**

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A perpetual member does not pay yearly dues. No additional dues charges are allowed. The Lodge Secretary “will continue to issue the Brother an annual dues card.” This requirement for the issuance of a dues card is without any condition for the payment of additional dues. **(2023-20)**

### **§13-5.7 ADMINISTRATION**

The administration of the Plan shall be vested in the Perpetual Membership Plan Committee and under the supervision of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. All monies received shall be placed in trust in the name of the Subordinate Lodge and all funds derived from the investment of monies in the trust shall be returned to the Subordinate Lodge as outlined above in §13-5.1 - General Specifications. A participating Lodge may request their share of the interest received during the year to be retained in the Perpetual Membership Program and the Lodge credited with that amount. The date of the retained interest will be December 31 of the year the interest is received and the funds are to begin earning interest the following day.

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The Plan Committee shall keep in a suitable ledger a complete record of all funds paid into the Lodge's Perpetual Membership Trust Fund, the amount of interest earned by the above funds, the payment of interest to the Lodge, and the name of the individual to whom the individual to whom the Perpetual Membership is issued. The Plan Committee shall make an annual report to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication regarding the financial status of each account so established, together with the cost of administration of the Plan.

The future cost of the administration of the Plan will be paid on a pro rata basis by all participating Lodges; expenses in excess of 1% of the interest on monies in trust are subject to a vote of the members in attendance at an Annual Communication.

Disposal of monies in trust in the name of a Subordinate Lodge shall not be made in any other manner except as herein designated.

No refund shall be made from the Plan to any person for any reason.

R&R §54-A (1995-68-70) (2005-21, 42) (2009-60) (2010-41; 2018-59)

### **§13-5.9 CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP**

A perpetual Member may transfer his Perpetual Membership to another Subordinate Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction provided the Lodge being transferred to accepts his perpetual membership. It is the responsibility of the member to inform the Lodge of his Perpetual Membership and his desire to transfer his Perpetual Membership to that Lodge. The Lodge may accept the Brother but not his Perpetual Membership, or the Lodge may require the Brother to contribute an additional amount to the Perpetual Membership Plan if the amount transferred is not sufficient. Once the conditions are met, and the Brother is accepted by the Lodge, the Lodge Secretary should inform the Chairman of the Perpetual Membership Committee. The Chairman of the Perpetual Membership Committee shall upon notice thereof cause to be transferred on the books of the Perpetual Membership Plan the monies received for such Perpetual Membership to the credit of the Lodge transferred to, regardless of by whom such Perpetual Membership was purchased. If the transferor's new Lodge is not a participating Lodge in the Plan, such transfer of membership shall automatically establish an account in the new Lodge's name, and all interest is to be credited to the member's new Lodge as herein provided.

The death of a holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate does not alter the payment of interest to the participating Lodge.

Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate demitting to a Lodge outside of this Grand Jurisdiction or taking a Demit and not affiliating with another Lodge, the monies received for such Perpetual Membership shall remain in the account of the member's Lodge prior to taking the Demit.

Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate being suspended or expelled from the Symbolic Lodge, the monies received for such Perpetual Membership shall remain in the account of the Member's Lodge prior to being suspended or expelled.

When two or more Lodges consolidate, all monies in the respective Perpetual Membership Plans of the Lodges involved shall be transferred to the credit of such consolidated Lodge.

Upon the dissolution of a Lodge, holders of Perpetual Membership Certificates shall have such memberships transferred as provided in sub-paragraph (1) hereof. All funds received for Perpetual Memberships from deceased members of the dissolved Lodge shall remain in the Plan and be

credited to the Grand Lodge and all interest received from such monies shall be dispensed to the remaining Lodges in the Plan.

**R&R §54-A (1995-68-70) (2005-22, 42)**

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**CHAPTER 13 - COMPENSATION TO REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS**

**RULE**

- §13-7.1 MILEAGE AND PER DIEM OF LODGE REPRESENTATIVES**  
**§13-7.3 DELETED (2013-61)**  
**§13-7.5 DELETED (2013-61)**  
**§13-7.9 HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER PRESENT IS ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION**  
**§13-7.11 COMPENSATION FOR ATTENDING GRAND LODGE SESSIONS**  
**§13-7.13 ONLY ONE COMPENSATION FOR MILEAGE AND PER DIEM**  
**§13-7.15 SALARY OF GRAND TREASURER**  
**§13-7.17 EXPENSES OF GRAND MASTER**  
**§13-7.19 EXPENSES OF GRAND SECRETARY**  
**§13-7.21 EXPENSES OF GRAND LECTURER**  
**§13-7.23 ALLOWANCE FOR THE GRAND MASTER, GRAND SECRETARY, AND GRAND LECTURER**

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**§13-7.1 MILEAGE AND PER DIEM OF LODGE REPRESENTATIVES**

Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Lectures, and Committee Members are entitled to reimbursement for mileage and per diem from the Grand Lodge. This reimbursement shall be allowed from the funds of the Grand Lodge mileage and per diem at a rate recommended by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Grand Lodge annually.

Subordinate Lodge Representatives are encouraged to attend the exemplification of the Work held on the day prior to the Annual Communication. All attendees must sign in upon arrival and must sign out upon departure with the Credentials Committee.

For each Lodge visited, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be paid out of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer Fund a sum and mileage as set by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication. Payment shall be for and limited to one visit per year.

All elected, appointed and installed officers of the Grand Lodge shall be reimbursed at the same rate for expenses in attending emergent communications of the Grand Lodge.  
**Statutes §34 (2013-61)(2020-49)**

**§13-7.3 DELETED (2013-61)**

**§13-7.5 DELETED (2013-61)**

**§13-7.7 ANNUAL RETURNS MUST BE SENT UP IN TIME FOR EXAMINATION**

No mileage or per diem shall be allowed to any Representative if the Lodge he represents has failed to send up its Annual Returns to the Grand Lodge in time for appropriate committee examination and action thereon. **Statutes §36 (1931-139)**

**§13-7.9 HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER PRESENT IS ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION**

When more than one Representative is present from any Lodge, the highest officer in attendance of its Master and Wardens is entitled to the mileage and per diem, even though the proxy of a higher officer may be present. Where more than one proxy is present, that of the highest officer is so entitled.

**Statutes §38 (1871-98)**

*Cross References: §5-3.7*

**§13-7.11 COMPENSATION FOR ATTENDING GRAND LODGE SESSIONS**

The Grand Lodge Officers (excluding the Grand Master), Past Grand Masters, members of the Committees on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, Complaints and Appeals, Credentials, Finance and Printing, and the Reporter on Foreign Correspondence, when acting as such, and former District Deputy Grand Lecturers with ten or more years of service as such, are allowed the same mileage and per diem to attend the Grand Lodge sessions as a representative of Subordinate Lodges to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The members of the Committees on Law and Jurisprudence, Complaints and Appeals, Credentials, and Finance and Printing shall be paid for one additional day.

The Board of Custodians of the Work and the District Deputy Grand Lecturers shall be compensated in accordance with the regulations set forth under Section 13-7. They shall also be paid for one additional day at the Grand Lodge session.

**Statutes §39 (1961-139; 1962-121; 1972-105; 1980-108; 1993-61; 1998-56; 2010-39)**

**§13-7.13 ONLY ONE COMPENSATION FOR MILEAGE AND PER DIEM**

No officer, representative, or member shall receive more than one compensation for mileage and per diem even though he appears in the Grand Lodge in more than one capacity.

**Statutes §40 (1871-98)**

**§13-7.15 SALARY OF GRAND TREASURER**

The salary of the Grand Treasurer shall be fixed annually by the Grand Lodge and shall be paid monthly.

**Statutes §41 (1961-139; 1971-103)**

**§13-7.17 EXPENSES OF THE GRAND MASTER**

Such sum as the Grand Lodge may determine annually shall be allowed the Grand Master for the incidental expenses of his office. The Grand Master, when using his personal automobile, shall be allowed mileage in an amount as approved by the Grand Lodge plus actual travel expenses for lodging and meals while on Grand Lodge business, provided that proper receipts and documentation are obtained and presented in accordance with the laws of the State Tax Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. A “Travel Voucher” form which lists the

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destinations, purpose for the travel, miles traveled between location, meals and lodging shall be prepared and signed by the Grand Master and presented, with receipts, to the Grand Treasurer for payment.

Statutes §41-A (1993-62; 1995-71)

#### **§13-7.19 EXPENSES OF GRAND SECRETARY**

The Grand Secretary, when using his personal automobile, shall be allowed mileage in an amount as approved by the Grand Lodge plus actual travel expenses for lodging and meals while on Grand Lodge business within this Grand Lodge Jurisdiction not to exceed \$3,000.00 to be paid out of the Grand Secretary Office Expenses, provided that proper receipts and documentation are obtained and presented in accordance with the laws of the State Tax Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. A “Travel Voucher” form which lists the destinations, purpose for the travel, miles traveled between location, meals and lodging shall be prepared and signed by the employee and presented, with receipts, to the Grand Master for his approval.

Statutes §41-B (1993-62; 1995-71)

#### **§13-7.21 EXPENSES OF GRAND LECTURER**

The Grand Lecturer, when using his personal automobile, shall be allowed mileage in an amount as approved by the Grand Lodge plus actual travel expenses for lodging and meals while on Grand Lodge business within this Grand Lodge Jurisdiction not to exceed \$3,000.00 to be paid out of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer’s Fund, provided that proper receipts and documentation are obtained and presented in accordance with the laws of the State Tax Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. A “Travel Voucher” form which lists the destinations, purpose for the travel, miles traveled between location, meals and lodging shall be prepared and signed by the employee and presented, with receipts, to the Grand Master for his approval.

Statutes §41-C (1994-75)

#### **§13-7.23 ALLOWANCE FOR THE GRAND MASTER, GRAND SECRETARY, AND GRAND LECTURER**

The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer when using his personal automobile shall be reimbursed at a rate recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication.

Statutes §41-D (1994-75)

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**CHAPTER 11 – ALEXANDER-ANDERSON GRAND LODGE ENDOWMENT FUND**

**RULE**

- §13-11.1            CREATION**  
**§13-11.3            MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**  
**§13-11.5            DELETED (2010-38)**

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**§13-11.1            CREATION**

There is hereby created a fund to endow the Grand Lodge to be able to operate and function without the necessity of per capita dues from Subordinate Lodges. This fund shall be known as the Alexander-Anderson Grand Lodge Endowment Fund. (2017-44)

**§13-11.3            MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

Management of the Alexander-Anderson Grand Lodge Endowment Fund shall be vested in a committee composed of Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Grand Treasurer shall be the ex-officio Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary shall be the ex-officio Secretary of the Committee.

This committee shall have full and complete control of the investment of said fund and shall report its actions at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. (2017-44)

**Statutes §§18-B & 18-B1**

**Cross References: Gen. Laws §§ 15-5.1, 15-5.3, 15-5.5, 15-5.7, 15-5.9, 15-5.11, 15-5.13, 15-5.15**

**§13-11.5            DELETED (2010-38; 2017-44)**

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**SECTION 15 - MASONIC RELIEF**

**CHAPTER 1      MASONIC RELIEF – HELD FOR FUTURE USE**  
**CHAPTER 3      THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION**  
**CHAPTER 5      MURPHY-MARTIN HIGHER EDUCATION FUND**

**CHAPTER 3 - THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION**

**RULE**

**§15-3.1          THE FOUNDATION AND ITS AUTHORITY**  
**§15-3.3          MANAGEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION**  
**§15-3.5          ANNUAL REPORT**  
**§15-3.7          BOARD OFFICERS**  
**§15-3.9          BOARD MEETINGS**  
**§15-3.11        DISSOLUTION**  
**§15-3.11        FOUNDATION BYLAWS**

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**§15-3.1          THE FOUNDATION AND ITS AUTHORITY**

There is hereby created The Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation to administer the funds previously controlled by the Masonic Home and Board of Managers of the former home; and the Grand Lodge Relief Fund previously managed by the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund Committee; to provide as avenue whereby individuals or corporations may make tax deductible contributions for the charitable work of this Grand Lodge; and to administer and direct the charitable activities of this Grand Lodge. (2010-38; 2016-39; 2017-45)

The Foundation shall be incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Mississippi and registered with the Secretary of State as a charity. The Foundation shall obtain tax-exempt status under the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi F. & A.M. shall be the sole member of the Foundation and no amendments or other changes to the Articles of Incorporation or by laws can be made except by action of the Grand Lodge. (2016-39)

**§15-3.3          MANAGEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION**

The management of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation, with all securities, insurance policies and deeds belonging thereto, shall be vested in a Board of Directors composed of the Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasure, Grand Secretary, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and five Past Masters to be elected at Large by the Grand Lodge to serve staggered five (5) year terms. The Deputy Grand Master shall be an ex-officio member of the Foundation Board of Directors.

At the 2016 Grand Communication three (3) board members shall be elected; one to serve a three (3) year term, one to serve a four (4) year term, and one to serve a five (5) year term. The current appointed members of the board will continue to serve on the board until the end of their

term. Beginning at the 2017 annual Grand Communication and at each annual communication thereafter one member of the board shall be elected to a five (5) year term. (2010-38; 2016- 39) (2010-38; 2016-39)(2020-51)

**§15-3.4 ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the members of the Foundation shall be held during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M. (2016-39)

**§15-3.5 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors shall make an annual report to the Grand Lodge setting forth their operation for the prior year and the amount, character and place of the investments of the funds of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation. The proposed report shall be made available electronically on Grand View or other membership management program in use by the Grand Lodge prior to the annual Grand Lodge Session and shall indicate the composition and location of the holdings and prior annual rate of return. (2022-39)

**§15-3.7 BOARD OFFICERS**

The officers of the Board of Directors shall be a Chairman, a Vice-chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as the Board shall deem necessary. The Grand Master shall serve as the Chairman, the Grand Secretary as the Secretary and the Grand Treasurer as the Treasurer. The Vice-chairman and other officers shall be elected annually at the meeting held during the Annual School for Deputies.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount not less than \$500,000.00 each.

**§15-3.9 BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Directors shall meet at the Annual School for Deputies, on the day prior to the opening of the Annual Communication and at such other times as determined by the Board Chairman or at the call of three board members.

**§15-3.11 DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Foundation the assets of the Foundation shall be transferred to a like charitable entity.

**§15-3.13 FOUNDATION BYLAWS**

The Grand Lodge shall adopt Bylaws for the operation of the Foundation, and no changes thereto may be made except by action of the Grand Lodge.

*Statutes §16c (1925-143; 2010-38; 2016-40)*

*Cross References: Gen, Laws §§13-1.3; 15.5.1; 15.5.3; 15.5.5; 15.5.7; 15.5.9; 15.5.11; 15.5.13; 15.5.15*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The rights of widows and children depend upon the father's rights and status. Since the member in question has forfeited his status as a Mason in good standing, his wife and children have no legal claim upon the fraternity. **(1933-32)**
2. Under this report **(1911-138)**, the Managers cannot receive these children until it is affirmatively shown that neither the father nor mother is able to support them. This Lodge should do one of two things: furnish satisfactory proof of the father's inability to care for his children, or it should discipline him. (We) cannot conceive how a man who deserts or neglects his own flesh and blood can remain a Mason. **(1916-140)**

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**CHAPTER 5 - MURPHY-MARTIN HIGHER EDUCATION FUND**

**RULE**

- §15-5.1           MANAGEMENT OF, VESTED IN SPECIAL COMMITTEE**  
**§15-5.3           FULL CONTROL OF INVESTMENTS; ANNUAL REPORT**  
**§15-5.5           EDUCATIONAL FUND TO BE MANAGED BY BOARD OF MANAGERS**  
**§15-5.7           USE OF INCOME FROM ENDOWMENT FUND LIMITED**  
**§15-5.9           FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**§15-5.11          STUDENT SUPPORT MAY BE WITHDRAWN**  
**§15-5.13          BOND INCREASED**  
**§15-5.15          INVESTMENTS REGULATED**

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**§15-5.1           MANAGEMENT VESTED IN SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

The management of the Paul H. Murphy and E. J. Martin Higher Education Fund shall be vested in a committee composed of the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio Treasurer and the Grand Secretary ex-officio Secretary of the Committee.

Statutes §49 (1950-56; 2010-39)

**§15-5.3           FULL CONTROL OF INVESTMENTS; ANNUAL REPORT**

This committee shall have full and complete control of the investment of said higher educational fund and shall report fully its actions to each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Statutes §50 (1950-57; 2010-39)

**§15-5.5           EDUCATIONAL FUND TO BE MANAGED BY BOARD OF MANAGERS**

The management of the Higher Educational Fund, which is the income from the Murphy-Martin Higher Education Fund, shall be vested in the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board as constituted under Section 16 of these Statutes. Said Board shall determine which children shall be beneficiaries of such fund and shall make such expenditures from said funds as may be necessary for that purpose, subject to approval of the Grand Lodge. The Board shall make an annual report to the Grand Lodge setting forth operations of this fund for the previous year.

Statutes §51 (1950-56; 1988-64; 1991-50; 1995-6; 2010-39)

**§15-5.7           USE OF INCOME FROM ENDOWMENT FUND LIMITED**

The income arising from said higher education fund shall be expended only for higher education of children, or on college scholarships and no child shall be beneficiary of such funds who has not at the time completed a regular high school course.

Statutes §52 (1950-56; 1988-64; 1991-51; 2010-39)

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**§15-5.9 FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

The funds for scholarship shall be administered as all Murphy-Martin Higher Education Funds are administered, with the following guidelines: The number of scholarships available and the dollar amount of each of said scholarships shall be determined by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board based upon income available. The Grand Master shall annually, appoint a scholarship committee who will receive and review all applications and recommend to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board a recipient for each of said scholarships along with alternate recipients as Warranted.

Eligibility for a scholarship shall be limited to graduating high school seniors residing the State of Mississippi and having a father, stepfather, Brother, uncle, Grandfather, or step Grandfather who is a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F.&A.M., or if deceased, was in good standing at the time of his death. Consideration will include, but not be limited to, the following: academic record, need, desire, future plans, and industriousness. The applicant must submit a completed application form, have an ACT score of 16 or above, provide a high school transcript which includes first semester grades of the senior year, submit two letters of recommendation from school officials (principal, teachers, counselor), and submit an official letter of acceptance from an institution of higher learning, provide a recent photograph, and be sponsored by two Master Masons not related to the applicant. Said sponsors must also be in good standing in a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F.&A.M. and reside in the same area as the applicant. The institution of higher learning selected by the applicant may be a public or private college, university, junior college, community college, or vocational-technical school. This is a free gratis, non-renewal scholarship.

In addition to the existing scholarship program, children of deceased Master Masons up to age twenty-three shall be eligible for scholarships for undergraduate studies in an amount to be determined by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board and the Finance Committee. Said scholarships shall be renewable for up to eight consecutive semesters, or until a bachelor's degree is obtained, or until the student reaches the age of twenty-three, whichever occurs first. These students must submit an application and provide the same documentation as required in the current scholarship program. As also stipulated in the current scholarship program, these students must maintain a 2.50 GPA and complete a minimum of twelve semester hours of study each semester in order to receive the subsequent semester's allotment.

**Statutes §52-A (2005- 45; 2010-39) (2011-61)**

**§15-5.11 STUDENT SUPPORT MAY BE WITHDRAWN**

If, at any time, in the judgment of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board any beneficiary of said Fund is not making proper use of his or her time and not making proper progress in his or her studies, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation Board may withdraw the support of the Fund from such beneficiary.

**Statutes §53 (1950-56; 2010-40)**

**§15-5.13            BOND INCREASED**

The Grand Treasurer's bond shall be increased to the sum of \$500,000.00 to cover his duties as Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi and Treasurer of the Murphy-Martin Higher Education Fund. The Grand Secretary's bond shall be equal to that of the Grand Treasurer's to cover his duties as Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

**Statutes §54 (1950-56; 2010-40)**

**§15-5.15            INVESTMENTS REGULATED**

The money and assets of this fund shall be invested only as provided for investments of Grand Lodge funds under Section 13-1.3 of these General Laws and such securities and funds shall not be removed from the State of Mississippi.

**Statutes §55 (1950-56)**

*Cross Reference: Gen. Laws §13-1.3*

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**SECTION 17 - THE THREE DEGREES**

**CHAPTER 1 CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY**

**CHAPTER 3 JURISDICTION OF CANDIDATES**

**CHAPTER 5 PETITION FOR THE THREE DEGREES**

**CHAPTER 1 - CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY**

**RULE**

**§17-1.1 QUALIFICATIONS**

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**§17-1.1 QUALIFICATIONS**

The indispensable qualifications of a candidate for initiation into Masonry are: He must believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul; and believe in the resurrection of the body; he must be freeborn, at least eighteen years of age, of good report, coming well recommended; must be of sound mind and memory and physically and mentally capable of earning a livelihood and not likely to become a charge upon the Lodge or community; must be capable of receiving and imparting the Ritual of Masonry and in giving the grips, passes and steps of the Degrees, either by natural or vocal or mechanical means, or by the use of one limb in lieu of another; must not be deprived of either the sense of hearing, or feeling, or if deaf, must be supplied by mechanical art of such Degree as to enable him to hear; must have resided six months in the Jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he petitions, and must sign the petition with his own hand; must be recommended by two members of the Lodge who vouch for his moral character and qualifications, based upon their own knowledge of the man; must not be illegally engage in the business of selling intoxication liquors to be used as a beverage; must pay in actual money, in advance, a sum previously agreed upon by the Lodge to which he petitions, as an initiation fee, must declare upon honor that he offers himself freely and voluntary, unbiased by improper solicitation and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, and that he is prompted to solicit the privilege of Masonry by a favorable opinion of the Institution, a desire for knowledge, a sincere wish of being serviceable to his fellow creatures, and whether he has been rejected by any other Lodge of Masons, and promise conformity to our usages and customs.

**R&R §8**

He must have been born male as evidenced on his original birth certificate. He must have not undergone any sex or gender reassignment procedures; including, but not limited to one or more medical, psychological, or other treatments or procedures, including testing, surgery or therapy and must not presently self-identify as anything other than male, nor have done so in the past.

If any mason shall undergo any action, process or procedure to change his sex to female-including but not limited to one or more medical, psychological or other treatments or procedures, including testing, surgery or therapy to reassign his sex to another gender or make any pronouncement of self-identification as anything other than male, He shall thereby automatically and forthwith be expelled. (2024-44)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. No avowed atheist can be made a Mason. Mississippi Grand Lodge does not recognize as true Masons members of any Grand Lodge that does not subscribe to this statement. (1878-53) (1894-19)

2. No particular form of religious faith or belief is required. The only requirement is a belief in God, the immortality of the soul, and resurrection of the body. **(1926-46)**
3. There are no restrictions against members of any church. **(1976-59)**
4. A candidate must be freeborn, which means that his parents were not slaves at the time of his birth. It has no reference to legitimacy or wedlock. **(1894-19)**
5. The candidate must be of good report, which means that the people who know him speak well of him. It has no reference to legitimacy, wedlock or the character of standing of his parents. **(1894-19)**
6. There is no rule fixing an age at which a man may be considered in his dotage. One whose mental faculties are impaired because of age is in his dotage. One whose mental faculties are not impaired because of age is not in his dotage, regardless of age. The Lodge is the sole judge as to whether the petitioner is in his dotage. **(1877-44) (1890-9) (1906-86)**
7. One who spends the flower of his strength as a drone, and then, in, the day of his calamity, comes to the Lodge and desires to be initiated merely to be taken care of should be rejected. **(1877-44) (1906-86)**
8. A full pardon granted to an applicant for the degrees, which involves the restoration of citizenship, now enables a Lodge, in its discretion, to receive his application and elect him. **(1951-57) (1957-53)**
9. One who is unable to read and write the English language because of illiteracy cannot be made a Mason. **(1875-23, 55) (1919-52) (1920-127) (1930-43)**
10. When a deformity of a candidate for initiation is not such as to prevent him from being instructed in the arts and mysteries of Masonry, his admission will not be an infringement upon the Landmarks but will be perfectly consistent with the spirit of our institution. **(1845-303) (1994-30)**
11. The ultimate effect of recent amendments to this section, and particularly the amendment of 1971, is that it so liberalizes requirements that few physical defects now stand in the way of admission provided the candidate can substitute "vocal or mechanical means" or "one limb in lieu of another" for the requirements otherwise set forth. **(1974-102)**
12. One who is maimed by the loss of a member which is supplied by mechanical art to such degree, or the substitution of one limb in lieu of another, so as to enable him to conform to the requirements of the Ritual may be initiated, passed, and raised. **(1927-107) (1928-86) (1929-51) (1932-167) (1971-103)**
13. One deprived of the sense of hearing or feeling cannot be made a Mason unless, if deaf, the candidate "be supplied by mechanical art of such degree as to enable him to hear". **(1971-103)**
14. A Lodge would not be entitled to accept the petition of and confer the degrees upon a candidate who, although able to read lips with some proficiency, still is unable to actually hear, and is not possessed of "mechanical art" of such degree to enable him to hear. The key word is "hear", even if such hearing is through the medium of a mechanical device. But the law does not provide for the substitution of "sight comprehension" for actually "hearing". **(1976-60)**
15. A petition from one who can neither hear nor speak, although able to read lips and sign language, cannot be entertained by a Lodge. It would patently be impossible for the petitioner to capably receive and impart the Ritual, and it would not be possible for comprehensive and mutual dialog to be carried on between the petitioner and those attempting to confer the degrees. There must be actual speaking and hearing, even though the latter be through the medium of a mechanical device. **(1980-37)**
16. A Lodge can best determine the ability of an applicant to meet the requirements of the law, 1957-51; but the discretion committed to the local Lodge is a "sound Masonic discretion" and must not be arbitrarily exercised contrary to the existing facts. **(1917-142) (1920-127) (1921-51) (1924-149) (1927-114) (1957-51)**
17. When a petition is received and referred to a committee for investigation and the petitioner moves immediately from the Jurisdiction of the Lodge, the Lodge can proceed with the petition as though he had not moved from its Jurisdiction. **(Digest 1958-69)**
18. There is nothing in our laws to prevent an Indian from being made a Mason. **(1947-35)**
19. A Lodge may decline to entertain a petition. **(1958-67)**
20. Disqualifying maims do not apply to Entered Apprentices who are maimed after being initiated nor to Fellow Crafts after being passed. **(1867-77)** Disqualifying maims pertain to the Entered Apprentice degree alone. **(1919-57) (1930-47)**
21. An Entered Apprentice, paralyzed from the neck down, who desires to receive the other two degrees, may do so. The actual physical conferring of the degrees should follow as nearly as possible the provisions of the Ritual, although special procedures will have to be adopted in a number of places, all of which should be settled in advance of the actual conferring of the degrees, so as to prevent untoward embarrassment on the part of the

- candidate, or hesitancy or possible dilution of the beauty and meaning of the work on the part of the team conferring the degree. **(1980-38)**
22. A man, who in innocence and good faith has received one or more degrees in a foreign Lodge not recognized by our Grand Lodge, may petition for and receive all of the degrees in a Mississippi Lodge just as if there had been no prior Proceedings. **(1977-52)**
  23. Lodge members are not bound by the report of the investigating committee. A member must be guided by his own conscience. **(1929-46)**
  24. A man who has a conviction, has conducted himself in such a manner as to demonstrate his rehabilitation and good standing in the community, has the right to vote, meets the requirements set forth in Section 17-1.1 of the General Laws, can petition for the Three Degrees. **(2025-27)**

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**CHAPTER 3 - JURISDICTION OF CANDIDATES**

**RULE**

- §17-3.1 SIX MONTH ABODE, BY CHOICE, ESSENTIAL**  
**§17-3.3 REQUEST FROM LODGE HOLDING JURISDICTION NECESSARY TO PROCEED**  
**§17-3.5 LODGES RETAIN JURISDICTION OVER THEIR INITIATES**  
**§17-3.7 PERPETUAL JURISDICTION, WHEN HELD AND WHEN NOT HELD**  
**§17-3.9 WHEN A LODGE CEASES TO EXIST**  
**§17-3.11 FORFEITURE OF CHARTER**

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**§17-3.1 SIX MONTH ABODE, BY CHOICE, ESSENTIAL**

No Lodge shall initiate any person whose permanent place of abode, by choice, shall not have been within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi for at least six months preceding the date of his petition for Masonry in said Lodge. A Lodge having Jurisdiction over a person shall retain such Jurisdiction until the person has established six months abode outside the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

**R&R §3 (1972-104; 1994-55)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge cannot legally waive Jurisdiction over a candidate or a profane. A Lodge forfeits its Charter for "waiving Jurisdiction". The Grand Master cannot confer Jurisdiction on a Lodge. **(1889-13) (1895-75) (189734) (1898-87) (1920-129) (1932-159) (2023-19)**

**§17-3.3 REQUEST FROM LODGE HOLDING JURISDICTION NECESSARY TO PROCEED**

No Lodge shall pass or raise the initiate of another Lodge, without request from that Lodge, accompanied by a certificate from it that the person has been duly elected by it, after a full compliance with the law of the Jurisdiction, whether it be this or another, and the work so done shall be performed as the proxy of the Lodge requesting it to be done, and forthwith reported, and the Lodge making such request shall be responsible for such work. Any arrangement regarding the disposition of the fee may be made between such Lodges, but the Lodge doing the work shall have no right to claim such fee or any part thereof, unless such agreement is made before the work is done. An entry of all work so performed shall be made upon the minutes of both Lodges, but no return thereof shall be made to the Grand Lodge except by the Lodge for which the work was done. A Fellow Craft so raised, ipso facto, becomes a member of the Lodge which elected him to receive the Master's Degree, if it be in this Jurisdiction, otherwise his status will be that given him by the law of the Grand Lodge under which the Lodge requesting the work be done holds its Charter. No Lodge, however, is under any obligation to work for another on material which is not acceptable to it, and it is not discourtesy to another Lodge to make due inquiry by the usual method, as to the moral character of any person upon whom it is asked to confer a Degree.

**R&R §4 (1921-154; 1994-56)**

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**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A request of one Lodge to another Lodge to confer Degrees must be made at a stated or Called Communication. The Lodge should not make request of another Lodge to confer Degrees until the candidate has made suitable proficiency, paid the fees, and after lapse of proper time since he received the preceding Degree. **(Digest 1958-84)**
2. It is discretionary with a Lodge whether it will confer a Degree for another Lodge. If any member should object when the Worshipful Master gives the opportunity for objection, the Master should then put it to a vote as to whether the Lodge will confer the Degree for the requesting Lodge. A majority of the votes cast decides the matter, but the Master and the Brethren should remember that harmony is more important than conferring Degrees. **(Digest 1958-84)**
3. The Lodge, doing the work by request, does so as an act of courtesy to the Lodge making the request and no fee should be required or accepted from one Lodge to another for conferring the Degrees. If the proxy Lodge has to expend money in order to confer a Degree by request, the Lodge making the request should reimburse the proxy Lodge, but the amount to be paid must be agreed upon before the Degree is conferred. **(Digest 1958-84)**
4. A candidate, having been initiated in a Mississippi Lodge and later moving to another state is still under the Jurisdiction of the Mississippi Lodge until he makes application for and receives a certificate dismissal. **(1941-23)**
5. A Mason receiving one or more Degrees in a Lodge in another state, now living in Mississippi, and desirous of receiving the remaining work in this state, may do so. The most expedient way to handle the matter is for the foreign Lodge to request the Mississippi Lodge to do the work. The request would be through the Grand Masters of the respective states. There could then follow transfer of membership through the process of affiliation by demit or certificate. **(1928-83) (1977)**

**§17-3.5 LODGES RETAIN JURISDICTION OVER THEIR INITIATES**

Lodges retain Jurisdiction over their initiates, wherever they may reside, until they are passed and raised, and no Entered Apprentice shall be passed nor Fellow Craft raised in another Lodge, without his having been previously elected to receive the Degrees by the Lodge in which he was initiated, nor unless at its request unanimously adopted at a Stated or Called Communication, if it be in existence. But any Lodge must, on his application in writing, made at a Stated Communication, dismiss any Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft who has paid all indebtedness to the Lodge, and against who no charges are pending, and shall issue to him a certificate of dismissal under seal of the Lodge, and thereafter any Lodge in this, or any other Grand Lodge Jurisdiction where he may reside, shall be at liberty to advance such candidate at its pleasure.

**R&R §5 (1921-154; 1994-56)**

**§17-3.7 PERPETUAL JURISDICTION, WHEN HELD AND WHEN NOT HELD**

Lodges do not hold perpetual Jurisdiction over rejected candidates for initiation. But in every petition for initiation the petitioner shall be required to state whether he has been rejected by a Masonic Lodge and if he has, then to state the name and location of such Lodge.

**R&R §6 (1960-101; 1994-57)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A man who has been rejected by a Lodge in another state, later moving to Mississippi, was held to be entitled to petition a Mississippi Lodge within whose Jurisdiction he has resided for more than six months regardless of the jurisdictional laws of the Grand Lodge of the state where he had been rejected. **(1948-29) (1994-56)**

**§17-3.9            WHEN A LODGE CEASES TO EXIST**

When a Lodge ceases to exist, its Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may apply to Grand Lodge for a Certificate of Dismissal from defunct Lodge, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, and thereafter, any Lodge in this, or any other Grand Lodge Jurisdiction where he may reside, shall be at liberty to advance such candidate at its pleasure.

**R&R §7 (1994-57)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§19-11.3, 19-11.5*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft who holds a certificate of dismissal from a Lodge, or a certificate from the Grand Secretary, if his Lodge has ceased to exist, may make application for advancement to any Lodge. The certificate should be attached to the application for advancement. The application for advancement must take the same course as a petition for the Degrees.
2. If elected, when passed or raised, he, ipso facto, becomes a member of said Lodge. **(1898-68) (1994-57)**

**§17-3.11            FORFEITURE OF CHARTER**

Any Lodge conferring Degrees in violation of the rules thus prescribed shall forfeit its Charter.

**R&R §9 (1897-67)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. IV, Sec. 6*

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## CHAPTER 5 – PETITION FOR THE THREE DEGREES

§17-5.1	GENERAL RULES RELATING TO
§17-5.3	PERSON REJECTED MAY RENEW PETITION IN SIX MONTHS
§17-5.5	FAILURE OF ELECTED CANDIDATE TO COME FORWARD
§17-5.7	BALLOTING ON THE PETITION FOR THE THREE DEGREES
§17-5.9	ADVANCEMENT
§17-5.11	OBJECTION; WHEN AND HOW MADE; WHEN CHARGES MUST BE PREFERRED

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### §17-5.1 GENERAL RULES RELATING TO

A petition for the three Degrees must be presented at a Stated Communication; be signed by the candidate, and state his residence, age, and occupation, and whether he has been rejected by any other Lodge; be recommended by two members of the Lodge, based upon their personal knowledge of him; be referred to a committee of three for investigation into his character and standing, to be reported at the next or some other Stated Communication, and until such report is made, it shall lie over for consideration. Such investigating committee shall satisfy itself whether all the facts stated in the petition are true, from the best available information, and, if it shall be found that the Lodge has no Jurisdiction over the candidate or that he is disqualified, the committee shall so report, and such petition shall be dismissed. A petition for the three Degrees may be withdrawn by consent of two-thirds of the members present, when the report of the committee is read, but not otherwise. Said committee shall not make known what the character of their report is to be, until it is read to the Lodge, and every such report, after being acted upon by the Lodge shall be at once effectually destroyed, the only record made in the minutes being whether the report was favorable or unfavorable, as the case may be, but nothing more.

**Bylaws §20 (1925-143)**

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The petitioner must be eighteen years old when he SIGNS the petition. **(2001-51)**
2. Names of those recommending a petitioner and those appointed on investigating committee should be announced in open Lodge and recorded in the minutes. **(1964-45)**
3. A petition for the three Degrees should be read and referred, as of course, to a committee of three, appointed by the Master and recorded by the Secretary. No motion is permissible. **(1958-69)**
4. The investigation committee must be appointed when the petition or application is read. The committee should report at the next Stated Communication. If the committee does not report at the next meeting the Master may, in his discretion, appoint a new committee in whole or in part. If a new committee in whole or in part is appointed, the committee must wait until the Stated Communication following such appointment before making report. Two members may make a report. When report is made, the ballot is taken without a motion. **(1896-29)**
5. When a petition is received and referred to a committee for investigation and the petitioner moves immediately from the Jurisdiction of the Lodge, the Lodge can proceed with the petition as though he had not moved from its Jurisdiction. **(1958-69)**
6. If an investigating committee cannot make a unanimous report, one member may make minority report. The Master should state the facts with reference to the committee report before the ballot is spread. If no two members of a committee can agree, the Master should discharge the committee and appoint another. **(1951-58)**
7. Except for lack of Jurisdiction the ballot must be spread on petition for Degrees or of the report of the investigating committee unless withdrawn by consent of two-thirds majority vote. **(1891-52)**

8. A Lodge may decline to entertain a petition. (1897-19) (1958-67)
9. When a petition is withdrawn, it is taken out of the control of the Lodge, and the petition cannot be brought before it again except by a new petition, subject to the prescribed Rules. He may petition again at any subsequent Stated Communication. (1901-70) (1906-87) (1910-134) (1911-98) (1919-56) (1936-28)
10. There is nothing prescribed as to who is authorized to withdraw a petition, but it must presumably be done with the authority of the petitioner, and the Lodge will judge whether the person making the application ought to do so, it being one of those things left to its discretion. (1901-70)
11. No avowed atheist can be made a Mason. An atheist must be expelled. Mississippi Grand Lodge does not recognize as true Masons members of any Grand Lodge that does not subscribe to this statement. (1878-53) (1879-8) (1885-32)

### **§17-5.3 PERSON REJECTED MAY RENEW PETITION IN SIX MONTHS**

In case of the rejection of a petition for the three degrees it cannot be renewed or considered in less than six months, and every such renewed petition shall take the same course as an original petition.

Bylaws §21 (1937-111)

### **§17-5.5 FAILURE OF ELECTED CANDIDATE TO COME FORWARD**

If a candidate for initiation, whose petition has been acted on favorable, shall fail to come forward within six months and be initiated, his election shall be void, and a new petition and Proceedings thereon be required; provided, that this section shall not apply when the candidate's failure to come forward and be initiated is due to any objection interposed to his initiation.

Bylaws §22 (1921-153)

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Although a candidate for the Entered Apprentice Degree is in the armed forces and stationed out of the country, it was held that unless he presented himself for initiation within six months, a new petition would be necessary. (1954-71)

### **§17-5.7 BALLOTING ON THE PETITION FOR THE THREE DEGREES**

When the report of the committee is read, it shall be balloted on in the manner set out in Section 19-17.

### **§17-5.9 ADVANCEMENT**

No Entered Apprentice shall be passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft until on or after the time for the next stated meeting after his initiation; nor any Fellow Craft be raised to the Degree of Master Mason until on or after the time for the next stated meeting from his having been passed; except in case of emergency arising from the Brother's being suddenly called from the Jurisdiction, and then only by Dispensation from the Grand Master.

Bylaws §23 (1928-88)

*Cross References: Const. Art. IV, Sec. 6; Gen. Laws §§9-1.5, 17-3.5, 19-11.9, 19-13.2*

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**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The only emergency contemplated by the law is the candidate's being called to the colors, or his necessity to remove permanently from the State.
2. Petitioners who are unwilling to wait the required time with patience are not to be desired, much less treated with peculiar favor and granted exclusive privileges. **(1958-38)**
3. An Entered Apprentice can be passed, or a Fellow Craft raised, notwithstanding a disqualifying maim that he received after he was initiated or passed. **(1867-77)**
4. There is no time limit between Degrees. **(1935-28)**

**§17-5.11            OBJECTION; WHEN AND HOW MADE; WHEN CHARGES MUST BE PREFERRED**

Any member of a Lodge may, prior to the time when the candidate is ordered to be prepared, prevent the initiation of a candidate by interposing an objection, the reasons for which cannot be required, nor shall the Master make know the name of the objector; provided, that an objection so interposed shall not be respected or effective to prevent the initiation of the candidate after the expiration of the term of office of the Master to whom the objection was made, unless the objection is renewed to the successor or successors.

Any member of the Lodge may, prior to the time when an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft is ordered to be prepared, prevent the advancement of the candidate by preferring charges of unmasonic conduct against him.

When charges are preferred against an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, unless withdrawn by the accuser, he shall be tried according to the laws governing Masonic Trials. He cannot be advanced while charges are pending. In the meaning of this Section, charges “are pending” from the time that they are filed with the Master or with the Lodge, until disposed of by the Lodge.

If the accused is acquitted, the Lodge may advance him. If he is convicted, he cannot be advanced until the Lodge removes the penalty.

**Bylaws §31 (1893-15; 1946-76)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. An objection to the initiation of a candidate has the effect of a blackball. To be effective, it must be made before the order given to prepare the candidate. To remain in force, it must be renewed every time a new Master is installed, or the old Master reinstalled. The objection, but not the name of the objector, should be entered on the minutes. **(1854-116) (1891-58) (1896-39) (1902-88) (1919-24)**
2. When an objection is made to the initiation of a candidate, it is the duty of the Master to whom such objection is made to have an entry made on the minutes to the effect that objection has been made, without the name of the objector. **(1919-127) (1924-146)**
3. When an objection has been entered against the initiation of a candidate and the objector has since demitted from that Lodge, a new ballot will not have to be spread before the candidate can proceed. **(1926-41)**
4. An objection, to be effective, must be renewed to every new Master even though one is elected to succeed him. **(1921-150)**
5. The objection must be made to the Master or at least to the Warden acting as and not to some Brother who happens to be conferring the Degree. **(1923-129)**
6. Even though the Worshipful Master to whom objection has been made to the initiation of a candidate has removed from the Jurisdiction of the Lodge, having been called into the service, and the Senior Warden is acting Worshipful Master, the original objection prevails until the expiration of the term of office of the Master to whom objection is made. **(1941-22)**
7. The advancement of an Entered Apprentice, or a Fellow Craft, may be temporarily stopped by filing charges of unmasonic conduct with the Master or with the Lodge, and not otherwise. When charges are filed, he must be

tried according to Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline. If acquitted, he may be advanced. If convicted, he cannot be advanced until the Lodge removes the penalty. **(1958-67)**

8. If an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft who has paid his fee for the three Degrees is stopped, the fee for the Degree, or Degrees, not conferred, should be returned. **(1958-42)**
9. A candidate ready for his Master Mason Degree, indebted to a member of the Lodge, which debt is of long standing and which he refuses to pay, may be stopped only by having charges preferred against him. **(1950-54)**
10. When a Brother who is generally known to be mentally deranged enters an objection to the initiation of a candidate, the Lodge may, by majority vote, determine whether the objector's mental deficiency justifies the Lodge in ignoring his objection. It is not necessary that the Lodge shall attempt to determine the extent of his deficiency. If a majority think that his mental deficiency justifies ignoring this objection, they are within their rights when they ignore it. **(1953-34)**

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**SECTION 19 - SUBORDINATE LODGES**

- CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**
- CHAPTER 3 FORMATION OF NEW LODGES**
- CHAPTER 5 LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION**
- CHAPTER 7 CHARTERED LODGES**
- CHAPTER 9 CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES**
- CHAPTER 11 DEFUNCT LODGES**
- CHAPTER 13 LODGE MEMBERSHIP**
- CHAPTER 15 LODGE MEETINGS AND BUSINESS**
- CHAPTER 17 VOTING AND BALLOTING**
- CHAPTER 19 OFFICERS**
- CHAPTER 21 LODGE FINANCES**
- CHAPTER 23 LODGE COMMITTEES**

**CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**RULE**

- §19-1.1 CONCURRENT JURISDICTION, STATE-WIDE**
- §19-1.3 EVERY LODGE MUST HAVE A SEAL**
- §19-1.5 CHANGE OF LOCATION; GRAND MASTER MUST APPROVE**
- §19-1.7 ANNUAL RETURNS**
- §19-1.9 RETURNS OF LODGES; REQUIREMENT PERTAINING THERETO**
- §19-1.11 PUBLIC DISPLAY OF JEWELS**
- §19-1.13 DIPLOMAS**
- §19-1.15 CERTIFICATES TO RELATIVES OF DECEASED BRETHREN**

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**§19-1.1 CONCURRENT JURISDICTION, STATEWIDE**

The Jurisdiction of any Lodge located within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi shall be concurrent with the Jurisdiction of all other Lodges located within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

**R&R §1 (1994-55)**

**§19-1.3 EVERY LODGE MUST HAVE A SEAL**

Every Lodge shall have a seal of such material and construction and with such device thereon as it may prefer, for the purpose of authenticating its certificates; and it shall send to the Grand Secretary an impression thereof, to be preserved in the book provided for that purpose.

**R&R §26 (1871-Appendix 10)**

**§19-1.5 CHANGE OF LOCATION; GRAND MASTER MUST APPROVE**

When a Lodge desires to change the place of meeting named in the Dispensation or Charter, to any other locality, a Resolution to that effect may be introduced at any Stated Communication and shall lie over until the next State Communication, and the Master shall cause each member of his Lodge to be notified of the pendency of the same and to attend; if a majority of the members present vote in favor of the removal, and the Grand Master approves of the same, the removal may take place.

A Research Lodge is permitted to change the place of meeting named in its Dispensation or Charter to another town provided that the same procedures outlined above are observed and the Grand Master approves the same. (2010-42)

**R&R §34 (1860-56)**

**Cross References: Gen. Laws §§19-19, 19-25**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge cannot meet alternately at different towns; it must have a permanent place of meeting and that must be the town named in the Charter or Dispensation. It cannot function as a Lodge in any other town or community than that mentioned in its Charter except to bury a deceased member. It can change buildings in the town without a Dispensation. (1897-35,125) (1898-74,87) (1907-120)

**§19-1.7 ANNUAL RETURNS**

Every Lodge shall make its annual report on the first day of September in each year as of August 31 of the same year, and forward same to the Grand Secretary on or before the tenth day of September. In the event any Lodge returns have not been received by the Grand Secretary on the fifteenth day of September, The Grand Secretary shall notify in writing the Worshipful Master and Secretary of each delinquent lodge of such fact and inform them that if the annual returns are not filed on or before the first day of October, the Lodge and the Lodge Secretary under will be liable to pay a late fee of \$100 payable on the first day of each month beginning on October first until received by the Grand Lodge office. Said liability shall be due and payable under the amount due to the Grand Lodge on the annual return.

If the Annual Return with assessed late fees are not received by January 10th, the Grand Master will be notified of said Lodge's delinquency and, by his direction, all work of the offending lodge will be suspended until the requirements of this section have been met.

No lodge or its representative shall be permitted to participate at the annual Grand Lodge Communication if the lodge's annual return and payments due the Grand Lodge are delinquent. Every lodge shall pay its dues and any assessments to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of January following.

**Statutes §17 (1959-73)(2020-52)**

**Cross References: Gen. Laws §§13-5.5, 13-1.1, 13-3.1, 13-3.3, 19-1.9, 19-13.3**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge must pay dues to the Grand Lodge on every non-exempt member on its roll August 31, and on every contributing non-affiliate, notwithstanding it may have remitted the dues of same. (1870-59) (1874-42) (1878-55) (1888-71)
2. Lodges cannot take credit for exempt members until all requirements of the law are met. (Digest 1958-36)

3. There are no dues to be paid to the Grand Lodge for one who is non-compos mentis. **(1876-78)**
4. When the Secretary fails to send in returns by October 1, the Lodge is penalized three dollars for the first month, an additional five dollars for the second month and an additional seven dollars for the third month. Thereafter no further penalty shall be assessed. Fifteen dollars is the maximum penalty that may be assessed. **(1903-80) (1935-39)**
5. When a Secretary fails to make returns at the proper time, he should be required by the Lodge to pay any penalty personally. He is paid by the Lodge to attend to the affairs of the Lodge. **(Digest 1958-36)**

### **§19-1.9 RETURNS OF LODGES; REQUIREMENT PERTAINING THERETO**

Secretaries of Lodges are required to use the forms of Annual Returns furnished by the Grand Secretary and to see that the Returns of their Lodges to the Grand Lodge are in conformity therewith and are correct. In filling up those returns the names of entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts not advanced in two years shall be dropped from the list, and the fact reported to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication.

**R&R §51 (1871-101)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. I, Sec.46; Gen. Laws §§19-1.7, 19-13.3, 19-19.21*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When the Secretary fails to send in returns by October 1, the Lodge is penalized three dollars for the first month, an additional five dollars for the second month, and an additional seven dollars for the third month. And thereafter, no further penalty shall be assessed. Fifteen dollars is the maximum penalty that may be assessed. **(1903-80)**
2. When a Secretary fails to make returns at the proper time, he should be required by the Lodge to pay the penalty personally. He is paid by the Lodge to attend to the affairs of the Lodge. **(Digest 1958-36)**
3. The names of Entered Apprentices are to be reported in the Annual Returns of the year they entered. **(1885-34)**

### **§19-1.11 PUBLIC DISPLAY OF JEWELS**

The public display of any of the Jewels or other insignia of Masonry, peculiar to the Lodge room, is prohibited, except when the Lodge is moving in procession under the control of its Master. Lodges and Master Masons, in Good Standing, may appear in public in Masonic Clothing and Regalia, including Aprons, Officers Jewels, and the Master in a Top Hat or other appropriate Hat, for the following:

- a. To attend a Masonic Funeral Service.
- b. When participating in approved parades, processions, and demonstrations.
- c. At meetings of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, the Order of DeMolay, or any other of the Appendant Masonic Orders recognized by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.
- d. When attending Divine Services at Masonic occasions and Masonic sponsored scholarship events.

A Lodge or Mason may not otherwise appear in Masonic Clothing without consent and Dispensation from the Grand Master.

**Bylaws §45 (1880-57; 2018-63)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a public procession composed of two or more Lodges is held, it must be under the control of the Master of the local Lodge. Lodges may participate in public processions and demonstrations of respect for the presence or

memory of any member of the fraternity. All other public parades, processions, and demonstrations are forbidden.  
**(Digest 1958-71)**

**§19-1.13            DIPLOMAS**

Every member is entitled to a diploma, upon paying the Secretary the sum set by the Lodge in its Bylaws.

**Bylaws §46 (1854-91)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. "Diploma" and "certificate" are convertible terms; every member is entitled to a diploma, but not without the consent of the Lodge. **(1874-7, 14) (1880-74)**

**§19-1.15            CERTIFICATES TO RELATIVES OF DECEASED BRETHREN**

Immediately after the decease of a member of any Subordinate Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to furnish to the nearest surviving relative a Certificate setting forth the former connection of the Brother with that Lodge, which certificate shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, and attested by the Lodge seal, and which shall further be attested by the certificate of the Grand Secretary and Seal of the Grand Lodge, and without expense to the party for whom the certificate is intended.

**Bylaws §50 (After 1879, prior to 1925)**

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**CHAPTER 3 - FORMATION OF NEW LODGES**

**RULE**

- §19-3.1 HOW DISPENSATION FOR NEW LODGE SECURED**
- §19-3.3 CERTIFICATE OF RECOMMENDING LODGES**
- §19-3.5 DEMITTANTS LOSE ALL CLAIMS TO PROPERTY OF FORMER LODGE**

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**§19-3.1 HOW DISPENSATION FOR NEW LODGE SECURED**

Any number of Master Masons, not less than seven, desirous of organizing a new Lodge, shall forward a petition, through the Grand Secretary, to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge, stating their desire and the reasons therefor. Said petition shall designate the proposed place of meeting and the names of those whom the petitioners wish to be appoint Master and Wardens. The petition shall be accompanied by certificates of recommendation from the two nearest Lodges.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, certificates of demit or certificates of good standing from the Lodges from which the petitioners have either demitted or have been granted certificates of good standing, as provided in Section 19-13.13 hereof, must be filed with the Grand Secretary before Dispensation is issued for the new Lodge.

In the event a certificate of good standing is used, as designated herein, the membership of the one to whom the certificate was issued shall remain in the Lodge issuing said certificate until the date of the issuance of the Dispensation to form the new Lodge. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge under Dispensation to notify the Lodge issuing the certificate of the transfer of membership immediately following the first meeting of the Lodge under Dispensation. Such notification shall be made on the regular form, "Notice of Affiliation by Transfer of membership". Notwithstanding the provisions above stated, no new Lodge shall be established with less than six miles of an existing Lodge, except where a city or town shall be within said six mile limit, when, if in the judgment of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge, the welfare of the Craft will be promoted by the establishment of a new Lodge, a Dispensation may be granted.

**R&R §35 (1914-137; 1963-118)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. III, Sec. 2; Art. IV, Sec. 1*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The power of granting Dispensations for new Lodges is vested in the Grand Lodge. During the interval between Annual Communications the Grand Master has that power. (1853-59)
2. A Lodge working under Dispensation, or a newly chartered Lodge, does not inherit the initiates of another Lodge; the initiates, however, may be granted certificates of dismissal, if they are permanent residents of the new Lodge territory. (1853-31)

**§19-3.3 CERTIFICATE OF RECOMMENDING LODGES**

The recommending Lodges shall certify that in their opinion the honor and welfare of the fraternity will be promoted by the establishment of the proposed Lodge; that they are satisfied as to the good Masonic standing of the petitioners, and their competency to undertake the conduct of a Lodge; and that one or more of the principal officers mentioned in the petition has appeared before them in open Lodge, and exemplified the Work and delivered the Lectures in the first three

Degrees of Masonry; and that a safe a suitable room, to insure the secrecy of the Institution of Freemasonry, either on the ground floor or upper story, has been secured; provided, however, that if the room is on the ground floor, it shall conform, as nearly as practicable, to the approval of the Grand Lodge Building Committee. This does not affect or alter the present upper floor construction.

**R&R §36 (1956-97)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If a Lodge does not believe that the welfare of Masonry will be promoted by the establishment of a new Lodge, it is its duty to withhold the certificate required by law for the formation of a new Lodge. The vote on the question of giving a certificate of recommendation must be by show of hands. It requires a majority vote of the members present of each of the recommending Lodges to carry the recommendation. **(1855-104) (1902-93)**
2. The petition for a new Lodge must be accompanied by a certificate of recommendation from the two nearest Lodges. The petition must be accompanied by a certificate that a safe and suitable room has been secured that will insure secrecy. If the room that has been secured is on the ground floor it must be approved by the Grand Lodge Building Committee or by the Grand Lodge. **(1843-237) (1855-104) (1858-86) (1861-35) (1871-10) (1878-13)**
3. No Dispensation should be issued to form a new Lodge if it purposes to use a hall jointly with another society or fraternity. Permission of Grand Lodge is required before a Lodge can use its hall in common with any other body, no matter how lawful and laudable its object may be. **(Digest 1958-32)**

#### **§19-3.5            DEMITTANTS LOSE ALL CLAIM TO PROPERTY OF FORMER LODGE**

Whenever a new Lodge is formed by members demitting from an existing Lodge, they shall forfeit all claims to the property of the Lodge and have no voice in its disposition. It may be divided with the new Lodge by the consent of the members adhering to the old organization, but there is no obligation upon them to make a division.

**R&R §37 (1880-57)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. IV, Sec. 2; Gen. Laws §§19-13.1, 19-5.1-9*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. It is improper for members who have applied for demits to vote on the disposal of property or funds, if the demittants are to be beneficiaries. They should not vote property to themselves. **(Digest 1958-44)**
2. From and after the date of the issuance of the Dispensation by the Grand Master these demitting Masons no longer have any official connection whatever with their former Lodge. They can no longer vote therein. Any appearance that they make at meetings of the Lodge from which they received demits or certificates of good standing give them no status therein other than that of visitors. **(1982-44)**

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## CHAPTER 5 - LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION

### RULE

- §19-5.1 FOR PURPOSE OF MAKING MASONS AND CONFERRING DEGREES**  
**§19-5.3 LIMITATIONS PLACED ON RIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES**  
**§19-5.5 CERTAIN ACTIONS PERMITTED**  
**§19-5.7 VACANCY IN OFFICE OF MASTER OR WARDENS**
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### **§19-5.1 FOR PURPOSE OF MAKING MASONS AND CONFERRING DEGREES**

Lodges under Dispensation, being composed of the requisite number of members and opened under sufficient Masonic authority, are “just and regularly constituted, although not working under a “Warrant or Constitution”. They are constituted simply for the purpose of making Masons and conferring Degrees.

**R&R §38 (1871-105)**

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Lodges under Dispensation are not regularly constituted, but they are as "regular" as a chartered Lodge. **(1856-63)**
2. The sole and only powers of a Lodge under Dispensation are to confer Degrees, dispense charity, and bury the dead. **(1853-114) (1854-161) (1856-63)**

### **§19-5.3 LIMITATIONS PLACED ON RIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Lodges under Dispensation cannot be represented in the Grand Lodge; cannot legislate in any way; cannot elect officers or members; cannot install officers; cannot permit the members named in their Dispensation to dissolve their connection with it; cannot try offenses. Their members and initiates are subject to the Masonic discipline of the nearest chartered Lodge.

**R&R §39 (1871-105)**

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Lodges under Dispensation cannot demit members by affiliation, nor issue certificates of good standing for purposes of affiliation, they cannot elect officers and they cannot admit members by affiliation. **(1849-419) (1853-114,129) (1854-161) (1866-48) (1870-80) (1883-56) (1890-91) (1898-68) (1963-118)**

### **§19-5.5 CERTAIN ACTIONS PERMITTED**

Lodges under Dispensation can fill vacancies in office below that of Junior Warden, by pro tem appointments by the presiding officer; can have a Lodge seal; build and furnish halls; give certificates of Masonic character and good standing to Masons made by them, wishing to remove out of their proposed Jurisdiction.

**R&R §40 (1854-88)**

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The provision for "certificates of Masonic character and good standing" referred to in this section has no connection with the issuance of "certificates of good standing" provided under section 23 of these Rules and

Regulations. Section 39 provides that members of Lodges under Dispensation cannot have their membership in same dissolved. In addition, the law authorizing the issuance of certificate of good standing for purpose of transfer of membership was not enacted until 1956, while Section 40 was last enacted in 1854 and has not since been changed.

2. Lodges under Dispensation can bury their dead. (1856-63)

#### **§19-5.7 VACANCY IN OFFICE OF MASTER OR WARDENS**

Whenever it may become necessary, the Grand Master may appoint a new Master or either one of the Wardens of a Lodge under Dispensation, in place of those named in the Dispensation of said Lodge.

**R&R §43**

#### **§19-5.9 POWERS OF LODGES U.D. CEASE WITH NEXT ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

Lodges under Dispensation must be governed strictly by these Laws wherever applicable to their peculiar organization. They must return their Dispensation, together with a complete transcript of their record of proceeding to the next Annual Grand Communication, at which time their powers cease. They cannot meet unless a Charter be granted then; nor then, until the day fixed for constituting a new Lodge and installing its officers. The Lodge thus constituted, and its officers installed, and then be opened under it Warrant or Charter, and proceed regularly to work.

**R&R §41 (1871-105)**

#### **§19-5.11 WHO IS ENTITLED TO VOTE IN LODGE U. D.**

The only persons entitled to vote in a Lodge under Dispensation are the Brethren named in the Dispensation, who alone are responsible for the work, but the Brethren made in such Lodge should be consulted and have their opinions respected.

**R&R §42 (1880-58)**

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**CHAPTER 7 - CHARTERED LODGES**

**RULE**

- §19-7.1            CONSECRATION, DEDICATION, AND CONSTITUTION OF NEW LODGE**
- §19-7.3            REGISTER OF CHARTERS KEPT**
- §19-7.5            DUPLICATE CHARTER MAY BE ISSUED**
- §19-7.7            CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES**

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**§19-7.1            CONSECRATION, DEDICATION, AND CONSTITUTION OF NEW LODGE**

When a Lodge under Dispensation shall be chartered, all persons raised therein shall ipso facto become members thereof, and all Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts initiated or passed therein shall be entered upon the roll as such. The Grand Master, when he cannot act in person, shall designate some Grand or Past Grand Officer to install the officers and consecrate, dedicate, and constitute said new Lodge, and the officers so installed shall hold office until the next ensuing Festival of St. John the Evangelist; such installing officer shall forward to the Grand Secretary a list of the officers so installed by him.

**R&R §43**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a Charter shall be issued to form a new Lodge it shall be accompanied by an order signed by the Grand Master, with the seal of the Grand Lodge attached, and attested by the Grand Secretary, directed to some present or past Grand officer, (in case the Grand Master or his Deputy cannot attend in person) with instructions to constitute the Lodge, install the officers named in the Charter and set them to work, agreeably to ancient custom and usage. The Charter shall be delivered to the Master at his installation and not before. Proceedings, pp. 47, **(1857-47)**
2. The Master who acts shall make a return of his Proceedings to the Grand Secretary, who shall then record the Lodge on the list of regular Lodges. All these things must be done before the Lodge can have representation in the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary must report to the Grand Master. No election is held. The officers named in the Charter are installed. After the installation of the officers named in the Charter the Lodge must thereafter proceed in every stage of its existence precisely as any other chartered Lodge. **(1853-114) (1887-60) (Digest 1958-25)**
3. After receiving Charter, when constituted and set to work, a Lodge formerly under Dispensation elects officers at the next November or December Stated Communication, preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, like any other chartered Lodge. **(1887-60)**
4. Masonic halls cannot be dedicated unless used exclusively for Masonry. **(1892-53)**

**§19-7.3            REGISTER OF CHARTERS KEPT**

The Grand Secretary shall keep in his office, in one or more substantially bound registers, a copy of every Charter issued by the Grand Lodge.

**R&R §57 (After 1879; prior to 1925)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. II, Sec. 6, Art. IIV, Sec. 2; Gen. Laws §§17-1.5, 19-1.5, 19-3.1, 19-5.7, 19-7.1, 1911.1, 19-23.5c*

### **§19-7.5            DUPLICATE CHARTER MAY BE ISSUED**

When any Lodge may lose its Charter by fire, or when, for any cause, the same may be destroyed, lost or defaced, so that it cannot be recovered or used, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, upon application duly made, to issue a duplicate Charter to said Lodge.

**R&R §56 (After 1879; prior to 1925)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Charter must be in the Lodge, properly displayed at every communication. Unless it is displayed, there cannot be a legal meeting. The Charter should be framed and hung on the east wall. **(1899-68) (1926-18)**
2. If the Charter is destroyed or lost the Lodge cannot meet until a duplicate is secured. **(1865-39)**
3. A Lodge whose Charter has been burned cannot meet legally before securing a duplicate Charter and, should it do so, its actions thereat are illegal and void. **(1930-48)**
4. A Charter, an installed Master and Wardens, and the three great lights, are essentials; Lodge must be constituted before beginning work under Charter and must have a permanent place of meeting in the place named in the Charter. **(1839-181) (1894-35) (1897-35)**

### **§19-7.7            CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES**

Whenever two or more Lodges shall desire to consolidate, a Resolution to that effect may be proposed at any Stated Communication, and the Worshipful Masters shall cause all the members to be notified of the pendency of the same. If, at the Communications when such Resolution shall be acted upon, two-thirds of the members present at the meetings of each Lodge proposed to be consolidated shall vote affirmatively, the oldest Past Master belonging to either of said Lodges shall call a meeting to be held at the usual place of meeting of the oldest of said Lodges within sixty days thereafter, to elect officers of the consolidated Lodge and to decide upon a name and a place of meeting of the same. Said meeting shall be presided over by one of the Grand Lodge, or a past Grand Officer, or the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, or if none of these officers shall be present, then the oldest Past Master of this Jurisdiction, who shall be present, shall preside. Such consolidated Lodge shall take the number of the oldest of the Lodges so consolidated and a Charter shall be issued by the Grand Secretary, without fee to said consolidated Lodge, unless the name of the oldest of the Lodges so consolidated shall be adopted, in which event no new Charter shall be necessary, and the Charter of the oldest of said Lodges shall be the Charter of the consolidated Lodge; and the installation of the officers-elect may immediately be proceeded with, otherwise the installation shall not take place until the Charter is received. All the Jewels and property of the Lodges so consolidated shall become the property of the consolidated Lodge. The election of any candidate to receive the Degrees in either Lodge prior to the act of consolidation shall be valid and a new ballot shall not be taken unless at the time of conferring the Degree it shall be demanded by a member present. A copy of the minutes of the several meetings, attested by the seal, shall forthwith be forwarded to the R.:W.: Grand Secretary and no Charter shall be issued by him until such record is received by him. The consolidated Lodge shall be liable for all the debts and undertakings of the Lodge merged into it.

**R&R §48 (1880-56)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When two or more Lodges consolidate, the consolidated Lodge takes the number of the oldest Lodge. It may take a new name or take the name of the oldest Lodge. If it takes the name of the oldest Lodge, it functions as a Lodge at once. If it takes a new name, it cannot function till it receives a new Charter by the new name and number of the oldest Lodge. **(1920-128)**
2. The charters of all Lodges, except the oldest Lodge, entering into the consolidation, must be sent to the Grand Secretary. If a new name for the consolidated Lodge is selected, the Charter of the oldest Lodge must also be sent to the Grand Secretary. **(1958-55)**
3. In preserving the history of the Grand Lodge, it is necessary that the record should not be confused by there being two Lodges bearing the same number. When one of the consolidating Lodges has not paid Grand Lodge dues, the consolidated Lodge is liable, therefore. **(1932-159) (1958-66)**
4. A trust deed executed by a Lodge is not affected when the Lodge consolidates with another. The indebtedness is assumed by the consolidated Lodge. The change in the Lodge name would not affect the validity of the trust deed. However, the consolidated Lodge may execute a new trust deed and take up the old one. **(1918-182)**

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**CHAPTER 11 - DEFUNCT LODGES**

**RULE**

- §19-11.1 HOW CHARTER MAY BE SURRENDERED**
- §19-11.3 DUTIES ASSUMED BY NEAREST LODGE**
- §19-11.5 MEMBERS OF, MAY RECEIVE CERTIFICATE FROM GRAND SECRETARY**
- §19-11.7 EA’S AND FC’S MAY PETITION NEAREST LODGE**

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**§19-11.1 HOW CHARTER MAY BE SURRENDERED**

A Lodge may surrender its Charter by introducing a Resolution at a Stated Communication to surrender it and letting the Resolution lie over until the next Stated Communication, when, if a majority so vote, it is surrendered. Or the Worshipful Master may cause the Secretary to send written notice to every member of the Lodge that a Resolution will be introduced at the next Stated Communication to surrender the Charter. Then a Resolution may be introduced at such Stated Communication, and the Lodge may vote on the Resolution at such Stated Communication, when, if a majority so vote, the Charter is surrendered. Any seven members who did not vote for the Resolution to surrender the Charter may appeal to the Grand Lodge at any time prior to the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Surrender of its Charter by a Subordinate Lodge does not become effective until approved by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

When a Worshipful Master sends out notice to every member that a Resolution will be introduced at the next State Communication to surrender the Charter and he is unable to get a quorum by such notice, the he may, with the consent of the Wardens, surrender the Charter. Any Lodge contemplating a surrender of its Charter may, by majority vote, make any disposal of its property it may see proper except its Charter and records, which shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary.

Whenever a Lodge shall cease to exist from any cause or reason any property, real, personal or mixed, that it owned shall escheat to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

**R&R §46 (1880-57; 1930-145)(2020-46)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Any seven members who did not vote to surrender the Charter may appeal to the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. **(1886-49) (1930-48)**
2. When the Lodge votes to surrender the Charter, all Lodge action ceases instanter unless seven or more members appeal. The surrender is not effective until approved by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. In case of appeal the Lodge may function till the Grand Lodge or Grand Master passes on the appeal. **(1930-48) (1937-27)**
3. A surrendered Charter cannot be revived nor restored after the Grand Lodge has approved its surrender. **(1899-11) (1902-89)**
4. A Lodge may, in contemplation of a surrender of its Charter, remit the dues of its members if there are no outstanding claims against it. It can dispose of its property and funds if there are no outstanding claim against it. It can grant demits to all members except the Master and Wardens and four other members. **(1872-45) (1896-36)**
5. When a Lodge surrenders its Charter, the status of the members is that of non-affiliates. **(1870-56)**
6. When a Charter is arrested, or the labor of the Lodge suspended, it may be set to work at the pleasure of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge at any time before the final action of the Grand Lodge. **(1896-32) (1902-89)**
7. When the Grand Lodge terminates a Charter, the Charter is forfeited and cannot be restored. .The Lodge is dead and cannot be revived. It is ever after a defunct Lodge. **(1896-32, 888)**

8. The Grand Lodge is not responsible for any debt incurred by a Subordinate Lodge. **(1894-20)**
9. It is improper for members who have applied for demits to vote on the disposal of property or funds, if the demittants are to be beneficiaries. They should not vote property to themselves. If applicants for demits vote property to the use and benefit of the demittants, the remaining members can, and should, reconsider the action at the next Stated Communication and by a majority vote nullify the former action and retain their property. (Digest 1958-44)
10. A majority of the members of a chartered Lodge present at a Stated Communication may make such disposition of its property as they see proper. Those who were not present cannot object to any action legally taken by a majority of those who were present. There is no obligation to give them notice nor is there remedy for absentees who knew nothing of the proposed action. **(1898-66)**
11. It is not legal for a Lodge, at the meeting at which it surrenders its Charter, to pass a Resolution granting each member and officer demits. **(1937-27)**
12. Following surrender of a Lodge Charter proper procedure is for each member to make application to the Grand Secretary for a certificate of Masonic standing. **(1937-27)**
13. All but seven members, three of whom must be the Master and Wardens, may be granted demits before a Lodge surrenders its Charter, providing those desiring to demit make application at the meeting next preceding the one when the Charter is surrendered and if their applications are read the second time prior to the vote on the question of surrendering the Charter. **(1937-27)**
14. Members making application for demits cannot vote on the question of surrendering the Charter. Their membership ceases when their applications for demit are read the second time. **(1937-27)**
15. Charters have been arrested for want of harmony and Brotherly love **(1853-108)**, because of unmasonic conduct of Master **(1854-12)**, until harmony can be restored **(1854-117)**, because its minutes showed that its acts were illegal **(1872-45)**, failing to discipline a member **(1875-64)**, want of respect for the law **(1875-64)**, not obeying orders of Grand Master **(1875-64)**, disregarding obligations **(1875-65)**, not meeting for eighteen months **(1881-12)**, for conferring Degrees on material of another Lodge **(1863-18)**
16. It is within the discretion of the Grand Master to determine when a Charter shall be arrested and of the Grand Lodge to declare it forfeited, for a failure to hold its communications. **(1896-38)**

### **§19-11.3 DUTIES ASSUMED BY NEAREST LODGE**

When a Lodge has taken action in any matter and has afterwards ceased to exist, any further action required, authorized or allowable, on its part, by these regulations should be performed by the Lodge nearest the place of residence of the party or parties interested.

**R&R §44 (1871-102)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The territory of a defunct Lodge passes to contiguous Lodges as though the Lodge had never existed. Its members become non-affiliate members. Its Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are under the Jurisdiction of the Lodge nearest to them. Its property escheats to the Grand Lodge, subject to any outstanding debt against it. Its Charter cannot be restored. The Lodge is dead. **(1870-56) (1874-14) (1877-12) (1888-48) (1895-73) (1902-89)**
2. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft of a Lodge that has ceased to exist may be advanced by the Lodge succeeding to its Jurisdiction. **(1882-46) (1894-19)**
3. When a Lodge ceases to exist, its record should terminate then and there. **(1870-56) (1937-27)**
4. A defunct Lodge is one that has surrendered its Charter or has had same arrested by the Grand Master. **(1922-166)**

### **§19-11.5 MEMBERS OF, MAY RECEIVE CERTIFICATE FROM GRAND SECRETARY**

In case of a Lodge ceasing to exist, its members may apply to the Grand Secretary for a certificate of Masonic character and standing, which he shall furnish upon satisfactory evidence that all dues are paid to the time of the Lodges going out of existence, and for which certificate he is entitled to charge the sum of one dollar.

**R&R §45 (1871-102)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge may, in contemplation of a surrender of its Charter, remit the dues of its members if there are no outstanding claims against it. **(1896-36)**
2. When a Lodge becomes defunct the individual members then owe to the Grand Lodge the dues that they owed to the Subordinate Lodge when it became defunct. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to collect such dues before issuing a certificate of Masonic standing to a member of the defunct Lodge. **(1851-535) (1870-37) (1902-44)**
3. The certificate that the Grand Secretary gives relates to the affairs of the Lodge which he is settling and is only evidence that all dues have been paid to the defunct Lodge. **(Digest 1958-29)**
4. When a member of a Lodge whose Charter is surrendered pays accrued dues to the Grand Secretary and secures a Grand Lodge certificate, he becomes a non-affiliate. If he remains a non-affiliate until the following December 1, he must then pay a year's dues to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides in order to remain in good standing. Any Lodge may pay him funeral honors if his death should take place before the meeting preceding the next Festival of St. John the Evangelist. **(Digest 1958-29)**
5. Members owe dues to the time when a Charter is surrendered or becomes defunct. **(Digest 1958-29)**
6. A Grand Lodge certificate to members of a defunct Lodge cannot be issued by the Grand Secretary until he receives the Charter and records. **(1902-44)**
7. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, who holds a certificate of dismissal from a Lodge or a certificate from the Grand Secretary if his Lodge has ceased to exist, may make application for advancement to any Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he has resided for six months. **(1997-65)** The certificate should be attached to the application for advancement. The application for advancement must take the same course as a petition for the degrees. **(1909-156)**

#### **§19-11.7 EA'S AND FC'S MAY PETITION NEAREST LODGE**

Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts, initiated or passed in Lodges which shall afterwards cease to exist, may present a petition to the Lodge nearest their place of residence, accompanied by a certificate of the Grand Secretary setting for that by the records of such defunct Lodge it appears that the candidate was initiated or passed, and all fees have been paid, which applications shall be referred to a committee of investigation, and if favorably acted upon, may be proceeded with as if the candidate had been initiated in that Lodge.

**R&R §47 (1880-55)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§17-1.3(E)*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft who holds a certificate of dismissal from a Lodge, or a certificate from the Grand Secretary if his Lodge has ceased to exist, may make application for advancement to any Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he has resided for six months. The certificate should be attached to the application for advancement. The application for advancement must take the same as a petition for the degrees. **(1875-57) (1894-19) (1994-55)**

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**CHAPTER 13 - LODGE MEMBERSHIP**

**RULE**

- §19-13.1 WHO ARE MEMBERS**
- §19-13.3 EA’S AND FC’S NOT ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP**
- §19-13.5 MEMBERSHIP – PETITION FOR, RULES RELATING TO**
- §19-13.7 DUAL MEMBERSHIP**
- §19-13.9 PLURAL MEMBERSHIP**
- §19-13.11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**
- §19-13.13 RESEARCH LODGE HONORS**
- §19-13.15 DEMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING**
- §19-13.17 VISITORS**
- §19-13.19 NON-AFFILIATE – MAY AFFILIATE WITH ANY LODGE**

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**§19-13.1 WHO ARE MEMBERS**

Master Masons raised on their own petition in a chartered Lodge shall thereby become members thereof. Those raised in a Lodge under Dispensation shall ipso facto become members thereof when chartered.

R&R §19 (1880-55)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Those raised in a Lodge under Dispensation are members when the Lodge is chartered and can then vote and hold office. But until the Lodge is chartered, they cannot vote. **(1852-566) (1870-54) (1873-15) (1887-60)**

**§19-13.3 EA’S AND FC’S NOT ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP**

No Lodge shall admit an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to membership, but their names shall be entered upon the roll of each grade respectively and annually reported to the Grand Lodge.

R&R §20 (1880-54)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge cannot entertain a petition from an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft for membership. **(1839-179)**
2. A Fellow Craft is entitled to sit in a Fellow Craft Lodge, and an Entered Apprentice in an Entered Apprentice Lodge. **(1897-36)**

**§19-13.5 MEMBERSHIP – PETITION FOR, RULES RELATING TO**

A petition for membership shall be in writing, signed by the petitioner, and recommended by two members of the Lodge who shall vouch for his moral and Masonic character; it shall state the name, number, and location of the Lodge of which the petitioner was last a member and be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that he has paid all dues to such Lodge. A petition may be referred to a committee or voted upon at the Stated Communication when the petition is read. The petition will be referred to committee if any member makes a verbal request for such action. If no

request is made and all requirements are met, a vote will be held at the time of original reading. If referred to committee, the committee shall consist of three members who will make inquiry and report thereon, which report shall be made at a subsequent Stated Communication. In addition thereto the Secretary shall at once communicate the fact of such application to the Lodge in which the petitioner was formerly a member. It may be withdrawn at any time before a ballot. In case of the rejection of a petition for membership, it cannot be renewed in that Lodge in less than six months, but the petitioner may present another petition to another Lodge at once, if he so desires. A second petition for membership must conform in all respects to the original petition and take the same course as if the applicant had not before petitioned to that Lodge.

**Bylaws §24 (1893-15; 1961-139, 2008-59)**

***Cross References: Gen. Laws §19-13.5***

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Mason holding a demit or a certificate of good standing may apply for affiliation to any Lodge, regardless of Jurisdiction. **(1892-55) (1930-43)**
2. Application for affiliation may be withdrawn at any time before the ballot is spread. It must be accompanied by a demit or certificate of good standing. (1880-76) (1956-83)
3. The Committee on Application for Affiliation cannot report until satisfied by examination or legal information that the applicant is a Master Mason. **(1852-15) (1877-86)**
4. "Legal Information" is that information a Mason gains from having sat with a Brother in a Lodge, whether subordinate or Grand, or in some Masonic body composed of Master Masons and cannot be impacted by one Brother to another. **(1856-53, 94) (1887-67) (1899-78) (1901-79)**
5. The investigating committee on application for affiliation should examine the applicant BEFORE making report so as to be able to vouch for him when the report is made. The ballot must not be spread until the applicant has been vouched for in open Lodge. **(1872-15) (1877-81)**
6. Demitted Mason applying for membership in Lodge granting demit must be balloted on in regular course. **(1920-130) (1924-144) (1930-49) (1934-29)**
7. When a Mason applies for membership and is admitted, his demit or certificate of good standing belongs to the Lodge with which he affiliates, and any further evidence must emanate from it.
8. If his application is rejected or withdrawn, his demit or certificate of good standing is returned to him. He may apply for membership to the Lodge of which he was last a member or to any Lodge he chooses. If rejected by one Lodge, he may apply to another immediately and to the same Lodge after six months. **(1870-54) (1871-55) (1872-65) (1878-56) (1879-55) (1894-18) (1924-144) (1930-49)**

#### **§19-13.7 DUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Any Mason holding membership in a Lodge in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi may hold dual membership with one or more Lodges within the same Jurisdiction.

Any Mason desirous of holding dual membership in a Lodge must submit a petition for such to that Lodge and said petition would be subject to the same course of action as for affiliation. A petition for dual membership must state the name, age and residence of the applicant, and the name, number and location of any Lodge in which the applicant holds membership.

Any Mason holding a dual membership in one or more Lodges in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi shall be automatically considered to have designated his Mother Lodge as the earliest Lodge of his current membership, provided such Mason does not have an existing Mother Lodge outside of the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. Any Mason may designate or change the designation of his Mother Lodge by serving the appropriate Grand Lodge form upon all Lodges in which he holds a membership. No change may occur if a Mason is subject

to a pending charge. Service of such designation does not require any action by a Lodge and is to be received as a “letter of termination” of Mother Lodge designation.

Any Mason subject to payment of dues in his Mother Lodge would automatically be subject to payment of dues in any Lodge in which he holds dual membership.

Any Mason, having applied for and obtained Perpetual Membership status in his Mother Lodge, would not be exempt from dues from a Lodge in which he holds dual membership, but may apply for Perpetual Membership in said Lodge. Any Mason exempt from dues due to age and tenure would automatically be exempt from dues in a Lodge in which he holds membership. Any Mason holding dual membership may hold an elective or any appointive office in all Lodges of which he is a member but cannot be Worshipful Master of two Lodges at the same time.

Any Mason expelled for any reason from either his Mother Lodge or any Lodge in which he holds dual membership would automatically be expelled from any other Lodge within the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge in which he holds dual membership. Any Mason reinstated in his Mother Lodge or a Lodge in which he holds dual membership will automatically be reinstated in any other Lodge in which he holds dual membership, unless a protest is filed by a member of the Lodge with the Worshipful Master, excluding where the suspension was for non-payment of dues.

**R&R §21 (1997-64, 65; 2003-52, 61) (2022-24)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §19-13.5*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A dual member, elected to one of the three principal offices of the Lodge, cannot resign that office. **(1999-29)**
2. A dual member cannot demit, nor can he be issued a certificate of good standing for the purpose of transferring his dual membership to another Lodge. He may, however, file a "letter of termination" and return to his mother Lodge. He, then, may request a certificate of good standing to affiliate with another Lodge as a dual member.

### **§19-13.9 PLURAL MEMBERSHIP**

Any Mason who holds current membership in a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction which has mutual Fraternal Relations with this Grand Jurisdiction, and which allows plural membership is eligible for plural membership in a Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction, provided membership in their Mother Grand Lodge Jurisdiction is maintained. If suspended or expelled in their Mother Grand Jurisdiction, they, ipso facto, are suspended or expelled in this Grand Jurisdiction. A petitioner for plural membership in a Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction must furnish evidence of his membership in his Mother Grand Jurisdiction that is satisfactory to this Grand Jurisdiction and to the Subordinate Lodge petitioned, and must follow the same procedure as a petitioner for affiliation

Likewise, any Mason who holds current membership in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction is eligible for plural membership in a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Jurisdiction has mutual Fraternal Relations and which allows plural membership. A member of a Subordinate Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction who desires to affiliate as a plural member within another Grand Jurisdiction shall petition his Subordinate Lodge for a Certificate of Good Standing which shall be authenticated by the Grand Secretary.

**§R&R §21-A (1996-55)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A plural member cannot demit, nor can he be issued a certificate of good standing for the purpose of transferring his plural membership to another Lodge. He **MUST**, following the rules of his Mother Jurisdiction, terminate his Plural Membership in the Mississippi Lodge and then, if he so desires, secure a certificate of good standing from his Mother Jurisdiction, then petition the Lodge with which he desires to affiliate his Plural membership.

**§19-13.11 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

No Brother shall be eligible to honorary membership in any Lodge unless he is a member in good standing in some regular Lodge in this Jurisdiction or in the Jurisdiction of some Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge is in correspondence. Honorary membership shall be created by Resolution proposed at one meeting and laid over for consideration at the next State Communication and shall require a unanimous vote of the Lodge for its adoption.

**R&R §22 (1880-58)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge cannot elect an Honorary Past Master. The Grand Lodge sometimes confers the degree of Honorary Past Grand Master, but never on one who has not been invested with the secrets of the Master's chair. **(1920-135) (1922-159)**
2. Honorary membership carries with it no rights or privileges, whatever. One so made could not vote or hold office. He would be honored by the Lodge as the name implies but in all other respects, he would be a visitor. **(1958-66)**

**§19-13.13 RESEARCH LODGE HONORS**

A Research Lodge, operating under a Dispensation or Charter from the M.W. Grand Lodge of Mississippi, may bestow upon its members the title of Fellow, in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the Lodge. Only one Brother may be selected in a calendar year. Brethren nominated for this honor must be members in good standing with the Research Lodge and approved by unanimous vote at the yearly election of officers. The Master will appoint a committee to review and recommend Brethren eligible for this honor two months prior to the election of officers. Minimum eligibility requirements will be decided upon by the Research Lodge and changed only with the unanimous consent of the Brethren present at any Stated Communication. **(2010-42)**

**§19-13.15 DEMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING**

**Transfer of Membership.** It is the duty of every Master Mason in good standing to belong to some regular Lodge, and members of Lodges should not cease to be such except for the purpose of changing their membership to another Lodge; and when a demit is obtained, the Brother receiving it should, with all convenient speed, apply for membership in another Lodge, unless upon due reflection he should have conscientious scruples against doing so.

**Demit:** Any member of a Lodge who has paid all indebtedness to it or had the same remitted, and against whom no charge or complaint has been made, which has not been investigated shall, on application in writing, made at one Stated Communication, at the next State Communication be entitled as of right to a demit, unless at the time when said application is heard by the Lodge, some member shall present, in writing, charges against him; in which event action upon such

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application shall be postponed until such charges are investigated in the mode prescribed by the Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline. If, upon investigation, such charges are not sustained, the application shall be granted, and no further charges shall be entertained unless they shall embrace some matter unknown at the time when such charges are investigated.

No vote of acquiescence shall be taken by the Lodge on an application for a demit, unless it shall relate to the question of indebtedness or charges, but the same shall be entered upon the minutes as a part of the Proceedings, as being un-objectioned to or as the facts may be.

A demit is simply a dismissal from membership and is no further a certificate of character than that there are no charges against the applicant not indebtedness un-discharged.

**Certificate of Good Standing:** Any Brother, who is a permanent resident of the State of Mississippi, may petition for affiliation in any Lodge of the State of Mississippi, regardless of where his actual residence is located. He shall present with his application for affiliation, a duly attested certificate of his good standing in the Lodge of which is a member; if he is elected, he thereby becomes a member of the Lodge with which he filed his petition for affiliation and the Secretary of said Lodge shall certify to the fact of such election to the Lodge issuing the Certificate of Good Standing, and the petitioner shall thereupon be dropped from the roll of membership of such issuing Lodge and membership then shall be terminated as if by demit. The certificate provided for shall bear the date of issue and the seal of the Lodge and shall be good for the purpose therein specified until the following December 1.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any member from applying for a demit and presenting it with a petition for affiliation. The method of transferring membership authorized by this section may also be used for the Transfer of Membership between Mississippi Lodges and the Lodges in another Jurisdiction which will permit such procedure.

All petitions for Transfer of Membership, whether by demit or certificate, must take the regular course as provided by present laws.

**R&R §23 (1892-15; 1955-95; 1956-95)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The right of a member to demit is absolute, inherent, and inalienable. Neither the Lodge, the Grand Master, nor the Grand Lodge can prevent a member who has paid all indebtedness to the Lodge and against whom no charge is pending from demitting. **(1870-54) (1881-68) (1896-96) (1928-83)**
2. In order to secure a demit a member must pay accrued dues to the Secretary and make application in writing for a demit. The application is read to the Lodge by the Secretary at a Stated Communication and is laid over until the next Stated Communication, at which the Secretary reads the application again, at which time, if the member is not indebted to the Lodge for dues and no appeal or charges are pending, the demit is automatically granted without vote of the Lodge. The date of the demit should be the date of the second reading, regardless of when it is actually issued. **(1934-33, 34)**
3. Membership ceases instantaneously when the application for demit is read the second time. Should the Lodge fail to meet on the date for the second reading the Secretary should give the member his demit. The demittant is no longer entitled to the privileges and benefits of membership, nor is he subject to Lodge dues. He cannot vote after his application for a demit has been read the second time. **(1870-45) (1880-76)**
4. The Secretary should not present an application for a demit to the Lodge unless the member making application has paid all dues for which he is liable. **(1934-32)** But a Brother is demitted if the Lodge fails to collect dues before the demit is granted. **(1926-49)**
5. A Brother previously suspended for non-payment of dues must first be reinstated to good standing before he can apply for a demit. Both actions of the Lodge cannot be done together. **(1937-29)**
6. A member demitting during the year is entitled to a refund of his dues pro rata, from the date of demit until December 1 following. **(1922-161)**

7. No dues accrue against one after the date for the Stated Communication following the reading of his application for a demit the first time, regardless of when the application is read the second time, or when the Secretary issues the demit. **(Digest 1958-35)**
8. After December 1 following his demission, one who demits has no right to visit a Lodge unless he pays annual dues to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides. **(1870-10, 38) (1922-161)**
9. The effect of a demit is that connection with the Lodge is severed from that day, and membership can be regained (in that Lodge or any other) only by petition and a unanimous ballot, **(1870-10, 38)** and is not legal evidence that the holder is a Mason; he can only establish his right to Masonic recognition by a ritualistic examination or proper avouchment by some Brother. **(1889-13)**
10. If a demit is lost the Secretary should issue a duplicate. No Lodge action is required thereon. **(1872-36) (188078) (1882-48) (1928-84)**
11. A demit without the Lodge seal cannot be treated as such. **(1887-57)**
12. One who demits during the year is in good standing until December 1 following and may receive funeral honors. **(1922-161)**
13. Neither the Master nor a Warden can demit. **(1887-58) (1892-54) (1901-72)** A Master cannot demit until the end of his term, or his successor is installed. **(1954-72)**
14. One who is non compos mentis cannot make a valid and legal application for a demit, nor can anyone else do so for him. **(1900-45)**
15. It is improper for members who have applied for demits to vote on the disposal of property or funds, if the demittants are to be beneficiaries. They should not vote property to themselves. If applicants for demits vote property to the use and benefit of the demittants, the remaining members can, and should, reconsider the action at the next Stated Communication and by a majority vote nullify the former action and retain their property. **(Digest 1958-44)**
16. It does not require any vote of the Lodge for a Brother to be permitted to withdraw his application for a demit. **(1928-84)**
17. Certificate of Good Standing: A member desiring to affiliate with another Lodge may choose either to secure a demit or a certificate of good standing. Either may be presented with a petition for affiliation. A certificate of good standing may also be used for the transfer of membership between Mississippi Lodges and the Lodges in another Jurisdiction whose law will permit such procedure. **(Digest 1958-19)**
18. A certificate of good standing is not a certificate of character but a statement that the Brother to whom it was issued is not indebted to the Lodge. The Secretary may issue a certificate of good standing only when the Brother requesting same has paid all indebtedness to the Lodge and no charges are pending against him. **(Digest 1958-18)**
19. Issuance of a certificate of good standing does not require Lodge action. Request on the part of a Brother for such certificate should be made, in writing, to the Secretary. A record must be made by the Secretary and the matter called to the attention of the Lodge at its next Stated Communication. The facts must be recorded in the Lodge minutes. **(Digest 1958-18)**
20. A member issued a certificate of good standing remains a member of the issuing Lodge until the Secretary thereof is officially notified by the Secretary of the Lodge with which he filed his application for affiliation that he has been elected a member of that Lodge. He should then be dropped from the roll of the Lodge issuing the certificate of good standing as of the date that he was elected a member of the Lodge with which he has affiliated. The fact must also be brought to the attention of the Lodge issuing the certificate at its next Stated Communication and recorded in the minutes. **(Digest 1958-18)**
21. A certificate of good sanding is in effect only until the following December 1. **(Digest 1958-19)**

## **§19-13.17 VISITORS**

### **(A) How vouched for; when examined**

No visitor can be permitted to take a seat in the Lodge on the strength of being vouched for by a Brother, unless that Brother is a Master Mason and has sat with him in a Lodge of the degree he desires to visit, or in a Masonic body of higher degree. The vouching must be done either in open Lodge or to one of the first three officers; otherwise, the visitor must be examined by a committee

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of the Lodge, which, for sake of dispatch, the presiding officer may appoint before the Lodge is opened.

**R&R §24 (18781-102)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A visitor must show receipt for dues for current year before examination, but no certificate or written testimonial is satisfactory evidence that the bearer is a Mason. Such testimonials do not relax the rule requiring legal information or an examination. **(1870-10, 38) (1889-13)**
2. Legal information is that information a Mason gains from having sat with a Brother in a Lodge, whether subordinate or Grand, or in some Masonic body composed of Master Masons. It cannot be imparted by one Brother to another. **(1856-53, 94) (1887-67) (1899-78) (1901-79)**
3. The right of a Master Mason in good standing to visit a Lodge is not absolute. Any member, present in the Lodge, has an inalienable right to object to the admission of any visitor at that communication without stating his reasons. Such is a personal privilege which cannot be exercised unless the objector be present and urge it and it does not extend to another communication. **(1871-15) (1877-66) (1922-161)**
4. One attempting to visit a Lodge does not have the right to demand that he be shown the Charter. He has no inherent right to make any kind of demand as a condition precedent to his visitation. It is he, and not the Lodge, asking the favor. **(Digest 1958-82)**
5. It is the duty of the Master to preserve the harmony of his Lodge, and he may exclude any visitor when a member objects to his presence. **(1871-54) (1872-65) (1887-62)**
6. An objection to a visitor must be made prior to his admission to a Lodge being duly opened, or, thereafter, prior to his admission if he be not present during the opening. If a visitor has been admitted and a Lodge opened, his presence and power to remain are at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. If, during the meeting the visitor's presence becomes a disruption or an objection, the Master's duty to "preserve harmony" controls. **(2023-20)**
7. A Congressional or District School of Instruction is a Grand Lodge function under the purview of the Grand Lecturer or District Deputy Grand Lecturer, a Grand Lodge Officer. **(2023-21) (2025-25-26)**

**(B) Procedure in visiting Lodge.**

Every Brother desiring to visit the Lodge shall give to the Tiler his name, stating the name, number and place of the Lodge from which he hails, and shall show his receipt for dues for the current year. The Tiler shall thereupon announce the fact.

**Bylaws §42 (1934-64)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §19-13.15*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Master has the right to decline to let anyone visit the Lodge. **(1922-161)**
2. See also decisions following **§19-15-13(A) above**

**§19-13.19 NON-AFFILIATE – MAY AFFILIATE WITH ANY LODGE**

A non-affiliate Master may petition and be admitted to membership in any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction regardless of his place of residence.

**Bylaws §25 (1996-55)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §19-13.5*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Affiliation is an imperative Masonic duty, imposed by laws which antedate the present scheme. **(1878-9) (1897-21) (Eighth Old Regulation)**

2. The law specifies no length of time that a Mason must reside in the Jurisdiction of a Lodge before petitioning for affiliation. He may apply any time he chooses. **(1963-96)** The status of non-affiliated who apply for affiliation and are rejected is not affected by said rejection. They remain in the same attitude they occupied before the rejection, and they may immediately petition to, and be admitted members of, any Lodge which will receive them. **(1871-61) (1884-37)**
3. A non-affiliate's dues for the current year must have been paid to the Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he resides before he can visit a Lodge. **(1882-46) (1884-9, 36) (1902-91)**
4. If a non-affiliate tenders dues, the Lodge should take payment or prefer charges. **(1902-89)**
5. Non-affiliates are subject to trial for unmasonic conduct. **(1848-380) (1881-8) (1884-9, 39)**
6. Unless a non-affiliate pays dues for the whole current year to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides, he is, in all intents and purposes, a suspended Mason. A non-affiliate cannot pay pro rata dues. He must pay the same dues that the members impose upon themselves. **(1892-55)**

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**CHAPTER 15 - LODGE MEETINGS AND BUSINESS**

**RULE**

- §19-15.1 ORDER OF BUSINESS**
- §19-15.3 WHEN LODGE CANNOT BE OPENED**
- §19-15.5 BUSINESS AT SPECIAL MEETINGS LIMITED**
- §19-15.7 UNFINISHED BUSINESS, MONTHLY MEETINGS**
- §19-15.9 MINUTES, RULES RELATING TO**
- §19-15.11 EA AND FC LODGES, BUSINESS TRANSACTED IN LIMITED**
- §19-15.13 PRESIDING OFFICER**

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**§19-15.1 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Order of Business for Stated Communications of Subordinate Lodges shall be as follows:

1. Opening of the Lodge
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Reading of the Minutes of the Last Stated and subsequent Called Communication for reference.
4. Unfinished Business
5. Reports of Committees
6. Petitions and Applications
7. Motions and Resolutions
8. Accounts
9. New Business
10. Grand Lodge Communications
11. Reading of the Minutes of the meeting for correction
12. Closing the Lodge

(1901-62)

**§19-15.3 WHEN LODGE CANNOT BE OPENED**

In the absence of the Master and both Wardens, the Lodge cannot be opened, unless a Dispensation is obtained, except on funeral occasions. R&R §13 (1854-84)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If the Master is within the territorial Jurisdiction of the Lodge, neither Warden can call a meeting unless the Master is physically or mentally incapable to act. (1878-12)
2. A candidate who receives the degrees in the absence of the Master and Wardens must be healed. Healing means to make valid or legal. Healing is done by Dispensation of the Grand Master legalizing the work. (1880-15)

**§19-15.5 BUSINESS AT SPECIAL MEETINGS LIMITED**

No new business, except the conferring of degrees, or that specially mentioned in the notification, shall be transacted at any called or special meeting.

Bylaws §15 (1871-105)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The business for which a Special Communication is called must be stated in the call for the meeting. **(Digest 1958-25)**
2. The "call" for a special meeting must come from the Master or acting Master. **(1886-14)**
3. All business must be transacted in the Master Mason Lodge. **(1839-179)**
4. Business of an urgent nature may be transacted at a Called Communication for that purpose except business requiring a unanimous vote, but if the announcement of the Called Communication is not made at a Stated Communication, each member should be notified thereof and of the nature of the business that is proposed to be transacted. **(1959-15)**
5. All business requiring unanimous action must be transacted at one of the twelve Stated Communications. **(1896-29) (1901-70) (1903-79) (1959-15)**
6. There are two Masonic Festivals, St. John the Baptist (June 24) and St. John the Evangelist (December 27). Every Lodge should unite for the celebration of at least one of these great festivals of the Fraternity. No business required to be transacted at a Stated Communication can be transacted at either of these festivals, unless one falls on the date fixed for the Stated Communication. **(1921-152)**
7. No meeting shall be held on the Sabbath for any other purpose than the burial of a Brother or for a Lodge of Sorrow. **(1881-8)**
8. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may be examined as to their proficiency at a Called Communication. **(Digest 1958-71)**

**§19-15.7 UNFINISHED BUSINESS, MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Lodges may be called off from day to day to transact unfinished business, an entry of which shall be made in the minutes and announced to the members before the Lodge is called off; but all business requiring unanimity of vote must be transacted at the stated monthly meeting.

**Bylaws §16 (1871-105)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Subordinate Lodge cannot call from labor to refreshment to another day except for unfinished business that cannot be finished for lack of time. **(1854-169) (1858-85)**
2. Notice may be either constructive or actual. Announcement made at a Stated Communication is constructive notice to all members, whether present or absent. Direct notice to the individual is actual notice. This may be either written or verbal. **(Digest 1958-67)**

**§19-15.9 MINUTES, RULES RELATING TO**

The minutes of a meeting must be read and corrected before closing and cannot be changed at a subsequent meeting; but if any important matter should be omitted, or any clerical error discovered, the omission may be supplied, and the error corrected, by a Resolution at a subsequent Stated Communication embracing the matter as corrected.

**Bylaws §17 (1871-105)**

Lodges may scan and digitize copies of the original minute books for historical archiving purposes. The digital copies will not be distributed out to members of the lodge once digitized. The digital copies of the minutes shall be kept in the lodge safe with the originals, or in a bank safety deposit box possessed by the lodge. Digital copies may be distributed to the Mississippi Lodge of Research for scholarship and archiving purpose.

**Bylaws §17 (1871-105)(2020-53)**

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**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The law requires that the minutes of all meetings, both stated and special, shall be written in the minute book and read before the Lodge is closed. The Secretary presents the minutes to the Master for his signature immediately after reading for correction. **(Digest 1958-65)**
2. The Secretary is required to make a fair record of things proper to be written, and before the Lodge closes, to read the minutes of called, as well as stated, meetings for correction. If any error or omission is discovered, then is the time for correction, while the facts are fresh in the minds of those present. After the minutes are corrected and the Lodge closed, the minutes cannot be changed by any power whatever. Neither erasure nor addition can be made. The minutes of each Lodge meeting are separate from, and independent of, any future meeting. If anything is proved to be wrong, the remedy is to adopt a Resolution specifying the omission or error at a subsequent Stated Communication, but the minutes cannot be altered. **(1855-102) (1858-86) (1866-48) (1868-42) (1870-52) (1871-60) (1872-65) (1880-76) (1884-56) (1892-59)**
3. A Lodge should not use any form of loose-leaf minute book. The intention of the law is that the minutes shall be a permanent record that cannot be changed without such change being evident. This requirement cannot be met with any form of loose-leaf minute book. **(Digest 1958-65)**
4. A Lodge may, and should, use a loose-leaf Historical Ledger. Each member should have an individual page (or card) on which is recorded his Masonic history. All pages (or cards) should be arranged alphabetically. When the status of a member changes, the leaves (or cards) should be arranged at once accordingly. **(Digest 1958-65)**
5. The minute book should be kept in the Lodge room. **(1979-37, 38)**

**§19-15.11 EA AND FC LODGES, BUSINESS TRANSACTED IN LIMITED**

No business shall be transacted in an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Lodge, except the conferring of degrees, exemplifying work, examining candidates for advancement, and such ceremonial observances as by the ancient usages of Masonry, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are permitted to participate in.

**Bylaws §18 (1880-54)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. All business must be transacted in the Master Mason Lodge. **(1839-179)**
2. At a Called Communication it is not necessary for a Master Mason Lodge to be opened in order to work in the other degrees. At a Stated Communication, a Master Mason Lodge must be opened first. **(Digest 1958-30)**

**§19-15.13 PRESIDING OFFICER**

**(A) Who may preside**

Masters and Wardens are forbidden to invite any one to preside over their Lodges who is not a present or Past Master of this or some friendly Jurisdiction. But a Master, or Warden presiding, may call any competent Brother to his assistance, who may confer the degrees, or give the lectures, said Master or Warden being present and responsible for the work.

**R&R §10 (prior to 1901)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. In the absence of the Master, the Wardens have a constitutional right to preside with full powers. **(1843-261)**
2. The Master must sign the minutes if he is present, even though he should call some member to act as Master. **(Digest 1958-59)**
3. A Warden acting as Master is responsible for the work of the Lodge, and should sign the minutes, notwithstanding he may call to his assistance a Brother who occupies the East. **(1901-75)**

**(B) Wardens succeed to duties of Master, when**

In the absence of the Master, the Senior Warden succeeds to his duties; in the absence of the Master and the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden succeeds to the duties of the Master.

**R&R §11 (1935-111)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. In the absence of the Master, the Wardens have a constitutional right to preside with full power. **(1843-261)**
2. When the Senior Warden acts as Master, he fills the West by pro tem appointment. The Junior Warden does not succeed to the Senior Warden's station. **(1870-52) (1884-39) (1899-75)**

**(C) Wardens need not be Past Master in order to preside**

The Senior and Junior Wardens may preside, confer degrees, and conduct the business of the Lodge in the absence of the Master even if they be not Past Masters.

**R&R §12 (1854-84)**

**(D) Wardens may not be excluded**

The Master cannot deputize or authorize any one to open the Lodge in his absence, and conduct its labors, to the exclusion of a regular Warden present.

**R&R §14 (1854-84)**

**(E) Past Masters have no authority**

Past Masters have no authority in a Lodge except by courtesy of the presiding officer.

**R&R §15 (1854-84)**

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**CHAPTER 17 – VOTING AND BALLOTING**

**RULE**

**§19-17.1 VOTING, GENERAL RULES**

**§19-17.3 RULES RELATED TO BALLOTS**

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**§19-17.1 VOTING, GENERAL RULES**

In all cases, except in balloting, or as otherwise provided for, a majority of votes shall govern; and in case of an equality of votes, the presiding officer shall give the deciding vote.

**Bylaws §19 (1854-91)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. All secret votes are called "ballots". Voting may be by show of hands or by secret ballot. If the vote is by show of hands, the Master cannot vote unless there is a tie. If there is a tie, the Master casts the deciding vote. If the vote is by secret ballot, the Master votes as any other member. If there is a tie, the ballot must be retaken. If the affirmative fails to carry, the proposition is lost. **(1886-11, 47) (1902-86)**
2. The effect of a refusal to vote is that of a negative where a two-thirds vote is required. **(1890-48)**
3. When several Brethren, acting in combination, are charged with the commission of an unmasonic act, they cannot vote on the question of adopting the charges reported by the committee against one of their number. **(Digest 1958-83)**
4. A motion to table cannot be entertained in a Subordinate Lodge or in Grand Lodge. The Master determines when debate shall cease. **(1855-33) (1875-53) (1880-76)**

**§19-17.3 RULES RELATED TO BALLOTS**

**(A) At Stated Communication only, separate ballots**

All balloting on petitions for the three degrees and membership shall take place at a Stated Communication. Every petition must be balloted on separately.

**Bylaws §26 (1921-153; 1936-105)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Secretary should collect pro rata dues to December 1 following when he receives the application for affiliation. Before ordering the ballot to be spread on an application for affiliation the Master should ask the Secretary whether dues to the first day of the following December have been paid. Pro rata dues to the following December 1st MUST be paid before the ballot is spread. **(Digest 1958-14)**
2. Every member present should ballot on an application for affiliation and a petition for the degrees. **(1871-56) (1872-65)**
3. When the report of the investigation committee is made, the ballot is taken without a motion. **(Digest 1958-23)**
4. The ballot must not be spread on an application for affiliation until the applicant has been vouched for in open Lodge. **(1872-15) (1877-81)**
5. No Dispensation can be given which gives a Lodge the right to ballot on a petition for the degrees or for affiliation at a Called Communication. Balloting must be done at a Stated Communication. **(1849-418) (1896-29)**
6. It is not within the power of the Grand Master to direct a ballot or order the conferring of a degree. **(1897-125) (1898-87)**

**(B) Ballot for all three degrees; examination required for advancement, time between degrees**

Every candidate should be balloted on for all three degrees at the same time, but no candidate shall be advanced until he has by an examination, in open Lodge, shown due proficiency in the preceding degree, not until the time for the next State Communication after he shall have received the preceding degree.

**Bylaws §27 (1946-76)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. IV, Sec. 6*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. One who received a degree at a Called Communication may be advanced at the next Stated Communication regardless of the nearness of the Called Communication to the Stated Communication. **(1902-87)**
2. There is nothing in the By-Laws to require a ballot for approving the examination of a candidate as to his proficiency, **(1871-54; 1872-65)**. If there be no objection the examination is accepted. **(1901-68)**
3. The Lodge possesses full powers of determination as to what constitutes an "examination" that displays "suitable proficiency" to the "satisfaction" of a majority of the members present. But such discretion as is vested in the Lodge membership is a wide discretion to be used both wisely and, in some cases, charitably. **(1974-102)**

**(C) When second ballot may be taken**

No second ballot shall be taken on any petition for the three degrees or membership except as provided in Section 19-17.3.e, or unless a Dispensation of the Grand Master asked for by a vote of the Lodge.

**Bylaws §28 (1925-143)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. To secure a Dispensation to retake the ballot on a rejected candidate, a Resolution stating the reason must be introduced at a Stated Communication, laid over till the next, and the ballot taken with white balls and black balls or cubes. If unanimous, the Lodge may ask the Grand Master for Dispensation to retake the ballot. **(Digest 1958-14)**
2. Request for a Dispensation from the Grand Master must come from and be by Lodge action and not from any individual or individuals. **(1854-114) (1888-7) (1896-28) (1898-9) (1902-86)**
3. The Master cannot order a new ballot after the communication is closed; the only way to reach such a case is for the Lodge to adopt a Resolution petitioning the Grand Master for a Dispensation to retake the ballot. **(1896-28)**
4. When, in order to satisfy himself that no mistake has been made, the Master orders a ballot to be retaken, it is not a second ballot, but only a confirmation of the first taken. **(1903-75)**
5. There should be no third ballot. **(1889-14)**
6. Suggested that standard way of notification of rejection of applicant by Lodge should be in writing by the Secretary. **(1964-47)**

**(D) Secret vote; not to be divulged; penalty**

In balloting, every member must vote secretly, and he cannot be questioned nor permitted to divulge how he voted, nor required to give a reason there for, and if he divulges his vote he shall be disciplined.

**Bylaws §29 (1880-55)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. In balloting, each member should consider the applicant's character, fitness, qualifications, and whether he is able and willing to live and work in peace and harmony, with the fraternity in general and the members of that Lodge in particular. Every member present should ballot on an application for affiliation and a petition for the degrees.

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No member can divulge his ballot nor inquire how any other member voted. **(1856-131) (1811-56) (1872-65) (1875-58) (1881-70) (1882-45)**

2. In balloting, a Mason is not accountable to the Master nor to the Lodge, nor to the Grand Lodge, nor to any person, but to his own conscience, and that alone. **(1917-58)**
3. The ballot must be unanimous, without debate, and kept inviolable secret. **(1881-70)**
4. The ballot box should be of a pattern that will effectually secure secrecy in balloting. **(1873-15) (1975-102)**

### **(E) Sense of Lodge to be ascertained; when ballot taken again**

In balloting, the presiding officer must see that the sense of the Lodge is fairly taken and ascertained, and he should be fully satisfied of this before he announces the vote, but neither he nor the Wardens shall make known the number of black or white ball cast. If only one blackball has been cast, the ballot shall not be announced, but shall be retaken at once to ascertain if there has been a mistake. If any member casting a black ball should, before the departure from the Lodge of any of the Brethren, ascertain that he acted under a mistake or misapprehension regarding the candidate, and desire to correct the mistake, the presiding officer, if only one black ball appeared, shall cause the ballot to be taken again, when, if a black ball appeared, shall cause the ballot to be taken again, when, if a black ball still appears, the result shall be announced and the rejection recorded.

### **Bylaws §30 (1880-55)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§19-17.1, 17-3, 19-13.5; 19-13 .17; 19-17.3(A); 19-17.3(D)*

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Except for lack of Jurisdiction, the ballot must be spread on petition for degrees or membership regardless of the report of the investigating committee unless withdrawn by consent of two-thirds majority vote. **(1891-52) (1901-70) (1906-87) (1910-134) (1911-98) (1919-56) (1936-28)**
2. The duty of voting on ballot and on charges is imperative. It is one of the trusts confided to members alone, and we owe it to each other to see that it is performed. **(1871-56) (1872-65)**
3. If the Wardens should not return the same answer, the Master orders the ballot box returned to them for further inspection. If they still give different answers or if their answer does not agree with the observation of the Master, the Master orders the Wardens to approach the East. They all then examine the ballot together. If they cannot agree, the Master orders a new ballot. The use of black cubes will prevent the possibility of a disagreement. **(Digest 1958-13)**
4. When ballot is announced by the Master it is final. **(1854-114) (1917-144)**
5. Mistakes in balloting must be corrected before closing the Lodge. **(1917-144)**
6. For the Master to “hold back” on the ballot so as to have it taken in the absence of one who might cast a black ball, is a gross abuse of his powers and is a proper case for investigation by the Grand Master. **(1898-59)**
7. Ballot cannot be retaken after Lodge closes, **(1920-128)** but Grand Master may grant Dispensation to retake ballot when Master, not knowing the law, announced an applicant rejected when only one black ball was cast, **(1923-130)** and Dispensation to retake ballot may be obtained when circumstances justify. **(1933-31)**
8. No ballot is spread on petition for initiation when the committee reports that petitioner is not in the Jurisdiction of the Lodge. **(1891-52)**
9. After being balloted upon a candidate for initiation must come forward within six months. There is no limitation as to time between degrees. **(1924-146)**

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**CHAPTER 19 - OFFICERS**

**RULE**

<b>§19-19.1</b>	<b>ELECTIVE AND APPOINTED, WHEN INSTALLED</b>
<b>§19-19.3</b>	<b>NOMINATIONS PROHIBITED, SECRET BALLOT, MAJORITY ELECTS</b>
<b>§19-19.5</b>	<b>FAILURE TO ELECT</b>
<b>§19-19.7</b>	<b>DEACONS APPOINTED</b>
<b>§19-19.9</b>	<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>
<b>§19-19.11</b>	<b>SPECIAL ELECTION</b>
<b>§19-19.13</b>	<b>INSTALLATION, RULES RELATING TO</b>
<b>§19-19.15</b>	<b>WORSHIPFUL MASTER</b>
<b>§19-19.17</b>	<b>WARDENS – HELD FOR FUTURE USE</b>
<b>§19-19.19</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
<b>§19-19.21</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>
<b>§19-19.23</b>	<b>TILER AND STEWARD</b>

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**§19-19.1 ELECTIVE AND APPOINTED, WHEN INSTALLED**

The officers shall consist of a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior and Junior Deacons, Steward and Tiler (both of which last offices may be held by the same person), who, excepting the Deacons, shall be chosen by ballot, annually, at the November or December Stated Communication preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. For Lodges authorized to meet on a quarterly basis, the election of officers shall commence at the last Stated Communication in the last quarter of the year, regardless of month. In all instances, all officers of the Lodge shall be installed on that festival, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

**Bylaws §4 (1871-110)(2011-63)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§19-19.9, 19-19.13*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If it is desired to hold the annual election in November, the Lodge, by majority vote at a Stated Communication, must decide at least one month prior thereto. (1896-36) In the absence of such Lodge action, the election must be held at the Stated Communication next preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (December 27). If the election is held in November, no member can vote in the election of officers unless he has paid his dues for the ensuing year. **(1888-48) (1900-46) (1908-112) (1917-147) (1940-94)**
2. No one can be elected to the office of Master unless he has served as a Warden. **(1887-8) (1891-54) (1920-136)**
3. A Brother, having been installed Warden in another Jurisdiction, now affiliated with a Mississippi Lodge, is eligible for the office of Master. **(1878-43, 44)**
4. The Senior Warden should not be elected Master unless he is qualified to fill the Master's station with credit to the Lodge. The Junior Warden should not be advanced to the Senior Warden's station unless he has proved his ability and worthiness. **(Digest 1958-37)**
5. The Deacons are entitled to no more consideration in the election of Lodge officers than any other member of the Lodge. **(Digest 1958-37)**
6. Many Lodges are defunct because of the retention of the Master in office and many more are defunct, inactive, or declining, as a result of the common practice of rotation in office. Every vote cast should be for the best interest of the Lodge and never for the purpose of promoting or honoring any Brother. **(Digest 1958-37)**
7. The office should seek the man and not the man the office. **(1875-11, 69)**

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8. Only the offices of Tiler and Steward may be held by the same member. No member may hold more than one office, elected or appointed, at the same time. **(2023-19)**

### **§19-19.3 NOMINATIONS PROHIBITED, SECRET BALLOT, MAJORITY ELECTS**

Nominations are prohibited. Balloting must be done secretly by each Brother preparing his own ballot and casting it accordingly. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for an election.  
**Bylaws §5 (1854-88)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. In the election of Subordinate Lodge officers, no nominations can be allowed. An election by acclamation is forbidden. The members must vote secretly. The Lodge is not authorized to have one member cast one vote for all. **(1895-27) (1899-76)**
2. It is unmasonic and reprehensible for one aspiring to office in the Grand Lodge, or a Subordinate Lodge, personally to solicit votes for himself. **(1875-11, 69)**
3. In the election of officers, a blank vote cannot be counted as a vote; the party receiving a majority of the votes counted is elected. **(1906-93)**

### **§19-19.5 FAILURE TO ELECT**

In case of failure to elect on the day designated, the Master shall call a special meeting for the purpose at as early a day thereafter as practicable.  
**Bylaws §6 (1854-88)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Where there was a failure to hold the election at the appointed time, an election held without notice was a nullity. **(1895-27)**

### **§19-19.7 DEACONS APPOINTED**

The Master and Senior Warden-elect shall appoint their respective Deacons.  
**Bylaws §8 (1854-88)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Deacons may resign and may demit. In such event these places may be filled by appointment. **(1907-119)**

### **§19-19.9 QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **(A) Who is eligible for office of Master**

None but present or Past Masters, or those who have served as a Warden of a chartered Lodge, or as Master of a Lodge under Dispensation are eligible to the office of Master, except in the case of the organization of a new Lodge.

**R&R §17 (1854-84)**

**Cross References: Gen. Laws §§19-19.1; 19-19.3, 19-19.5; 19-19.7, 19-19.9(B); 19-19.15(B)**

**(B) Dues payment determines eligibility**

No member indebted to the Lodge for dues shall be eligible to office nor permitted to vote for any office.

**Bylaws §9 (1932-166)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When ready for the election of officers, the Master should announce that opportunity is now given for the payment of dues and that no one can vote in the election of officers or hold office unless he has paid dues. **(1896-37) (1901-75)**
2. When all who desire to do so have paid dues, the Master should ask the Secretary to read the names of those who have paid dues. He then proceeds with the election. **(Digest 1958-37)**
3. In an election of officers wherein several members voted who had not paid dues and when there was no announcement made that those who had not paid dues could not vote or hold office and no announcement was made giving such members an opportunity to pay dues, the election was held to be legal, inasmuch as those participating therein acted in good faith and no question was raised until after the Lodge was closed. **(1940-94)**

**(C) The Tiler**

The Tiler may be selected from among the members of any Lodge subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, provided there be no objection to his selection by any member of the Lodge.

**Bylaws §7 (1854-88; 1917-143)**

**19-19.11 SPECIAL ELECTION**

Whenever there shall be a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, Secretary, or Tiler, the Master shall cause notice to be given, if practicable, to every member of the Lodge, that an election will be held at the next Stated Communication to fill such vacancy. Such election shall be conducted in all respects the same as annual elections.

**Bylaws §11 (1880-58, after 1925)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If a vacancy occurs in any elective office, other than that of Master or Warden, it is filled by an election held at a Stated Communication, of which notice should be given each member, if practicable. **(Digest 1958-81)**
2. Neither the Master nor Wardens can resign for any purpose whatsoever. The Treasurer, Secretary, and Tiler may resign. **(1871-56) (1923-131)**

**§19-19.13 INSTALLATION, RULES RELATING TO**

Officers shall not be installed by proxy. When an officer-elect shall have died, removed, or declines to be installed a new election shall be held at the next regular Communication after installation day, and the person so chosen shall be installed at that or the next Communication of the Lodge as the Master may determine. An elected officer who shall fail to present himself at the time appointed for installation shall be deemed to have declined installation, unless he shall present to the Master a satisfactory excuse for his absence. In all cases officers hold over until their successors are regularly installed. In case of re-election of an installed officer a re-installation shall be necessary.

**R&R §18 (1880-58)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. II, Sec. 2, Art. III, Sec. 5; Gen. Laws §§5-3.3-.9, 19-5.3, 19-15.13.a, 19-19.1*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Installation of officers must take place on the 27th day of December or as soon thereafter as practicable, but not prior thereto. **(1886-15) (1897-125)**
2. The auditing committee should make report at time of installation. The Lodge must be opened on the third degree for installation. No one except a present or a Past Master can install officers. One who is indebted to the Lodge for dues cannot be installed. Installation may be at a Called Communication. **(1886-15) (1897-125) (1903-77)**
3. If an elected officer fails to be present on the day set for installation, no one can be substituted in his stead, nor can a new election be held until the next Stated Communication. (1891-53)
4. When an officer who is re-elected refuses to be installed his connection with the office ceases and a new election should be held to fill the vacancy. **(1949-37)**
5. An objection interposed against a Brother cannot prevent his installation unless charges are preferred. (1933-33)
6. No officer-elect can be installed if he is charged with an offense, until exonerated by the Lodge after trial. (1899-77)
7. The Past Master's degree in installation is a part and portion of the installation ceremony. Any three Past Masters may confer the degree. **(1852-572) (1854-155) (1856-61) (1901-77) (1903-77)**
8. None of them having been elected, the officers of a Lodge under Dispensation are not installed. The Brother appointed Master takes the chair and discharges all duties of Master without any further qualification than his appointment. **(1853-114)**
9. Only the elected Master can appoint the Complaints and Offenses Committee, and this must be done "immediately after installation." The appointment of a committee as a part of the "business of the Lodge" may be appointed by the presiding officer at that meeting whether he is the Master, a Warden or Past Master. **(2021-24)**

**§19-19.14      INSTALLATION MAY BE PUBLIC**

Installation may be public. If public, the lodge will be opened on the Third Degree in Masonry in due form. The Lodge will be called from labor to refreshment before the public is invited into the Lodge Hall. At the conclusion of the ceremony the public will be excused, the Lodge will be called from refreshment to labor, and the Lodge closed in Due Form. If the installation is to be at some public hall or church, the lodge should meet at the Lodge Hall and open on the Third Degree in Masonry in due form, call from labor to refreshment, repair to the place designated, install the officers, return to the Lodge Hall, call the Lodge from refreshment to labor, and close the Lodge in due form. **(2024-44)**

**§19-19.15      WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

**(A) Duties - HELD FOR FUTURE USE**

**(B) To preserve harmony**

It is the duty of the Master to preserve the harmony of his Lodge. In the exercise of his judgment, he may, if necessary, exclude any visitor, or even a member of his Lodge, from participating in any meeting or from appearing in public with the Lodge. The Master is responsible to the Grand Lodge for an abuse of this power, as in all other cases.

**Bylaws §12 (1880-57; 1961-139)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Master of a Lodge is the agent of the Grand Lodge in his Masonic Jurisdiction; his decisions upon matters of Masonic law and usage are, with respect to his own Lodge, absolute. There is no appeal from them to the Lodge, but there is to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge. He cannot take the law into his own hands, nor set aside the manifest intent of the Lodge. **(1851-527) (1852-566) (1881-70) (1884-9) (1901-74)**
2. In every Lodge the majority must rule and a Master who sets at defiance the manifest intent of the Lodge, shows that he has no proper appreciation of his installation obligation. **(1894-34)**
3. He (the Master) is the Master and governor of his Lodge and must see the law duly executed, justice properly administered and that none but approved work enter into the building, (1856-57) he cannot be deprived of his right to preside and direct the affairs of his Lodge. **(1899-74)**
4. Harmony is the most important element in a Lodge. **(1858-11, 81)**
5. Regardless of the numerical or financial weakness of a Lodge, if it is unanimously harmonious, if the members "see eye to eye", if the heart and tongue of every member join in promoting the happiness and prosperity of every other member, that Lodge is of incalculable benefit to the community where domiciled. Regardless of the numerical and/ or financial strength of a Lodge, if there is dissension, discord, or wrangling, that Lodge is detrimental to the best interest of that community. **(Digest 1958-49)**
6. The Master may exclude from a communication an unruly member, but neither the law nor usage gives him the authority to extend his order beyond that communication. If the offense is repeated at a subsequent communication, the order can be repeated as to that time, and so on, as often as the offense is repeated, but the proper thing to do is to prefer charges. **(1858-11, 81)**
7. The Master cannot exclude a member so long as he behaves decorously, notwithstanding he is persona non grata to some members or to the Master. **(1901-74)**
8. If a member disregards the gavel or disturbs the harmony of the Lodge in any manner, the Master may reprimand him and, if necessary, have him led out of the Lodge. **(1853-60)**
9. The Master must not allow anyone to tell a risqué (dirty) joke, or use profanity in the Lodge. **(Digest 1958-59)**
10. Nothing that is offensive to good morals or the finer feelings of highly religious persons should be done by the Lodge or in the name of the Lodge. **(Digest 1958-49)**
11. No form of religious faith or government is ever attacked by genuine Freemasonry. It does not tolerate discussions or even expressions of opinion within the tiled Lodge, favoring one form of religion over another, but in this country it has uniformly opposed and denounced atheism. **(1878-5)**
12. The procedure in voting where an amendment is offered to a previously made motion is to follow Roberts Rules of Order. The vote is taken on the amendment first, and whether the amendment is adopted or not adopted, then the vote is taken on the original motion. It is just a courtesy to ask the maker of the original motion if he will accept the amendment. A motion, once it is made, is not the property of the maker. It is the property of the Lodge. **(1974-98)**

**(C) May draw of Lodge funds for charity**

The Master of the Lodge, or in his absence, the presiding officer, may for purposes of Masonic charity, draw on its funds at any time for a sum not exceeding the amount set by the Lodge in its Bylaws.

**Bylaws §13 (1871-110)**

**(D) Appoints committees**

The Master shall appoint all committees of the Lodge.

**Bylaws §13 (1871-110)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Only the elected Master can appoint the Complaints and Offenses Committee, and this must be done "immediately after installation." The appointment of a committee as a part of the "business of the Lodge" may be appointed by the presiding officer at that meeting whether he is the Master, a Warden or Past Master. **(2021-24)**
2. The Worshipful Master has the authority to remove and replace all committee members. **(2021-24)**

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**(E) Decisions of the Master final; appeal**

The decision of the Master on any question before the Lodge is final and conclusive; and there is no appeal from it except to the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. **R&R §16 (1854-84)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Master of the Lodge is the agent of the Grand Lodge in his Masonic Jurisdiction; his decisions upon matters of Masonic law and usage are, with respect to his own Lodge, absolute. There is no appeal from them to the Lodge but there is to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge. He cannot take the law into his own hands, nor set aside the manifest intent of the Lodge. **(1851-527) (1852-566) (1881-70) (1884-9)**
2. A motion to table cannot be entertained in a Subordinate Lodge or in the Grand Lodge. The Master determines when debate shall cease. **(1855-33) (1875-53) (1880-76)**
3. In every Lodge the majority must rule and a Master, who sets at defiance the manifest intent of the Lodge, shows that he has no proper appreciation of his installation obligation. **(1894-34)**

**§19-19.19      TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall report his receipts and disbursements at the Stated Communication for the election of officers; have his accounts ready for settlement at the expiration of this term of office or whenever required by the Lodge; and shall deliver to his successor all monies, accounts, vouchers, documents and other property in his possession belonging to the Lodge.

**Bylaws §14B (1871-111)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Treasurer cannot serve on the auditing committee. **(Digest 1958-59)**
2. The Treasurer may resign. **(1898-74)**
3. Also see next last decision under Secretary, §19-19.21 below.

**§19-19.21      SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall make out all reports required by the Lodge; keep a register of delinquencies, suspensions and expulsions; fill up diplomas when directed by the Lodge, keeping a register of the same; report to the Grand Secretary all changes in date and hour of meeting; report promptly to the Grand Secretary all changes in the office of the Worshipful Master and office of Secretary, giving addresses in each case; and exhibit a statement of account of each delinquent member at the Stated Communication for the election of officers; and as compensation for his services he shall be exempt from dues and be allowed a per cent of all monies collected by him for dues or the Lodge may pay him a salary.

From the money collected from each member for dues, the Lodge shall set aside and put into a separate fund an amount equal to the Grand Lodge dues. This money so set apart shall not be paid out for any purpose except to pay Grand Lodge dues. **(1935-113)**

**Bylaws §14A (1871-110; 1937-111; 1964-108)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Secretary owes no dues while in office. He pays dues before he is elected like any other member. Thereafter he pays no dues until December 1 following the installation of his successor. The retiring Secretary is entitled to a receipt for dues for the following year. **(1896-4) (1927-114)**

2. In addition to his dues, the Secretary gets such percent of dues collected as the Lodge may fix. He must not be paid a percent of fees collected. He may be paid a fixed salary instead of a per cent of dues collected. **(1903-80) (1927-114) (1944-26)**
3. The Secretary has no authority to drop the name of a member from the roll, except in those cases where a member issued a certificate of good standing has affiliated with another Lodge and official notice has been received of such affiliation. Even then the fact of such affiliation must be brought to the attention of the Lodge at its next Stated Communication and recorded in the minutes. In all other cases, except the death of a member, there must be Lodge action before a name can be dropped from the roll. **(1893-49) (1897-32) (1898-66) (1956-84)**
4. The Secretary cannot serve on the auditing committee. **(Digest 1958-59)**
5. Regardless of who collects Lodge funds, they must be turned over to the Secretary. The Secretary then makes "due entries" of the same in his books of accounts. He then pays the funds over to the "Treasurer, together with a Warrant for the same. The Treasurer thereupon issues a receipt to the Secretary for the proper amount turned over and Warranted for. With the exception of certain direct payments for charity that can be made on order of the Master, the disbursement of all Lodge funds must be approved by the Lodge in Stated Communication held previously, be so recorded in the Lodge minutes by the Secretary and paid out by the Treasurer on order of the Worshipful Master. All Lodge funds, both as to receipt and expenditure, must pass through the hands of the Secretary, as well as those of the Treasurer and no other officer or member is authorized to deposit funds into or withdraw funds from the bank account of the Lodge. **(1976-58)**
6. The Secretary may resign. **(1884-40) (1895-35)**

### **§19-19.23 TILER AND STEWARD**

The Tiler shall summon the members to attend all special meetings of the Lodge, and shall receive the sum set in the bylaws for each and every meeting.

The Steward shall provide all refreshments ordered by the Lodge, take charge of the Lodge room and furniture; keep them in neat and good order, and shall receive there for the sum set in the bylaws for each and every meeting.

**Bylaws §14C&D (1854-89)**

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Tiler has the abstract right to vote on all questions, but this is subordinate to the duties he may be required to perform in the Lodge. When he is not in the Lodge room when a question is being considered he waived his right to vote thereon by accepting his office, but when voting for candidates, if he be a member of the Lodge, he should be invited in to cast his vote. **(1936-26)**
2. The Tiler may resign. **(1905-71)**
3. The By-Laws cannot be amended so as to deprive the Tiler of the compensation fixed at the time he was installed. **(1887-57)**
4. The Steward and Tiler may be the same person.

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## CHAPTER 21 - LODGE FINANCES

### RULE

- §19-21.1 DEGREE FEES SET BY LODGES, MINIMUMS SET BY GRAND LODGE**  
**§19-21.3 ANNUAL DUES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE, LIFE MEMBERSHIP**  
**§19-21.5 OFFICIAL RECEIPT FOR DUES**  
**§19-21.7 SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**  
**§19-21.9 RESTORATION FROM SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**
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### **§19-21.1 DEGREE FEES SET BY LODGES, MINIMUMS SET BY GRAND LODGE**

The fees for the degrees conferred by Lodges shall be set by the Lodge in its Bylaws, but in no case to be less than fifteen dollars for the degree of Entered Apprentice, and fifteen dollars for the degree of Fellow Craft, and fifteen dollars for the degree of Master Mason, to be paid in advance.  
**Bylaws §37 (1933-89)(2020-45)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§17-1.1, 13-3.5*

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. It is unlawful to confer the degrees on credit, or to take a note, or security, for any part thereof. **(1919-52) (1925-55)**
2. Fees for degrees, or annual dues, should not be invoiced to business organizations of any nature. **(1964-46)**
3. The candidate should pay the amount of fees in effect at the time the degree is conferred. **(1940-89) (1941-22)**
4. When a candidate has paid all fees in advance and fails to come forward for first degree within six months, fees should be returned, "a Lodge should not keep possession of money for which no service has been rendered", **(1964-48** This reverses decision of 1951-54)
5. Degrees cannot be legally given gratuitously to ministers of the Gospel nor to anyone else.
6. If a donation is made for the purpose of giving the degrees gratuitously, the principle is wrong, and conferring degrees in such manner would be a plain violation of Section Eight (8), Rules and Regulations. **(1919-52) (1925-55)**
7. The fee must be paid to the Lodge in which the candidate is elected before it can request another Lodge to confer the degree, and it is under no obligation to pay any part of it to the Lodge that does the work as proxy, except to reimburse the Lodge for expenses incurred while acting as proxy in conferring the degree. **(1902-87) (1925-55)**
8. When a candidate over whom the Lodge did not have Jurisdiction is initiated, passed, or raised, the fee belongs to the Lodge that did have Jurisdiction. The candidate is a member of the Lodge that did the work. **(1904-56)**

### **§19-21.3 ANNUAL DUES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE, LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Every member shall pay an annual contribution, set by the Lodge in its Bylaws, at the Stated Communication next preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, and prior to the election of officers. Annual dues shall be payable in advance.

Every person raised during the year shall thereupon pay pro rata dues for the remainder of the year and until paid he is not entitled to any of the privileges of Masonry.

A member affiliating shall thereupon pay pro rata dues from the date of affiliation to the following December 1, and until paid he is not entitled to any of the privileges of membership. A member demitting during the year shall be entitled to a refund of his dues, pro rata, form the date of demit until December 1 following.

A member may secure life membership by paying to the Lodge the total amount of annual dues which he would pay to the Lodge when he shall have reached the age of exemption from dues, as provided for in Section 13-3.3 of these laws. Life membership does not exempt him from any Masonic requirement except the payment of annual dues to the Subordinate Lodge.

**Bylaws §38 (1956-97)**

*Cross References: §§13-3.3; 13-3 .5; 19-21.5*

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. The receipts for dues issued by the Secretary of a Subordinate Lodge must be obtained from the Grand Secretary, and unless so obtained, are not official. No one should be allowed to visit a Lodge unless he has an official receipt for dues. **(Digest 1958-68)**
2. The Lodge may fix any amount of dues it deems expedient, but it cannot collect more than the amount fixed by the By-Laws for dues. It has the right to increase or decrease the annual dues by Resolution introduced at a Stated Communication. If the Resolution be to raise dues, no amendment can be entertained that would fix the rate at an amount less than the existing or greater than the proposed amount. If the Resolution be to lower the dues, no amendment can be entertained that would fix the amount higher than the existing rate or lower than the proposed rate. An amendment may be entertained within the above described limits. A majority of the votes cast decides the issue. **(1856-39) (1868-10, 38) (1878-7) (1880-78)**
3. A Lodge adopting a Resolution in October to raise its dues for the subsequent year and having collected dues at the increased rate from some of its members, cannot at the subsequent January meeting adopt another Resolution decreasing its dues. The beginning of the Masonic year is December 1. Dues in effect on that date in any year apply to all members of the Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year. **(1966-100)**
4. The Lodge cannot grant a demit to any member in arrears for dues. **(1934-32, 33)**
5. A Brother owing dues to the Lodge, requesting a demit, which is not granted because of indebtedness, remains a member of the Lodge until formal action is had suspending him for non-payment dues. **(1934-33)**
6. No dues accrue against one after the date for the Stated Communication following the reading of his application for a demit first time, regardless of when the application is read the second time, or when Secretary issues the demit. **(Digest 1958-35)**
7. A member demitting during the year is entitled to a refund of his dues pro rata, from the date of demit until December 1 following. **(1932-163) (1934-32)**
8. If a non-affiliate tenders dues, the Lodge should accept, or prefer charges. **(1902-94)**
9. Unless a non-affiliate pays dues for the whole current year to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides, he is, to all intents and purposes, a suspended Mason. A non-affiliate cannot pay pro rata dues, he must pay the same dues that the members impose upon themselves. **(1892-55)**
10. A Lodge cannot exempt members from the payment of dues, **(1889-63)** they must be paid by each member, (1890-46) whose dues are not remitted, which the Lodge has full discretion to do, **(1870-56, 59) (1878-55) (1881-12, 71)** and others. (This is not to be confused with the provisions of Sec. 54, R. & R.)
11. No dues accrue against an insane member. **(Digest 1958-49)**
12. Lodges cannot assess members for any purpose nor in any manner except for dues. **(1880-78) (1897-33)**
13. Clergymen pay the same fees and dues and are subject to the same law, as to Jurisdiction and time, as anyone else. **(1901-76)**
14. Fees for degrees, or annual dues, should not be invoiced to business organizations of any nature. **(1964-46)**
15. The Secretary owes no dues while in office, **(1910-130) (1933-34) (1934-31)** nor for one year after the expiration of his term of office. **(1896-41)**
16. When a Mason is expelled, or suspended, for unmasonic conduct, the Lodge should return to him pro rata dues from the date of such expulsion or suspension to December 1, following, provided, he returns his receipt for dues to the Secretary. **(Digest 1958-71)**

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**§19-21.5 OFFICIAL RECEIPT FOR DUES**

The receipts for dues issued by the Secretaries of Subordinate Lodges must be obtained from the Grand Secretary produced under his direction; must have “In God We Trust” printed under “Grand Lodge of Miss., F. & A. M.”; and the reverse side thereof must contain the certificate of the Grand Secretary, together with a small facsimile seal of the Grand Lodge printed thereon. Dues cards printed and issued in violation of the provisions of this section are not official. No one should be allowed to visit a Lodge unless he has an official receipt for dues as herein provided, which has been signed by the Member, the Lodge Secretary, and has the Lodge Seal affixed.

**Bylaws §39 (1983-84; 2008-59)(2020-52)**

**§19-21.7 SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

The Secretary shall, on or before the day of election of officers, notify every member of the Lodge of the amount of his dues and request payment; and should any member allow his dues to remain unpaid on the said day of election, he shall not have the right to vote in the election of officers nor hold office. The Secretary shall notify such delinquent Brother on or before January 10th to appear at the February Stated Communication to show cause why his dues have not been paid, and if he still refuses or neglects to pay, the Lodge shall suspend such delinquent at the March Stated Communication or remit his dues.

If the Secretary fails to notify the delinquent to appear as required above or if the Lodge fails to meet or act on the matter, as required above, then the Worshipful Master shall order the Secretary to notify said delinquent to appear at the next Stated Communication, and if he fails to pay his dues at the next Communication, then the Lodge shall suspend him or remit his dues. Such suspension shall be absolute, and while it continues all the Masonic rights and privileges of the Brother so suspends shall be abrogated, and no dues shall from the date thereof until reinstatement, be charged against him.

**Bylaws §40 (1925-143; 1950-99)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Procedure: The delinquent must be summoned to show cause why he should not be suspended for nonpayment of dues. The summons should be written; on or before the tenth day of January the Secretary must send notice to every member whose dues have not been paid, or remitted, to appear at the February Stated Communication to show cause why, he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues. If he does not pay his dues by the March Stated Communication the Lodge should suspend him or remit his dues. If the Lodge fails to follow the law as above, then the Worshipful Master, as soon as he is cognizant of such failure, should have the delinquent put on trial regardless of the month. If the delinquent appears and renders an excuse, the vote is taken. If a majority of the members present vote to suspend him, he stands suspended for non-payment of dues. If he does not appear, the vote is taken. If a majority of the members present vote to suspend him, he is suspended. The formality of a trial is not necessary. The ballot may be with white balls and black balls or cubes, or the Lodge may vote by show of hands. Suspensions for non-payment of dues does not imply moral turpitude or unmasonic conduct. (1870-56) **(1884- 9) (1891-52) (1893-48) (1894-28) (1896-37) (1906-92)**
2. If a Lodge fails to suspend a member at the time provided by law, it is its duty to suspend him at its next Stated Communication. **(1878-6) (1929-54)**
3. The last date that a Lodge may suspend a member and not be required to pay Grand Lodge dues on him is the last Stated Communication prior to August 31. **(1933-28)**

4. When a Lodge did not comply with the law requiring its members to pay dues in advance for the ensuing year before they were eligible to vote in the election of officers, and where a Brother who had not paid is elected an officer and installed, it was held that the Lodge waived its right to suspend him and must pay the officer's dues to the Grand Lodge. If the Lodge disregards the law by installing a man in an office, he is a de facto officer and the Lodge should pay his Grand Lodge dues. (1940-90)
5. Lodges may remit dues in whole or in part of members and resident non-affiliates whose circumstances are such that they are unable to pay dues. **(1870-59) (1878-55) (1884-37) (1891-52) (1893-48)**
6. A suspended Mason is entitled to none of the rights, benefits, or privileges of Masonry, and therefore, has no more claim upon a Lodge than a profane. **(Digest 1958-76)**
7. When a member cited to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues dies before the Lodge acts, his standing is unaffected. The claims of his family are unimpaired by such indebtedness. **(1902-89)**
8. No dues accrue against a suspended Mason while he is under suspension for any cause. **(1928-87)**
9. A Lodge cannot try a person for unmasonic conduct committed prior to his being adjudged insane. **(1915-175)**. By the same token it appears that a Lodge would be in error in suspending such a person for nonpayment of dues. (1974-100)
10. If a member is declared non compos mentis by a court of proper Jurisdiction, he owes no dues while a patient in a mental institution, but once declared "mentally competent" and released from said institution, dues would begin to accrue against him from the date of his release. (1974-101)

### **§19-21.9 RESTORATION FROM SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

The payment of current year dues will restore a Mason to membership, however; if a member has been suspended for non-payment of dues for three (3) years or more, then an investigating committee consisting of three (3) members of the Lodge must be appointed who will make inquiry and report thereon, which report shall be made at a subsequent stated meeting. The acceptance of his dues will then be voted on by the members of the Lodge that are present by ballot and majority in the affirmative will restore the Mason to membership provided his current year dues are remitted.

**Bylaws §41 (1893-49; 1925-143; 2011-61)**

*Cross Reference: Gen. Laws §§13-3.5; 19-13.13*

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When one suspended for non-payment of dues pays them, he is restored, ipso facto, regardless of whether the Secretary reports the payment and enters it on the minutes of the next regular communication, as he ought to do. **(1892-54)**
2. One suspended for non-payment of dues can be tried for unmasonic conduct without being restored to membership. **(1860-77)**
3. An official receipt for dues for the current year is given by the Secretary of the Lodge to suspended members when restored to membership. **(1923-128, 131) (1927-108, 117) (1928-27) (1940-88)**
4. When the secretary notifies the Grand Secretary that a Brother is suspended but fails to record the fact in the Lodge minutes, it was held that the action of a Lodge is not void because the Secretary was negligent in keeping his records. **(1927-105)**
5. A member of a defunct Lodge may apply to the Grand Secretary for a certificate of Masonic standing, which he will furnish if the applicant owes no dues. If he was suspended for non-payment of dues, the Grand Secretary will collect from him for the benefit of the Grand Lodge the amount of dues for which he was suspended and issue to him a certificate of Masonic standing. The certificate is equivalent to a demit. The certificate that he gives relates to the affairs of Lodge which he is settling and is only evidence that all dues have been paid to the defunct Lodge. **(1898-67)**
6. One suspended for non-payment of dues cannot apply for a demit until he has been restored to membership by the Lodge. **(1892-54) (1927-29)**

7. One suspended for non-payment of dues can be tried for unmasonic conduct without being restored to membership. **(1860-77)**
8. An objection interposed to the Master against the reinstatement of a Brother applying therefore is of no effect in preventing a ballot being regularly taken. **(1927-117)**
9. When over two-thirds of the ballots were white, the presiding officer erred in his ruling that an applicant for reinstatement was rejected. The two-thirds vote had the effect of reinstating the Brother. The Lodge should now proceed to correct the minutes by Resolution, to show the reinstatement of the Brother. (1927-112)
10. An official receipt for dues for the current year is given by the Secretary of the Lodge to suspended members when restored to membership. **(1923-128, 131) (1927-108, 117) (1928-27) (1940-88)**
11. When a member is rejected, the Lodge returns pro rata dues to the following December. **(1927-108)**
12. A member who dies before his application for reinstatement has been acted upon by the Lodge, cannot be reinstated. **(1946-29)**
13. When the Secretary notifies the Grand Secretary that a Brother is suspended but fails to record the fact in the Lodge minutes, it was held that the action of a Lodge is not void because the Secretary was negligent in keeping his records. **(1927-105)**
14. A member of a defunct Lodge may apply to the Grand Secretary for a certificate of Masonic standing, which he will furnish if the applicant owes no dues. If he was suspended for non-payment of dues, the Grand Secretary will collect from him for the benefit of the Grand Lodge the amount of dues for which he was suspended and issue to him a certificate of Masonic standing. The certificate is equivalent to a demit. The certificate that he gives relates to the affairs of the Lodge which he is settling and is only evidence that all dues have been paid to the defunct Lodge. **(1898-67)**

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**CHAPTER 23 - LODGE COMMITTEES**

**RULE**

<b>§19-23.1</b>	<b>STANDING COMMITTEES – HELD FOR FUTURE USE</b>
<b>§19-23.3</b>	<b>COMPLAINTS AND OFFENSES – HELD FOR FUTURE USE</b>
<b>§19-23.5</b>	<b>RELIEF</b>
<b>§19-23.7</b>	<b>AUDITING, WHEN APPOINTED; DUTIES</b>
<b>§19-23.9</b>	<b>SPECIAL COMMITTEES – HELD FOR FUTURE USE</b>
<b>§19-23.11</b>	<b>LODGE OF RESEARCH COMMITTEES</b>

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<b>§19-23.5</b>	<b>RELIEF</b>
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**(A) Duty of Master to appoint; responsibilities**

It shall be the duty of Masters of Lodges at each regular meeting to appoint a committee of three to serve until the next regular meeting, or until their successors are appointed, whose duty it shall be to ascertain who are sick and who are destitute within the Jurisdiction of the Lodge; and it shall be the duty of the committee so appointed to report cases of destitution to the Master of the Lodge, and to appoint a suitable number of Brethren daily to visit and nurse the sick, if necessary, and it shall be the duty of the Brethren so selected to discharge this duty unless excused for reasonable cause. The Annual Report of the Subordinate Lodges shall state the whole number relieved or visited, but give no name; and this part of the report of Subordinate Lodges shall not be printed in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

**Bylaws §43 (After 1871, prior to 1925).**

*Cross References: Const. Art. 1, Sec. 3; Gen. Laws §§19-19.15(C); 19-19.15(D); 19-23.5(C); 19-23.5(D)*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The term "Cable Tow" means the scope of a Mason's reasonable ability. (1901-68)
2. A widow of a Master Mason who died while in good standing in a Subordinate Lodge is entitled to all the assistance and consideration that she was entitled to during the lifetime of her husband. **(Digest 1958-84)**
3. A widow marrying again has no claim as a widow. When she marries a profane, she loses her right to aid and assistance from the Fraternity, her widowhood being merged in the wife. Since she has a new protector, the Lodge is under no further obligation to her as the widow of a Master Mason. **(1852-571) (1873-55) (1910132) (1912-112)**
4. A divorced wife has no Masonic relation to Masonry through her divorced husband. **(1958-34)**

**(B) Evidence should be presented**

Lodges are recommended not to grant relief to any Master Mason unless he produces satisfactory evidence of being an affiliated Mason in good standing.

**R&R §32 (1861-101)**

**(C) Approval of Grand Lodge or Grand Master required**

Subordinate Lodges and individual Masons within this Jurisdiction are prohibited from applying as Masons to the fraternity in other jurisdictions for contributions for any purpose whatever, without first obtaining the approval of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

**R&R §33(1880-58)**

*Cross References: Const. Art, Sec. 3.*

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**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Grand Lodge should not use its funds in relieving pecuniary embarrassment of Lodges. **(1875-72)**
2. Lodges are forbidden to send out begging circulars or appeals for charity without first obtaining consent of the Grand Master or proper Grand Lodge committee. Lodges must report to the Grand Secretary all money collected on each appeal. **(1899-11)**

**§19-23.7            AUDITING, WHEN APPOINTED; DUTIES**

The Master shall, at the Stated Communication for the election of officers, appoint a committee to examine and audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary. The committee shall make its report, including a statement as to the condition of the treasury, on or before St. John's Day (December 27th), and prior to the installation of the officers-elect.

**Bylaws §10 (1854-91, 1961-139)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Neither the Treasurer nor the Secretary is eligible to serve on the auditing committee. **(Digest 1958-13)**
2. The Committee should tabulate all receipts and disbursements and report to the Lodge the difference between the amounts received and the amounts disbursed. The Committee on Auditing should follow the rules of accountants. If the Committee finds that the books are in such condition as to make it necessary to have an accountant audit the books, the Lodge has authority to employ such accountant. **(Digest 1958-13)**
3. The auditing committee should report at the same meeting, at which officers are installed and before their installation. **(Digest 1958-13)**
4. When a committee report is adopted, any recommendations contained therein are also adopted, unless in conflict with law. **(1924-144)**
5. It is proper for the Lodge to reprimand a committee appointed to audit the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, who failed to report before the installation of officers, as directed. **(1877-66)**
6. No Treasurer or Secretary or any other officer should be installed until the books have been audited and the report thereon approved by the Lodge. This is true even though a Treasurer is succeeding himself in office. **(1976-58)**

**§19-23.11            RESEARCH LODGE COMMITTEES**

A Research Lodge, operating under a Dispensation or Charter from the M.W. Grand Lodge of Mississippi, shall have two standing committees: the Collegium and the board of Governors. The Collegium is composed of one delegate from each Lodge represented within the Research Lodge. Representation is acquired when at least one member of a Lodge holds dual membership with the Research Lodge. The Collegium functions as representatives between the Research Lodge and other Lodges and act as liaisons for research activities. All appointments to the Collegium are made by the Master. The Board of Governors is composed of the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, and two other members appointed by the Master each year. In addition, any member of the Research Lodge who has received the honor of Fellow shall hold a seat on the Board of Governors. The Board is responsible for establishing, maintaining and directing all activities relating the archival and museum materials under the care of the Research Lodge. **(2010-42)**

**CHAPTER 25 - LODGE BY-LAWS**

**RULE**

**§19-25.1 BY-LAWS**

**§19-25.1 BY-LAWS**

Each Subordinate Lodge shall adopt the following minimum By-Laws, filling in the blanks to suit their own convenience. Lodges may adopt additional bylaws and they deem necessary. Lodges can amend their By-Laws upon notice given at a previous Stated Communication but the minimal sections only by changing that which they could originally determine.

No portion of the By-Laws can be suspended except by a vote of the Lodge previously authorized to be taken by a Dispensation for the Grand Master, who may grant or withhold such Dispensation for reasons by him deemed sufficient.

By-Laws may not conflict with the Williams Digest or any other Masonic Law. All Subordinate Lodges must provide either a digital or physical copy of their adopted By-Laws to the Grand Secretary.

**Rules §25 (1891-43)(2020-51)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. III, Sec. 2, Art. IV, Sec. 1*

**BY-LAWS OF \_\_\_\_\_ LODGE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, F. & A. M.**

Section 1 - Name and number This Lodge shall be known and designated by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ and is subordinate to and under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Lodges cannot make any change in the By-Laws except to fill up, or change, the blanks, **(Digest 1958-15)**.
2. The Grand Lodge should not give the number of a defunct Lodge to a new Lodge, but it may give the name of a defunct Lodge to another Lodge. **(1920-128)**.
3. Any Lodge may change it's name by passing a resolution to that effect and securing the approval of the Grand Lodge, or Grand Master, **(1902-136)**.
4. A Lodge should not be named for a living person, **(Digest 1958-66)**.

Section 2 - Meetings – Place and hour It shall meet at \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_. M. on the \_\_\_\_\_ each calendar month, unless during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge or when the stated communication shall fall on a legal holiday when it shall meet on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the month at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_. M., which shall be the Stated monthly meeting, and also on the Anniversary of St. John the Baptist (June 24) and of St. John the Evangelist (December 27), and as often and at such other times and places as the Master may deem necessary. Date and hour of meeting may be changed by Resolution at a Stated Communication and acted on at the next Stated Communication. Majority vote governs. Research Lodges are permitted to meet quarterly if they so choose.

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**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Grand Master cannot grant a dispensation for a Subordinate Lodge to hold a stated meeting at any other time than the regular time fixed by the By-Laws, **(Digest 1958-48)**.
2. A Lodge cannot function as a Lodge in any other town or community than that mentioned in its charter except to bury a deceased member. It can change buildings in the town without a dispensation, **(1897-35, 125) (1898-74, 87) (1926-111)**.
3. No meeting shall be held on Sunday for any other purpose than the burial of a deceased brother or for a Lodge of Sorrow, **(1881-8)**.
4. Two Lodges cannot be in session in the same room at the same time, **(Digest 1958-81)**.
5. A legal meeting of a Masonic Lodge in Mississippi is either a stated meeting, or a special meeting called in legal form for a specific purpose, opened in due form, strictly tiled, and in which Lodge transactions are recorded in the minutes by the Secretary. A "practice session" with no formal opening or closing of the Lodge is not a legal meeting, **(1975-62)**.

Section 3 – Quorum A quorum for all purposes, except for the conferring of degrees and at funerals, shall be five, one of whom must be the Master or a Warden, and no business shall be transacted unless that number of members of the Lodge shall be present. (1880-59, 2000-64).

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Grand Master can grant a dispensation to open a Lodge in the absence of the Master and both Wardens, in which case he shall designate who shall act as Master, **(Digest 1958-48)**.
2. A special meeting called for conferring a degree on a candidate, previously elected, may proceed with less than five, provided one of the first three officers of the Lodge is present. No specific number is required, **(Digest 1958-71)**.
3. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may be examined as to their proficiency at a called meeting, **(Digest 1958-71)**.
4. Three may close a Lodge in either degree when all but three leave before closing. One of them must be the Master or a Warden, **(Digest 1958-71)**.
5. No specific number is necessary for a funeral, nor is it necessary for one of the three principal officers to be present, **(Digest 1958-71)**.

Section 4 - Dues The dues of this Lodge shall be \_\_\_\_\_ dollars per year.

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The amount of dues and degree fees must be reported in the Annual Returns. **(2025-27)**

Section 5 - Degree Fees The fees for degrees conferred in this Lodge shall be \_\_\_\_\_ dollars for the Entered Apprentice degree, \_\_\_\_\_ dollars for the Fellow Craft degree, and \_\_\_\_\_ dollars for the Master Mason degree, but in no case to be less than \$15.00 for the degree of Entered Apprentice and \$15.00 for the degree of Fellow Craft and \$15.00 for the degree of Master Mason, to be paid in all cases in advance.

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. It is unlawful to confer the degrees on credit, or to take a note, or security, for any part thereof, **(1919-52; 1925-55)**.
2. Fees for degrees, or annual dues, should not be invoiced to business organizations of any nature, **(1964-46)**.
3. The candidate should pay the amount of fees in effect at the time the degree is conferred. **(1938-96) (1940-89) (1941-22)**.

4. When a candidate has paid all fees in advance and fails to come forward for first degree within six months, fees should be returned, "a Lodge should not keep possession of money for which no service has been rendered", **(1964-48)**, This reverses decision of 1951-54).
5. Degrees cannot be legally given gratuitously to ministers of the Gospel nor to anyone else.
6. If a donation is made for the purpose of giving the degrees gratuitously, the principle is wrong, and conferring degrees in such manner would be a plain violation of Section eight (8), Rules and Regulations, **(1919-52) (1925-55)**.
7. The amount of dues and degree fees must be reported in the Annual Returns. **(2025-27)**.

Section 6 - Funds for Masonic Charity The Master or one presiding in his absence may draw on the funds of the Lodge for Masonic charity a sum not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

Section 7 - Compensation to Secretary The Secretary shall be exempt from dues and be allowed \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all monies collected by him for dues, or the Secretary shall receive a salary of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars per \_\_\_\_\_.

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Secretary owes no dues while in office. He pays dues before he is elected like any other member. Thereafter he pays no dues until December 1 following the installation of his successor. The retiring Secretary is entitled to a receipt for dues for the following year. **(1896-41) ( 1927-114)**.
2. In addition to his dues, the Secretary gets such percent of dues collected as the Lodge may fix. He must not be paid a percent of fees collected. He may be paid a fixed salary instead of a per cent of dues collected, **(1903-80) (1927-114) (1944-26)**.

Section 8 - Compensation to Tiler and Steward The Tiler shall receive the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ for each and every meeting. The Steward shall receive the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ for each and every meeting.

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The By-Laws cannot be amended so as to deprive the Tiler of the compensation fixed at the time he was installed, **(1887-57)**

Section 9 - Diploma Fee The fee for the issuing of a Diploma shall be \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

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## SECTION 21 – LODGE PROPERTY

CHAPTER 1      GENERAL  
CHAPTER 5      SALE OF LODGE PROPERTY

### CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL

#### RULE

§21-1.1      USE OF LODGE ROOMS

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§21-1.1      USE OF LODGE ROOMS

As a general rule, Lodge rooms should be used only for Masonic purposes, but when approved by the Grand Lodge, it is permissible for Lodges to use the rooms in common with any orderly body, the object of whose meetings is lawful and laudable and not opposed to antagonistic to the principals of Masonry. Subordinate Lodges may, by Resolution introduced at a regular Stated Communication and adopted by a majority vote of the members present at the next or some subsequent Stated Communication, sponsor a Chapter or Chapters of Order of DeMolay and a Chapter or Chapters of Order of Rainbow for Girls.

By like method, Subordinate Lodges may allow a Court of the Order of Amaranth to meet in their Lodge rooms.

**Bylaws §44 (1956-98; 1962-56; 1995-64)**

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. A Lodge cannot permit another society, body or institution to meet in its Hall unless the welfare of Masonry is assisted thereby. The welfare of the organization proposing to meet therein cannot be considered. **(1887-9, 59)**
2. Only orderly bodies, whose objects are laudable and not opposed or antagonistic to the principles of Masonry, may meet in a Masonic Hall and then only after approval has been given by Grand Lodge. **(1874-59)**
3. A Lodge cannot allow an organization to meet in its Hall unless that organization limits its membership to those who are Master Masons, and to the Order of the Eastern Star (and to the Order of DeMolay and the Order of Rainbow for Girls, **(1962-56)** and a Court of the Order of the Amaranth. **(1995-64)** Any other society or organization meeting in the Hall can do so only on approval of Grand Lodge. The welfare of the Lodge and Masonry in general is to be the prime consideration. **(Digest 1958-57)**
4. The only superimposed bodies recognized as Masonic by the Grand Lodge are the Chapters of Royal Arch Masons; Councils of Royal and Select Masters; Commanderies of Knights Templar; the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern and Northern Jurisdictions of the United States of America, and those of corresponding rank in foreign countries. **(1894-43)**
5. The White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Order of Job's Daughters, the Daughters of the Nile, and the Grotto are not included on the list of organizations approved to use Lodge Rooms. Approval of Grand Lodge can be given only on an individual organization basis. Any organization rejected may not renew petition within five years. **(1957-33) (1964-110) (1982-93)**
6. Masonic Lodges do not refuse cooperation in any good work, but experience has taught that in the use of its property, and in financial transactions, it is better for the Lodge to go alone, and to avoid any entanglements of its financial affairs with those of any other order or organization, or with those of any individual. **(1929-56)**
7. Specific prohibitions, concerning the use of Lodge rooms, include the following; for a festival, religious services, dancing, public or private political meetings, fashionable amusements, or a public entertainment, **(1876-13) (1878-16) (1887-59) (1897-41) (1929-51) (1931-73)** or by an organization which conceals from the public its purposes or the names of its members, **(Digest 1958-58)** or by an organization which proposes to handle violations

of the law in any other manner than through the courts and regularly constituted civil authority, (Digest 1958-58) or for religious services, except in cases of emergency, and where the use would be temporary.(1917-14) There are, of course, other prohibitions. **(1971-75)**

8. A Lodge cannot permit any part of its temple or building, over which it has control, to be used as a dance hall, nor for card games played for money. **(1926-19) (1931-13)**
9. A Lodge cannot give a show for the benefit of the Lodge, nor permit a show to be given under its auspices. **(Digest 1958-57)**
10. It is unmasonic to discuss in the Lodge or Grand Lodge any political question, the merits or demerits of any candidate for political office, or pending legislation, state or national. **(Digest 1958-70)**
11. Frivolities and side-degrees are prohibited in the Lodge. **(1851-504)**
12. Two Lodges cannot be in session in the same room at the same time. **(Digest 1958-81)**
13. The Lodge hall must be kept locked at all times when not in Masonic use. It is not to be left open to the public so that the public can come and go at will. No one except a member of that Lodge or an individual approved by that Lodge can be permitted to have a key to the Hall. **(Digest 1958-57) (2006-52)**

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**CHAPTER 5 – SALE OF LODGE PROPERTY**

**RULE**

**§21-5.1 SALE BY SUBORDINATE LODGE**

**§21-5.2 SALE BY GRAND LODGE**

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**§21-5.1 SALE BY SUBORDINATE LODGE**

A Lodge may sale any personal property by a majority vote of the members present at any Stated Communication.

A Lodge may sale real property by resolution introduced at a Stated Communication citing the property to be sold and the minimal price to be accepted for the same. The resolution shall lay over until the next Stated Communication and notice of the pending resolution shall be given to each member either by U. S. mail or electronically. Upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the Stated Communication, the property may then be sold. A deed shall be signed by the Master of the Lodge and attested by the Secretary.(2020-46)

**§21-5.2 SALE BY GRAND LODGE**

When personal property of a Subordinate Lodge escheats to the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master shall cause the same to be sold. Real property of Lodge which escheats to the Grand Lodge the Grand Master shall cause the same to be sold unless a two-thirds majority of the elected Grand Lodge officers shall consent to disposal by gift or other means than sale.

All proceeds from the sale of property under this Rule shall be applied to the payment of Lodge debts, and the residue, if any, credited to the Grand Lodge General Fund, the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund, The Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation, or apportioned among two or more of these funds as a majority of the elected Grand Lodge officers may designate. (2020-46)

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**SECTION 23 - MASONIC OFFENSES**

**CHAPTER 1      GENERAL**  
**CHAPTER 3      ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ILLICIT DRUGS**

**CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL**

**RULE**

**§23-1.1          AUTHORITY OF LODGES**  
**§23-1.3          RAFFLES**

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**§23-1.1          AUTHORITY OF LODGES**

Every chartered Lodge has authority to call before it and punish, according to Masonic usage, and in the manner and to the extent prescribed by the Grand Lodge, all Masons offending against Masonry, good morals and society, residing or sojourning within its Jurisdiction, wherever the act may be committed. (1902-138)

**Rules of Discipline Rule 1**

*Cross References: Const. Art. 1, Sec. 2; §§23-3.1, 23-3.3; 25-5.1.*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Trials in Subordinate Lodges shall be conducted according to Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline. **(Digest 1958-80)**
2. Any transgression of, or want of conformity unto, the law of God or the law of the land is a Masonic offense.
3. A violation of fidelity to solemn engagements, a neglect of prescribed duties, or a transgression of the cardinal principles of friendship, morality, and brotherly love is a Masonic crime.
4. Violation of the Landmarks and Regulations of the Institution are Masonic crimes. The Institution takes no cognizance of ecclesiastical or political offenses.
5. The whole moral Code is the law of Masonry, and special legislation must not be construed to mean that vices not mentioned are not the subject of Masonic discipline. **(1856-66) (1897-26)**
6. The following are some of the acts that constitute Masonic offenses: Absconding when charged with a violation of the law of the land, (1898-60) accounting, Secretary or Treasurer failing to give, **(1886-13)** becoming an atheist, **(1882-49)** attacking the motives of Committee on Complaints and Offenses, (1886-35) refusing to stand to and abide by the awards of the Lodge, **(1889-14) (1891-59)** refusing to abide by an arbitration, **(1889-14) (1891-59)** disclosing ballot, **(1887-76) (1902-86)** an offense committed before initiation not known to the Lodge at the time of initiation, **(1897-27)** threatening to use black ball, or informing candidate who cast a black ball, **(1898-12) (1902-86)** attempting to break up Lodge in spirit of revenge, **(1889-14)** stating that he will break up the Lodge, **(1889-14)** conducting himself or his business so as to bring censure or reproach on himself or the Fraternity, **(1870-55)** carrying concealed weapons contrary to law, **(1873-77)** conferring degrees in absence of Master and Wardens, **(1880-15)** disclosing Lodge business, **(1853-56)** drunkenness, regardless of whether or not he is wearing a Fez, **(1877-64) (1889-62) (1898-64)** electioneering for office in Subordinate Lodge or Grand Lodge, **(1875-69)** any violation of good morals with whomsoever committed, regardless of the character of the other party, or the relations which they may, or may not, sustain to Masonry, **(1882-47)** embezzling Lodge funds, **(1877-76)** speaking evil of a Mason or of Masonry, **(1856-97)** having in his possession an expose, of Masonry or a cipher ritual, **(1888-45)** false answer by candidate, **(1896-35) (1897-25)** refusing to give the G.H.S. in Lodge, **(1877-12)** disturbing the harmony of the Lodge, **(1896-37)** proposing to another to perform an immoral act, **(1877-13)** public declaration that he will not "fellowship" with another member of the Lodge; profane swearing, **(1856-97) (1864-24)** refusing to speak to a member, **(1891-59) (1898-65)** disregarding summons, **(1885-16)** ceasing to believe in

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the existence of God, **(1882-49) (1900-43)** ceasing to believe in the immortality of the soul; ceasing to believe in a resurrection to a future life, commonly called the "Resurrection of the Body"; improper conduct with a woman regardless of her Masonic relation, **(1866-44) (1872-36)** illegally making, buying, or selling intoxicating liquors as a beverage or drink, **(1899-74) (1994-71)** telling risqué (dirty) jokes in the Grand Lodge or in the Hall of a Subordinate Lodge; asserting that the word "swear" as used in degree work is blasphemy, **(Digest 1958-62)**. All forms of lottery, and games of chance in connection with Masonic enterprises or entertainments, either direct or indirect, are unmasonic and not permissible. **(1925-142)**

7. If engaging, either directly or indirectly, in any form of "lottery, and games of chance" places a Blue Lodge Mason in violation of the law, then a member of any Body predicating its membership on Blue Lodge membership, whether acting on his own behalf or on behalf of that Body, or an organization appendant thereto, is likewise in violation of Masonic law. **(1980-39)**
8. The chain letter is founded on superstition. No Mason should ever send a chain letter, reply to, or take any notice of one that he receives. **(Digest 1958-19)** A Mason should follow the instructions of the Grand Lodge by destroying every chain letter and ignoring the request therein. **(1925-142)**
9. If no Brother or group of Brethren file charges against a member who is in the penitentiary (he having not been previously tried), they must be filed by the Committee on Complaints and Offenses. This committee must make such investigation as is necessary and report to the Lodge. The duty of the committee cannot be waived, evaded or delayed. **(1975-65)**

#### **Penitentiary**

10. One who has served a term in the penitentiary or one who has forfeited his citizenship through commission of crime cannot be made a Mason, unless his citizenship has been restored. **(1957-53)**
11. A member in the penitentiary may be tried in his absence if proper notice has been given, or the proper effort made to serve him. **(1975-64)**
12. It is mandatory on the Lodge to expel a member who is in the penitentiary. **(1933-32) (1940-90)** Also see Judicial Decisions following Sec. 24, Discipline.

#### **Politics and Religion**

13. It is unmasonic to discuss in the Lodge or Grand Lodge any political question, the merits or demerits of any candidate for political office, or pending legislation, state or national.
14. It is compatible with his duty for a Mason to vote for a profane who is a candidate for public office. The Lodge cannot interfere with political rights, privileges or opinions.
15. Brethren must not forget in the heat of political excitement their Masonic obligations or speak evil of a Brother.
16. It is unmasonic to write political letters or circulars in the name of the Lodge, or in the name of Masonry.
17. It is unmasonic for a Mason to send out a political letter or circular to a Mason addressing him as "Fellow Mason", or "Brother Mason", or to send one out signed as an officer, or a past officer, of a Lodge, or to solicit votes in the name of Masonry, or because of Masonic affiliation, or in any form or manner to bring Masonry into the political arena. Any Mason so offending should be put on trial by his Lodge and properly punished. Any Lodge that refuses or knowingly fails to put the offender on trial should have its Charter arrested. **(Digest 1958-70)**
18. Our Grand Lodge has no direct law of its own expressly prohibiting either the Grand Lodge, or Subordinate Lodges, or individual Masons, as such, engaging in matters political or ecclesiastical, it being protected by the necessity therefore by higher laws which antedate our own. **(1976-62)**
19. Throughout its history, Freemasonry has taught good citizenship, and good citizenship includes our becoming a part of the political process, always in the exercise of the franchise, and oftentimes as candidates for public office. This exercise, however, Freemasonry recognizes and encourages as a duty and right to citizenship; but the Institution abhors, condemns and prohibits the engagement of either the Grand Lodge or Subordinate Lodges or of individual Masons— as Masons— in the political process. **(1976-62)**
20. There are no restrictions against members of any church. **(1976-59)**

#### **Procedures**

21. A suspended civil sentence does not absolve the Lodge from doing its Masonic duty. **(1974-99)**
22. Masons should not resort to civil suits until they have made an attempt in a brotherly way to settle the controversy. **(Digest 1958-22)**
23. It is subversive of the true principles of Freemasonry for a Subordinate Lodge to memorialize, petition, or request, any other organization, whether fraternal, religious, civil or political, to do, or to refrain from doing, anything.

- The Grand Master should arrest the Charter of any Subordinate Lodge that violates this principle. There must be no meddling by a Lodge in the affairs of any other organization or society. (Digest 1958-57)
24. The fact of a demit being pending does not deprive the Lodge from trying him. The Lodge would have authority to try him even though a demit had already been issued. **(1927- 111)**
  25. An Entered Apprentice is subject to trial for an offense committed before he was initiated, if not known to the Lodge at the time of his initiation. **(1856-83)**
  26. An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft is subject to charges and trial in the Lodge to which he has attained, but the vote must be in a Master Mason Lodge. **(1856-15) (1882-48, 50) (1897-26)**
  27. A Past Grand Officer should be tried in his Lodge for an offense just as if he had never been a Grand Lodge Officer. He may be tried for an offense committed when he was a Grand Officer, unless the offense was committed in the discharge of his official duties. **(Digest 1958-68)**
  28. A summons should be written. When a Mason fails to answer a summons, the trial may proceed. **(1861-44) (1889-14) (1902-91) (1933-31)**
  29. When one provokes another into striking him by applying the most opprobrious epithets, the Lodge erred in convicting the accused. **(1859-45)**
  30. The Lodge having passed upon the controversy and decided that the one who struck the blow had done all that it is possible for him to do to remedy his wrongful conduct; it is the other's duty to hide by that decision, for we are to submit to the awards of our Brethren in Lodge assembled. **(1899-66)**
  31. No statute of limitations or technicality of law can ever bar the legal obligations of a Mason or Lodge. (188120)
  32. The demands of justice, when the dignity and decency of the Institution of Freemasonry are involved, speak in tones more exacting and obligatory than the appeals of mercy. The appeals of mercy might be considered in the infliction of the penalty. **(1915-186)**
  33. No moral turpitude attaches to acts committed by an insane person. He is not subject to Masonic discipline. **(Digest 1958-49)**
  34. All the words used in Opening, Closing, and Initiation, except the Monitorial, are secret. Everything that transpires in a tiled Lodge should be kept secret and not be discussed with one who is not a Mason.
  35. In the presence of profanes no one should ever use any part of the secret work of Freemasonry, hint thereat, or use the secret words in any manner that is perfectly intelligible to the profane; and it should be particularly attended to in strange and mixed company never to let fall the least sign, token, or word whereby the secrets of Freemasonry might be unlawfully obtained.
  36. Keep secret and inviolable the mysteries of the institution, as these distinguish a Mason from the rest of the community. It is unwarranted, unmasonic, and reprehensible for a public speaker to try to see how far he can come to disclosing the secrets of Freemasonry without actually doing so. **(1958-74)**
  37. A Lodge cannot try a person for unmasonic conduct committed prior to his being adjudged insane. A Lodge cannot now prefer charges and try a member for anything that occurred prior to his being committed to a mental institution and certainly not for anything that occurred while he was there. **(1974-101)**
  38. Any Mason who converses on a Masonic subject with a clandestine Mason or visits a clandestine Lodge must be expelled. **(1854-65) (1854-167) (1899-43)**
  39. Failure to bring before a Lodge a communication from the Grand Master or Grand Lodge is a just cause for discipline of the Secretary. Failure of the Master to have this done is sufficient cause to have his Jewel arrested. **(Digest 1958-25)**
  40. Our laws lend no approbation to its members belonging to any organization that conceals from the public its purposes or the names of its members, or that proposes to handle violations of the law in any other manner than through the courts and the regularly constituted civil authority. On the contrary, rather, our laws condemn certain activities in which individual members of such an organization might become engaged because of or in connection with their membership in the same. **(1979-37)**

### §23-1.3 RAFFLES

Lodges and its members may, for the sole purpose of raising funds and in accordance with State and local laws regarding raffles conducted by non-profit, charitable organizations, engage in and conduct raffles to benefit Masonic purposes. **(2009-60)**

**§23-1.5 DRESS CODE**

Masons shall wear a collared shirt, full length pants, and closed-toed shoes or work uniform or related attire inside a tiled Lodge. The Worshipful Master shall wear an appropriate hat that includes a brim on all sides and is not a ball cap or beanie.

**(2022-31)**

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**CHAPTER 3 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ILLICIT DRUGS**

**RULE**

**§23-3.1**

**PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUALS**

**§23-3.3**

**PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO LODGES AND OTHER BODIES**

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**§23-3.1**

**PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUALS**

No Lodge shall initiate, pass, raise, accept or retain in membership, any candidate, nonaffiliate or member, who is engaged in illegally (by State Law) selling, manufacturing, dispensing, or furnishing whiskey or other spirituous, malt, vinous or other intoxicating alcoholic beverages, or one who hold any position, either as principal, or employee, salaried, unpaid, or otherwise, in a firm partnership, or corporation engaged in such sale, manufacture or disposition; or one who habitually buys, procures or drinks whiskey or other alcoholic beverages to excess; or one who uses, buys, sells or traffics in illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia. (1877-64) (1879-74) (1925-143) (1983-85) (1985-65) (1994-71)(1978-116) (1985-66)(2020-31)

**R&R §27**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§23-3.3, 25-9.17*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a Mason is tried by a Lodge for making or selling whiskey or trafficking in illicit drugs and proved to be guilty, it is mandatory that he be expelled. (**Digest 1958**) (1983-85)
2. He who usually gets drunk when exposed to temptation is guilty of "habitual drunkenness" and should be disciplined.
3. One whose physical or mental condition is materially impaired or whose conversation, physical action or general deportment appears abnormal as the result of an alcoholic intoxicant is drunk, and subjects himself to the penalty for drunkenness.
4. A Lodge is not bound by its fraternal ties to become a partner in anybody's disgrace, and those who through infirmity or otherwise cannot lead sober lives have no right to expect the Lodge to share in the dividends which the business of getting drunk is sure to pay.
5. Joining a body that predicates its membership on Masonic standing does not absolve one from his Blue Lodge obligation, nor does it license him to bring shame and disgrace on the Masonic fraternity. One who gets drunk while attending meetings of superimposed Bodies should be disciplined by his local Lodge or by the Lodge where the offense is committed, just the same as for any other drunkenness. (**Digest 1958**)

**§23-3.3**

**PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO LODGES AND OTHER BODIES**

The sale, attempted sale, or serving of spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors, of whatever alcoholic content, at any public place, time or occasion, by a Lodge or organization thereof, or by any Body or organization thereof whose membership is predicated upon Masonic membership is a Masonic offense and is not to be condoned. (1978-117).

**R&R §28**

*Cross Reference: Gen. Laws §23-3.1*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. In a situation where a Mason's wife has a permit to sell whiskey and the husband is employed elsewhere, therefore "not being a part of her regular employees". It is generally held that one individual ought not to be held responsible for the actions of another individual. However, there is no closer relationship possible than that existing between

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a husband and wife. It is hard to conceive of something benefitting one that would not likewise benefit the other. A common holding in law, and certainly in Masonic law, is that one may not do indirectly that which he is forbidden to do directly. No subterfuge may be employed to obviate the provisions of law. The Lodge must determine the facts. **(1981-36)**

2. It was formerly illegal in our Grand Lodge for a Mason to sell beer. However the 1978 law (Sec. 27 above) provides that illegality applies only to the sale of any beverage containing more than 3.2% of alcohol by weight, the apparent intent of Grand Lodge being that the sale of beer or other low-alcohol-content beverages as are legal under Mississippi civil law would not be a violation of Masonic Law, 1983.

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**SECTION 25 - MASONIC TRIALS**

**CHAPTER 1 LODGE TRIALS**  
**CHAPTER 3 JURISDICTION AND VENUE**  
**CHAPTER 5 CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS**  
**CHAPTER 7 PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**CHAPTER 9 TRIAL**  
**CHAPTER 11 JUDGEMENT AND SENTENCE**  
**CHAPTER 13 APPEALS**  
**CHAPTER 15 TRIAL IN GRAND LODGE**

**CHAPTER 1 – LODGE TRIALS**

**RULE**

**§25-1.1 RULES PRESCRIBED BY GRAND LODGE**  
**§25-1.3 DISPUTES MAY BE REFERRED TO LODGE**  
**§25-1.5 COMMITTEE IN EACH LODGE**  
**§25-1.7 GRAND SECRETARY TO BE NOTIFIED AND TO CIRCULARIZE  
LODGES**  
**§25-1.9 NO PUBLICITY**  
**§25-1.11 TWICE IN JEOPARDY**  
**§25-1.13 MINUTES**

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**§25-1.1 RULES PRESCRIBED BY GRAND LODGE**

In all trials, Lodges shall be governed by the rules prescribed by the Grand Lodge.  
R&R §29 (1954-84)

**§25-1.3 DISPUTES MAY BE REFERRED TO LODGE**

Masons may refer their disputes to the Lodge within whose Jurisdiction they reside; and when so referred they shall stand to the award. Refusal to abide by the decision subjects the party to Masonic discipline.  
R&R §30 (1871-107)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Brother who submits a matter to arbitration is bound to abide by the award. It is a Masonic offense to assail the motives of the arbitrators. Any members refusing to abide by the "award" of his Lodge must be disciplined. **(1891-59) (1893-47)**
2. Masons should not resort to civil suits until they have made an attempt in a brotherly way to settle the controversy. **(Digest 1958-22)**

**§25-1.5 COMMITTEE IN EACH LODGE**

There shall be appointed in each Lodge by the Master, immediately after installation, a committee to be composed of three discreet members, to be known as the Committee on

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Complaints and Offenses, whose duty it shall be to take notice of all offenses by Masons, whether members of the Lodge or sojourners, including the suspended, against Masonry, good morals, and society, which may either come under their own observation or of which they may be informed by any person or through any source, and without delay to fairly and impartially investigate the same, and if they deem that the welfare of Masonry or the protection of the weak and defenseless demands such action, to report any misconduct to Masons to the Lodge, and their report may or may not be accompanied by charges and specifications as they shall think best. They are not to bring the good name of a Mason under disrepute unless there is well-founded ground for believing that he has so misconducted himself as to require the Lodge to discipline him, and, on the other hand, they are to be zealous in protecting the good name of the Craft and in seeing that it is unstained and untarnished by the misconduct of those who are unworthy of being countenanced by Masons.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 9 (1902-138)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Neither Warden can serve on the Committee on Complaints and Offenses. **(Digest 1958-23)**
2. If the Committee on Complaints and Offenses prefers charges and the Lodge adopts the report, it is an arraignment of the accused, and motion to put him on trial is unnecessary. **(1888-45)**
3. It is not the duty of the committee to try cases or to pronounce sentence, but simply to investigate the nature of the offense, and if probable cause is found to exist, to report.
4. The committee should be slow to discharge a complaint made to it, but if of a trivial character, or one founded in malice, or too small to be noticed, they may well ignore it, but, as a general rule, it would be best to lay the matter before the Lodge, that all parties may be heard. If innocent, an investigation would place the party unjustly accused in a proper light before the work and the fraternity. **(1877-62)**
5. They are neither prosecuting nor defending; they are investigating with strict impartiality; it is quite as much their duty to establish his innocence as it is to show guilt. Their sole function is to get at the truth and report it to the Lodge. **(1894-23)**
6. The Master can compel the committee to report at any time, **(1877-81)** but he has no authority to instruct it as to how it shall perform its duty. **(1897-23)** A member who refuses to do his duty may be removed by the Master, but the Master cannot be too cautious, lest he depart from the plumb line of impartiality, which it is his duty to maintain. **(1879-53)**
7. A minority report may be signed by one member of the committee and adopted by the Lodge, the same as other majority or minority report of committees. **(1899-71)**
8. The prosecutor in a case before a Lodge is the party making the complaint and not the committee which investigates and prefers charges. **(1876-49)**
9. The report of the Complaints and Offenses Committee is not conclusive, but the accused may be tried upon proper charges, notwithstanding the committee report that a trial should not be had. It is subject to the action of the Lodge. **(1872-16) (1879-52)**
10. A member cannot resign though he may be excused by the Lodge. **(1899-70)**
11. The Secretary gives the notices for the committee. **(1897-23)**
12. Summons to appear before the committee should be issued under the seal of the Lodge. **(1899-71)**
13. The committee can vote at the trial. **(1869-42)**
14. If no Brother or group of Brethren file charges against a member who is in the penitentiary, (he having been previously tried), they must be filed by the Committee on Complaints and Offenses. This Committee must make such investigation as is necessary and report to the Lodge. The duty of the Committee cannot be waived, evaded or delayed. **(1975-65)**

**§25-1.7 GRAND SECRETARY TO BE NOTIFIED AND TO CIRCULARIZE LODGES**

Secretaries of Subordinate Lodges shall give immediate notice to the Grand Secretary of all suspensions and expulsions from their Lodges, and the Grand Secretary shall send a monthly circular to each Subordinate Lodge, and to all Masonic bodies in this Grand Jurisdiction, giving notice of all suspensions and expulsions except suspensions for non-payment of dues.

**R&R §31 (1934-71)**

*Cross References. Gen. Laws §§ 25-1.9, 25-9.17, 25-13.3, 25-13.5, 25-11.5.*

**§25-1.9 NO PUBLICITY**

In no case shall the judgment of the Lodge at a trial be made public unless the penalty inflicted is expulsion and the Grand Lodge shall so order.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 30 (1902-138)**

*Cross Reference: Cons.: Art. 1, Sec. 5.*

**§25-1.11 TWICE IN JEOPARDY**

A Mason cannot be disciplined twice for the same act, but a trial shall not be regarded as complete until the Grand Lodge has acted, or the time for an appeal has passed and a new trial is not placing him in jeopardy a second time.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 31 (1902-138)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a Brother has been once tried and cleared, or punished, the matter is forever ended. The case cannot be reopened, reconsidered, nor further action taken. **(1876-77) (1878-43) (1894-26) (1906-91)**
2. No one can be tried twice for the same offense except on appeal. **(Digest 1958-10)**
3. A Lodge has the legal right to dismiss the charges, but, if the case has not been tried on its merits the Brother can later be tried on proper charges for the same offense. **(1927-110)**

**§25-1.13 MINUTES**

The only part of a record at a trial which needs to be copied into the minutes is the action of the Lodge and the charges and specifications. Evidence and papers read need not be set forth in full, but a separate record is to be made of all Proceedings at a trial, and when there is an appeal to the Grand Lodge, the original record may be used and certified to.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 32 (1902-138)**

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## CHAPTER 3 – JURISDICTION AND VENUE

### RULE

<b>§25-3.1</b>	<b>LODGES U.D., NON-AFFILIATES, SUSPENDED AND EXPELLED MASONS</b>
<b>§25-3.3</b>	<b>MEMBERS OF ANOTHER LODGE</b>
<b>§25-3.5</b>	<b>MEMBERS OF LODGES IN ANOTHER STATE</b>
<b>§25-3.7</b>	<b>UNKNOWN LODGE</b>
<b>§25-3.9</b>	<b>DERELICT LODGE</b>
<b>§25-3.11</b>	<b>JURISDICTION OVER PRESIDING OFFICER</b>
<b>§25-3.13</b>	<b>CHANGE OF VENUE</b>

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<b>§25-3.1</b>	<b>LODGES U.D., NON-AFFILIATES, SUSPENDED AND EXPELLED MASONS</b>
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Members and initiates of Lodges under Dispensation, non-affiliates, suspended, and expelled Masons are amenable to the Lodge where the act complained of is committed.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 2 (1902-138)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. I, Sec. 2; Gen. Laws §§17-9; 19-5.3; 19-21.7*

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Non-affiliates are subject to charges and trial precisely as a member. **(Digest 1958-20, 66)**
2. A Lodge under Dispensation cannot try its members, they being subject to the Masonic discipline of the chartered Lodge nearest to their place of residence. **(1853-114) (1854-161)**
3. A suspended Mason may be tried for an additional offense, which, if sustained, would require a higher order of punishment. **(Digest 1958-76)**
4. One suspended for non-payment of dues may be tried for unmasonic conduct without being restored to membership. **(1860-77) (1880-10)**

### §25-3.3 MEMBERS OF ANOTHER LODGE

If the offender is a member of another Lodge in the State of Mississippi, it shall be the duty of the Lodge within whose Jurisdiction the act complained of is done to prefer charges against him and to send them to his Lodge, and if the Lodge of which he is a member shall not within four months proceed and try him for such offense, the Lodge where the act is done shall have Jurisdiction and proceed and try him as if he were a member of that Lodge, and its judgment shall have the same effect as if it were rendered by the Lodge of which he is a member.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 3 (1902-138).**

### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. Every chartered Lodge has full power to call before it and punish, according to Masonic usage, not only its own offending members, but all offending Masons, residing or sojourning within its Jurisdiction, provided they are not members of some other Lodge in this Jurisdiction, in that case also, should the Lodge in which one membership refuse to take action within four months. **(1878-38) (1890-47)**
2. The Lodge in whose Jurisdiction the offense is committed should first send charges and specifications to the Lodge of his membership and if it fails or refuses to take action in four months, the Lodge may proceed to try

him and report the results to the Lodge of his membership. The Lodge of his membership shall stand to the award of the trial Lodge unless the Grand Lodge shall, on appeal, order otherwise. (1870-59)

### **§25-3.5 MEMBERS OF LODGES IN ANOTHER STATE**

If a member of a Lodge in another Jurisdiction shall, while sojourning or residing in this State, commit an act which would subject a member of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction to trial and discipline, charges shall be made against him by the Lodge where he may be at the time the act was done and sent to the Lodge of his membership, through the Grand Secretary; but he shall nevertheless be tried by the Lodge within whose Jurisdiction the act was committed, the Proceedings to be conducted in every essential respect as if he were a member of that Lodge, and its judgment shall have the same effect. A certified copy of the judgment shall be sent under the seal of the Lodge trying him, through the Grand Secretary, to the Lodge of his membership.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 4 (1902-138)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a member of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction commits a Masonic offense within the Jurisdiction of one of our Lodges, it should proceed and try the case precisely as if he were a member of our Lodge, and notify the results, through our Grand Master, to the Lodge in which he holds membership. All correspondence with Lodges in another Grand Jurisdiction must be through the Grand Secretary, by authority of the Grand Master. (1878-38)
2. On receiving charges against a member, preferred by a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction, the Lodge should proceed in all respects as if the charges originated with it. (Digest 1958-43)

### **§25-3.7 UNKNOWN LODGE**

If an offender shall refuse to disclose the Lodge in which he holds membership, he shall be proceeded against and tried as if he were a non-affiliate, and the judgment shall have the same effect.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 5 (1902-138)**

### **§25-3.9 DERELICT LODGE**

If a Lodge, within whose Jurisdiction an offense shall be committed, shall neglect or refuse to proceed against an offending Mason, not a member of that Lodge, and it shall come to the knowledge of another Lodge, or a Grand Officer, he or it shall forthwith give notice thereof to the Grand Master, who may either require that. Lodge, or another Lodge, to investigate the alleged offense and proceed, as in his judgment the welfare of the Craft may require, and the judgment of the Lodge to whom the case may be referred by the Grand Master shall have the same effect as if he were a member of that Lodge.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 6 (1902-138)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Lodge that fails or refuses to punish offenders should have its Charter arrested. (1875-66) (1881-21) (1889-9)

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**§25-3.11 JURISDICTION OVER PRESIDING OFFICER**

A Lodge cannot try its Master or a Warden serving as Master, while he continues to be the presiding officer of the Lodge; if, however, a Master or a Warden serving as Master, shall commit an act of an immoral or unmasonic character, for which he shall not be tried by the Grand Lodge, he may, after he ceases to be Master or Warden serving as Master, be tried by his Lodge, but the Master of every Lodge and Warden acting as Master, is accountable to the Grand Lodge only for every act performed in his official character; he may also be tried and disciplined by the Grand Lodge for immoral and unmasonic conduct committed while in office, or it may refer the accusation to his Lodge for investigation after his term of office shall have expired.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 7 (1902-138)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A Past Master may be tried by his Lodge for an offense not connected with the duties of his office, committed by him while he was Master. **(1858-11, 21) (1891-55)**
2. The Grand Lodge reserves to itself the power to try the Masters of Lodges for offenses committed by them during their term of office. The Lodge cannot try a Master during his term for any offense. He is subject to charges nevertheless, and may be tried by the Grand Lodge during his term of office, and after its expiration, by his Lodge, the same as any other member for an offense not connected with the duties of his office, even though the offense was committed during the period in which he held the office of Master. **(1858-11, 21) (1873-15, 56) (1881-65) (1891-55)**
3. When a Master or Warden is suspended from office, it only affects him officially, and does not deprive him of membership in the Lodge. **(1875-27)**
4. A Warden is subject to charges as any other member for disturbing the harmony of the Lodge, or for any Masonic offense. **(1878-41) (1896-37)**
5. A Warden can be tried during his term of office for unmasonic conduct, but not for an official act done while acting as Master. **(1878-41) (1896-37)**
6. Also see **§25-5.9**.

**§25-3.13 CHANGE OF VENUE**

After the case has been made ready for trial, by taking all the evidence which cannot be heard in the presence of a Lodge, the venue may be changed to another Lodge.

- A. With the consent of a majority of the Lodge and the accused;
- B. If either the Lodge or the Master shall be satisfied that such prejudice exists against either the accused or the accuser, that a fair and impartial trial cannot be had in that Lodge, regardless of the wishes of the parties;
- C. If it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Grand Master that the harmony of the Lodge would be so far disturbed or marred by the trial, as to impair its future usefulness;
- D. If, when the case is heard on appeal by the Grand Lodge, and a new trial is granted, it shall appear that such prejudice against, or predilection for, either the accused or the accuser, exists in the Lodge that a fair and impartial trial cannot be had in that Lodge, or that its harmony would be so far impaired as to endanger its future usefulness.

Such change of venue shall in all cases be made to a neighboring Lodge, sufficiently remote to be beyond the influence of the cause which renders the change necessary, but as convenient as possible to the Lodge in which the charges originate.

There is no Masonic obligation on a Lodge to try a case for another, but courtesy should induce it to do so, if its own harmony will not be disturbed thereby.

Rules of Discipline Rule 17

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The case must be completed, ready for trial to begin, before a change of venue can be ordered. Depositions and documentary evidence must be in, but oral testimony of such witnesses as can be admitted into the Lodge is to be taken at the trial before the Lodge to which the case is removed. **(1876-56) (1886-34) (1894-27)**
2. The Lodge in which the offense was committed must furnish the evidence, it alone having knowledge of the circumstances. **(1897-26)**
3. Either the Master or Lodge may order a change of venue. If the Lodge votes the change, it will control all incidents of the change; if the Master orders it, he controls all incidents of the change; but in neither event has the accuser or the accused any voice. It is done irrespective of their wishes. **(1895-25) (1900-45)**
4. There is no Masonic obligation on a Lodge to try a case for another, but courtesy should induce it to do so if its own harmony will not be disturbed thereby. **(1860-77)**
5. When a change of venue is ordered by the Master, he should set the trial at a time mutually agreeable to the accused, his Lodge, and the Lodge to which the case is sent. If the Master is unable to reach such agreement with the accused and his Lodge, he should arbitrarily set it at such time as, in his judgment, would enable the accused and his Lodge to attend with their witnesses. There must be an agreement with the Lodge to which the venue is changed before the change is ordered. **(Digest 1958-82)**

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**CHAPTER 5 – CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS**

**RULE**

- §25-5.1           GENERAL**
- §25-5.3           ANYONE MAY MAKE CHARGES**
- §25-5.5           NOTICE TO ACCUSED**
- §25-5.7           IMPEACHMENT OF MASTER**

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**§25-5.1           GENERAL**

If the Committee on Complaints and Offenses shall report charges and specifications to the Lodge, it is to consider them just as it would the report of any other committee and direct the action of the committee.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 10 (1902-138)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The adoption of charges against a Brother requires a majority vote.
2. If the Committee on Complaints and Offenses prefers charges and the Lodge adopts the report, it is an arraignment of the accused, and a motion to put him on trial is unnecessary. **(1888-45)**
3. Charges and specifications may be made against a Mason who is at the time charged with a violation of the laws of the land, and may be proceeded with just as in other cases, notwithstanding the pendency of such charges in the courts. However, we should not prejudice the case of our Brethren, nor abandon them in their distress, until the Lodge is convinced that they are unworthy of Masonic association. **(1915-187) (1922-161) (1923-130) (Rule 19)**
4. Charges must be sufficiently clear and concise to give the accused full notice of the nature and character of the offense for which he is to be tried. Charges should be definite as to time and place and the nature of the offense. **(1860-68) (1873-15) (1898-64) (1899-69)**
5. Charges must be acted on only at a Stated Communication. When a number of members are charged with the same offense, there must be separate and distinct charges and specifications against each member. **(1894-22)**
6. The committee, after investigation, may ignore the charges. (1906-89)
7. A Mason may not be subjected to a Lodge trial by a simple motion. Specific charges and specifications must be adopted, and the charges must be furnished the accused in writing. (1976-57)

**§25-5.3           ANYONE MAY MAKE CHARGES**

Anyone may prefer charges and specifications to the Lodge against any Mason. The Lodge may refer same to the Committee on Complaints and Offenses for investigation and report, or it may adopt them without reference, as the facts may seem to warrant.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 11 (1902-138; 1961-139)**

**Cross Reference: Gen. Laws §17-9**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If the accuser files charges against a Brother, the accused would have the right to know who his accuser is. If a Brother merely gives information to the committee for investigation, then the accused has no right to have the committee divulge to him his name. (1932-161)
2. If no Brother or group of Brethren file charges against a member who is in the penitentiary (he having not been previously tried), they must be filed by the Committee on Complaints and Offenses. This Committee must make

such investigation as is necessary and report to the Lodge. The duty of the Committee cannot be waived, evaded or delayed. (1975-65)

### §25-5.5 NOTICE TO ACCUSED

If charges and specifications are adopted by the Lodge, a copy of the same shall be forthwith furnished to the accused by delivering a true copy of them to him by the Secretary, or if he shall not reside within the Jurisdiction of the Lodge, then by mailing a copy to him at his usual place of residence, if his post office shall be known, and if not known and if his whereabouts cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry, he shall so report to the Lodge, and if it shall so order, the Committee on Complaints and Offenses shall proceed as if he were served, to take evidence as in other cases, and the Lodge may, when the evidence is completed, set a day for trial, not to be within less than two months thereafter, and if the accused shall not appear on the day set, the Master shall appoint some competent Mason to represent him and the trial shall proceed as if personal service had been made.

The copy of the charges and specifications furnished to the accused shall be accompanied with a notice to the accused Mason to the effect following:

*You are fraternally notified that the accompanying charges and specifications against you have been adopted by Lodge, the Committee on Complaints and Offenses, consisting of Brothers \_\_\_\_\_, and will meet at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of , 20\_\_ at o'clock, to take the evidence of such persons as cannot be admitted into the Lodge to testify, and you are requested to attend and cross-examine such witnesses, and also to present any persons, who cannot be admitted into the Lodge, whose testimony you may desire to have read at your trial by the Lodge, and said hearing shall be continued from day to day until such testimony shall have been taken.*

*And you are further notified that the Lodge will proceed and try said charges and specifications at a Communication to be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ , when you may be present in person and by counsel and the evidence of witnesses, who are Masons, both for and against you, will be taken, and the hearing concluded.*

*(SEAL) Secretary*

#### Rules of Discipline Rule 12

#### DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. He may be tried in his absence if proper notice has been given or the proper effort made to serve him. (189729)
2. The Lodge must put the accused on trial as soon as practicable or dismiss the charges. (1856-49)
3. All Action must be by due course of law and by Lodge action. The Lodge may dismiss charges by a majority ballot. The ballot should be taken with white balls and black cubes. (1889-15)
4. Lodge trials are destructive of harmony and goodwill, and it is always best to avoid Lodge trials when it is possible to do so without injury to the reputation and harmony of the Institution. (1888-21) (1889-15)
5. Masonry was never intended to abet crime by its concealment after it has been committed, even by a Brother. The requirement to warn a Brother against approaching danger extends only so far as may serve to prevent his committing a wrong act. After a crime has been committed our duty only extends to seeing that the accused has a fair and impartial trial and is given an opportunity to make a full defense. We are not to dig pits for our Brethren to fall into, nor let them fall into those that others may dig to entrap them, but if they persistently do wrong, we are under no obligation to aid them in the wrong, nor to aid them in escaping from the consequences of their

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misdeeds. It is the prevention of crime, not aid to escape from it that Masonry desires for its membership. The warning should come before the wrong act is performed. **(Digest 1958-43)**

6. Action of a Lodge in suspending a member for unmasonic conduct ruled null and void because he was not notified of the charges and, therefore, had no opportunity to defend himself. **(1948-31)**

## **§25-5.7 IMPEACHMENT OF MASTER**

If five members of his Lodge, or any Grand Officer, shall impeach the Master of a Lodge, or a Warden performing the functions of Master, before the Grand Master, he shall forthwith cause an investigation to be made of his alleged misconduct, or he may make investigation in person, and if after such investigation he shall find that the welfare of his Lodge or the Craft demands the same, he may arrest the Jewel of such officer and place the Lodge under the control of the ranking Warden. But no presiding officer shall be suspended from the functions of his office without being first given an opportunity to be heard in his defense. **(1925-143)**

If, as a result of such investigation, the Grand Master shall find that the alleged misconduct is of a sufficiently grave character to Warrant the offender's being brought to trial by the Grand Lodge, he shall cause charges, and specifications to be made and served on the accused and appoint a Grand Officer, or if it is inconvenient for a Grand Officer to attend, then a Past Master, neither of whom shall be members of the Lodge over which the accused presides, as a Commissioner to take and reduce to writing the evidence of all persons who may have knowledge of the facts, and to procure and certify to all written evidence. And the accused and his accusers may appear in person, or by counsel, before said Commissioner and be heard, so far as may be necessary to bring out the facts. Said Commissioner shall not pass on the competency or relevancy of evidence, nor report any conclusions, but his sole function shall be to secure and place in order the evidence for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, and when he has done so, he shall certify to the record so made and forward it to the Grand Master.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 8 (1902-138)**

### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If the Master neglects his duty, or is unable to preserve harmony, five members may impeach him. Procedure in impeachment: They shall charge him with improper official acts, stating specifically wherein the impropriety lies, and transmit the charges to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. **(1858-11, 31) (1878-13) (1895-12)**
2. Grand Lodge cannot assume original Jurisdiction over the trial of any member of a Subordinate Lodge except the Master of the Lodge. **(1847-350) (1855-100)**
3. A Master cannot criticize the investigating committee for making a favorable report on a petitioner; cannot be tried by his Lodge while in office. He can, however, be impeached. **(1926-46)**
4. Even though the Jewel of a Master has been properly arrested by the Grand Master, such arrest does not vacate the office, but suspends the Master from performing the functions of the office. Therefore, the Lodge cannot place the Master on trial until the conclusion of the term of office for which he was elected. **(1975-64)**

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**CHAPTER 7 – PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS**

**RULE**

**§25-7.1 EVIDENCE OF PROFANES**

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**§25-7.1 EVIDENCE OF PROFANES**

On the day and at the place specified in the notice to the accused, which shall not be within two weeks from the services or mailing of the same, the Committee on Complaints and Offenses shall proceed and examine, first the witnesses in support of the charges, and second, those for the accused, who cannot be admitted into the Lodge room to give their evidence, and continue from day to day until the evidence of all persons who cannot be admitted into thy: Lodge is taken, but an adjournment may be taken by agreement with the accused, to any other time or place, and by like agreement in writing, an earlier day than that named in the notice may be agreed upon.

Rules of Discipline Rule 13 (1902-138)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A profane is one who is not allowed to enter the Temple and behold the mysteries, one not initiated. In Lodge trials, profanes are examined before the committee and their depositions taken in writing. (1879-55) (189421)
2. The accused has a right to be present at all times when evidence is being taken. (1879-5)

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**CHAPTER 9 - TRIAL**

**RULE**

<b>§25-9.1</b>	<b>DAY OF TRIAL</b>
<b>§25-9.3</b>	<b>WHO PRESIDES</b>
<b>§25-9.5</b>	<b>GRAND OFFICER</b>
<b>§25-9.7</b>	<b>PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE</b>
<b>§25-9.9</b>	<b>ACCUSER</b>
<b>§25-9.11</b>	<b>ACCUSED UNDER ARREST</b>
<b>§25-9.13</b>	<b>EVIDENCE</b>
<b>§25-9.15</b>	<b>THE TRIAL</b>
<b>§25-9.17</b>	<b>WHEN FORMAL TRIAL MAY BE DISPENSED WITH</b>

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**§25-9.1 DAY OF TRIAL**

On the day named in the notice, which shall not be less than two months after the charges are adopted by the Lodge, the trial shall proceed, unless for good cause shown, the Lodge may continue the same until another day.

Rules of Discipline Rule 14 (1902-138)

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A summons should be written. When a Mason fails to answer a summons, the trial may proceed. (1889-14)
2. The Lodge fixes the day of trial after the report of the committee is in. (1897-23)
3. The law provides for the passage of at least two months between the date of adoption of charges and date of trial. The fact that the member has signed a confession does not negate the provisions of the law. (1976-57)

**§25-9.3 WHO PRESIDES**

Ordinarily the Master should preside at every trial, but may call upon any Past Master, not objected to by the committee or accused, to preside for him, if he thinks that it is expedient to do so, but he shall in every case be responsible for the conduct of the trial, and the rulings thereat are his.

If there be disorder in any Lodge, endangering its harmony, the Grand Master may preside either in person or by his Deputy and control its proceedings according to immemorial usage. **(1902-138)**

If the Grand Master, in his discretion, deems that complicated and unusual circumstances are such that careful and extended investigation be necessary he may appoint a committee, hereinafter known as "The Trial Commission"; said commission to consist of a Past Grand Master, one Grand Lodge officer or an Honorary Past Grand Master, and a District Deputy Grand Lecturer outside the district of the Lodge whose member is being tried. Said commission will be empowered to conduct trial procedure. The Trial Commission, if so directed by the Grand Master, may change the venue under §25-3.13-C of the General Laws. Trial Proceedings and results are to be made immediately to the Grand Master after which the commission members shall be paid the usual per diem and travel for services rendered.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 22 (1989-52)**

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Harmony is the most important element in a Lodge. **(Digest 1958-49)**
2. The Grand Master has no control over a Lodge trial, unless there are disorders in the Lodge, or it refuses to do its duty, and in such event his action cannot extend to interference with the trial. **(1903-17)**
3. The Master of a Lodge is the agent of the Grand Lodge in his Masonic Jurisdiction; his decisions upon matters of Masonic law and usage are, with respect to his own Lodge, absolute. There is no appeal from them to the Lodge, but there is to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge. He cannot take the law into his own hands, nor set aside the manifest intent of his Lodge. **(1851-527) (1852-53) (1881-70) (1884-9) (1894-35) (1901-74)**
4. The Master must sign the minutes even though he should call some Brother to act as Master. **(1858-111) (1885-33)**
5. Other References: **(1853-119) (1879-53) (1885-33) (1888-15) (1893-47) (1894-23) (1898-63)**

**§25-9.5 GRAND OFFICER**

If a Grand Officer is sent by the Grand Master, or called by a Lodge, to preside at a trial or adjust any differences in a Lodge, he shall be paid two dollars a day and his actual expenses by the Lodge.

If the Grand Master shall find it necessary for him to attend in person to preside in any Lodge, he is authorized to draw on the Grand Treasurer for his expenses.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 21 (1902-138)**

**§25-9.7 PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE**

The Committee on Complaints and Offenses shall act as accusers, and if they desire it may be assisted by counsel, provided that the person who brings the charges, or the one employed by him, shall not act in that capacity. The accused may appear in person or by counsel, and in his absence and that of any person selected by him to conduct his defense, it shall be the duty of the Master to appoint some competent Mason to defend for him, and such appointment shall be made before any evidence is taken by the committee.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 15 (1902-138)**

*Cross Reference: Gen. Laws §25-9.17*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Masonic law presumes the accused to be innocent, until tried and convicted. **(1853-60) (1871-44) (1881-69) (1886-34) (1897-29)**
2. A Lodge cannot employ one to prosecute an accused member who is on trial, nor appropriate any of its funds for the purpose of paying counsel to prosecute a member. **(1874-60) (1876-13) (1925-142)**
3. A member of the committee on complaints and offenses may act as counsel for the committee. Counsel should strive to see that the Lodge is put in full possession of all the facts, but should not be possessed by the idea that it is the duty to convict the accused regardless of his guilt or innocence. **(1921-152)**
4. The prosecutor in a case before a Lodge is the party making the complaint and not the committee who investigate and prefer charges thereon, **(1876-49)** but the chairman of the committee acts as accuser, unless some member becomes so, by having brought the charges before the committee. A member who merely suggests to the committee the propriety of investigation is not to be regarded as the accuser. **(1884-39)**
5. A member in the penitentiary may be tried in his absence if proper notice has been given, or the proper effort made to serve him. **(1975-64)**

### **§25-9.9 ACCUSER**

If charges are made by an individual he shall have no more voice in the Proceedings than any other Mason, but it is the duty of every Mason to assist the Lodge in bringing the guilty to punishment and therefore a Mason, knowing a Brother to be unworthy, is bound to disclose the facts to the Lodge or committee, but unless he made the charges himself, he is not to be regarded as the accuser; if, however, one presents charges in his own name or prosecutes them in a private capacity, he becomes, by so doing, the accuser and incapacitates himself to sit in judgment and must therefore be excluded from the Lodge when the Lodge is voting upon the question of guilt and fixing the penalty.

Rules of Discipline Rule 18 (1902-138)

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The prosecutor in a case before a Lodge is the party making the complaint and not the committee who investigates and prefers charges thereon, (1876-49) (1879-58) (1896-42) but the chairman of the committee acts as accuser, unless some member becomes so by having brought the charges before the committee. A member who merely suggests to the committee the propriety of investigation is not to be regarded as the accuser. (1884-39)

### **§25-9.11 ACCUSED UNDER ARREST**

Charges and specifications may be made against a Mason who is at the time charged with a violation of the laws of the land and may be proceeded with just as in other cases, notwithstanding the pendency of such charges against him in the courts.

Rules of Discipline Rule 19 (1914-120)

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The accused cannot demit. (1853-60) (See §19-13.13)
2. When a Mason has been arrested on charges of embezzlement by Lodge, may proceed to try him before the trial in the courts. But the Lodge may wait until the matter has been disposed of by the courts, if the Lodge sees fit to do so. (1915-187) (1922-161) In some cases the best interest of the Lodge would be served by acting at once. (1923-130)
3. A copy of the evidence taken in the Lodge should not be furnished attorneys to be used in the civil court and should the lawyers, being Masons, attend the Lodge trial, they cannot mention outside of the Lodge anything that occurred in it. (1916-138)

### **§25-9.13 EVIDENCE**

The evidence of Masons should be taken upon the honor of a Mason, and that of all others upon honor.

If evidence of a profane, who is beyond the reach of the committee, is desired, either in proving or disproving the charges, or if a Mason who by reason of distance, sickness, or other infirmity, cannot attend at the trial, it may be taken by a Commission, to be composed of three Master Masons to be appointed by the Master, on written interrogatories to be propounded by either the Committee on Complaints and Offenses or the accused. The party desiring such evidence shall give to the other in writing such interrogatories as they desire answered, and cross interrogatories may be

asked if desired, but such cross interrogatories must be prepared and given to the Master within one week, or he may disregard them and forward the Commission to the Commissioners. When the witness has testified the Commissioners shall certify and send the deposition to the Master who shall file it with the Secretary, but either party may inspect it before trial.

The evidence of all witnesses shall be reduced to writing and signed by the witness; that taken by the committee by them, and that taken at the trial by the Secretary or some proper person to be designated by the Master.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 20 (1902-138)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The accused has a right to be present at all times when evidence is being taken. **(1876-51) (1877-62)**
2. Hearsay evidence is not permissible and cannot be used in a Lodge trial. **(1861-40)** Rules of evidence are the same in Masonic as in other tribunals, and evidence has the same effect. (1894-22)
3. Evidence must satisfy the Lodge of the guilt of the accused. **(1875-65)** Technicalities and quibbles should not be resorted to so as to defeat justice but the spirit of the law should be so observed as to secure a fair trial. (1876-51)
4. A demitted Mason cannot be admitted into the Lodge for the purpose of testifying in a Lodge trial after December 1 following his demission unless he pays Lodge dues. **(1931-75)**

#### **§25-9.15 THE TRIAL**

At the trial the procedure shall be as follows:

1. Reading of the charges and Specifications
2. Plea, if any, to charges and specifications.
3. Examination of witness in support of charges and specifications.
4. Reading of depositions in support of charges and specifications.
5. Examination of witnesses for the accused.
6. Reading of depositions for the accused.
7. Rebutting evidence on either side, if any.
8. Argument in support of the charges on behalf of the committee and accuser, if any.
9. Argument for the accused.
10. Withdrawal of the accused and accuser, if any, and all but members of the Lodge, from the Lodge room.
11. Comments upon the evidence by any member, who has not previously spoken, and who is not engaged as counsel for either party.
12. The Master shall then put the questions: Is the accused guilty of the first specification? All who believe that he is will cast a black ball (or cube), and all who think he is not will cast a white ball. And in like manner the Lodge shall vote upon each specification and charge, the ballot box being first presented to the Master and Wardens in succession, and afterwards placed on the altar for the members to vote.
13. After each ballot, the Master and each Warden will announce the number of white and the number of black balls.
14. If two-thirds of the balls (or cubes) are black the specification or charge voted upon shall be considered as proved; otherwise, the accused shall be acquitted.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 23 (1925-143)**

*Cross References: R. & R. Sec. 39; By-Laws Sec's. 29, 39; Disc. Rule 16*

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**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The Lodge may dismiss charges by a majority ballot. The ballot should be taken with white balls and black cubes. **(1888-21) (1889-15)**
2. The object of a Masonic trial is neither the conviction nor the acquittal of the accused, but rather the vindication of Masonry and nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of reaching this result. Offenders are punished more in sorrow than in anger; notwithstanding, the unworthy must be thrust out lest the whole body become corrupt. **(1879-53) (1894-22)**
3. The Master determines when debate shall cease. **(1876-51)**
4. A Brother on trial has the right to sit in the Lodge during his trial until the vote. The preferring of charges abates none of his Masonic privileges. His trial and conviction alone can do this. (1926-45)
5. A plea of guilty only dispenses with the necessity for proof and does not shield the person. Punishment adequate to the offense must be inflicted. **(1928-84)**
6. The vote must be by secret ballot. All secret votes are called "ballots". It requires a two-thirds majority of all the members present to convict excluding the accuser. (1874-41) (1877-27, 56)
7. The effect of a refusal to vote is that of a negative where a two-thirds vote is required. **(1896-20, 36)**
8. The ballot is secret in the sense that the vote of no member can be made known, but the count is made and announced by both Wardens and the Master. No one else has a right to count or inspect the ballot. They simply announce the number of negative votes and the number of affirmative votes. The Master immediately destroys the ballot. **(1899-75) (1900-46)**
9. The duty of voting by members on charges is imperative. It is a Masonic duty imposed on all alike, and if one evades it, others may follow, and the onus be dropped on the shoulders of faithful few. **(1871-56) (1872-65)**
10. There is no statute of limitations which can be invoked to shield one from the just consequences of misconduct; still the presumption is strong that if the offense was known to the Lodge at the time of its committal, it must be seldom that it is necessary to open the case after a lapse of years. **(1898-59, 63)**

**§25-9.17 WHEN FORMAL TRIAL MAY BE DISPENSED WITH**

A. **Plea of guilty:** If any Mason against whom charges are made shall appear either in person or by counsel, or in lieu thereof by written sworn affidavit, and plead guilty, such plea shall have the effect to dispense with the necessity of taking any evidence against him; but if he introduces any evidence in mitigation of the offense it may be rebutted, if the committee so elects; after which the Lodge shall proceed, as in other cases, to fix the penalty. **(1902-138) (1985-66, 67)**

B. **Guilty of felony:** Charges shall be preferred against any Mason who has been found guilty of a felony in either the State or Federal Courts, regardless of the plea entered therein, but upon presentation to the Lodge at a Stated Communication thereof of certified copies of court documents relevant thereto, such documentary evidence shall be held to be prima facie evidence of guilt, and the necessity of presenting other evidence, or of holding formal Lodge trial, shall be dispensed with. The accused is guilty and the Master shall so announce.

One of the following penalties is mandatory:

- (1) If the accused is in the penitentiary or under sentence thereto, he is expelled, and such expulsion is forthwith announced by the Master;
- (2) If the accused is not in the penitentiary or under sentence thereto, but is in jail or other detention center or under sentence thereto, he is suspended for a period of at least as long as the jail or detention center sentence, but in no case for less than one year, and such suspension the length thereof is forthwith announced by the Master;
- (3) If the accused be not in the penitentiary, jail or other detention center or under sentence thereto, a lesser sentence having been imposed by the court, he is suspended for a period

of not less than six months from the date of suspension, and such suspension and the length thereof is forthwith announced by the Master.

The term "penitentiary" as used herein is to be construed as being either the penitentiary itself or a county or city jail being used in lieu thereof because of lack of space in the penitentiary. The Secretary notifies the expelled or suspended member in writing and also the Grand Secretary as required by Section 25-1.11.

The documentary evidence provided for herein should be procured and/or presented by the Complaints and Offenses Committee, whose primary duty it is, or by the Master, either of the Wardens, the Secretary, or by any three members of the Lodge.

If the accused is found guilty in the courts but is free on appeal, such action as is set forth herein should not be delayed. If, on appeal, the original court finding should be reversed and the accused set free, the Lodge may or may not, as it wishes, restore him, in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-11.5. If the accused be found guilty but is placed on probation by the courts, the length of any suspension imposed by the Lodge hereunder may not be less than the term of such probation.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 16 (1985-66, 67)(2020-51)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When the charges are sustained by confession, the form of a trial may be dispensed with, but the Lodge has no power to forgive— it must inflict punishment. **(1877-65) (1894-9, 56)**
2. The word "shall" as used in the law, is intended to mean "must" and propounds a definite command or order to and obligation on the Lodge to do the thing under consideration. **(1983-38)**
3. When there is a plea of guilty, the vote shall be taken at once. **(1884-8, 55)** As in other cases, and the penalty fixed. The only difference between such a trial and one where a contest is made is that no evidence in support of the accusation is necessary. **(1883-55) (1901-72)**
4. A member of a Lodge was convicted in Federal Court and was sentenced to eight years. At a Stated Communication the Master presented documentary evidence as to this member's conviction and sentence and announced that in accordance with Rule 16 of Masonic Discipline, the member was expelled and this action was so recorded in the minutes. The question, (1) "Did the Master proceed correctly in announcing the expulsion" and (2) "May the Lodge change the action of the Master by voting to suspend or did the Lodge lose Jurisdiction once the member's expulsion was announced by the Master?" It was held that the Master acted correctly under Rule 16, since the member was convicted and sentenced. **(1991-22, 23)**

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**CHAPTER 11 – JUDGEMENT AND SENTENCE**

**RULE**

<b>§25-11.1</b>	<b>THE PENALTY</b>
<b>§25-11.3</b>	<b>NEW TRIAL</b>
<b>§25-11.5</b>	<b>RESTORATION</b>

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**§25-11.1 THE PENALTY**

If any one of the charges is sustained by the requisite vote, the Lodge shall proceed in like manner to vote upon the penalty, as follows:

1. Shall the Brother be expelled? All who think that he should be will cast a black ball or cube and those who think he ought not to be, a white ball. It requires a two-thirds vote to expel.
2. Shall the Brother be indefinitely suspended? All who think he should be will cast a black ball or cube, and those who think he ought not to be, a white ball. It requires a two-thirds vote to indefinitely suspend.
3. Shall the Brother be suspended for a definite period? All who think he should be will cast a black ball or cube, and all who think he ought not to be, a white ball. It requires a majority vote to definitely suspend.
4. Shall the Brother be reprimanded? All who think he should be will cast a black ball or cube, and all who think he ought not to be, a white ball. It requires a majority vote to reprimand. If the conclusion of the Lodge is to suspend, a vote shall be taken, on motion, to fix the period of suspension.

The Lodge having decided upon what sentence it will inflict, the accused will be admitted, and the result announced to him by the Master.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 24 (1914-120)**

*Cross References: Gen. Laws §§19-17.3(d); 19-17.3(E); 25-1.1; 25-9.17*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A member cannot, even by his own consent, be expelled by a motion. There must be charges and a compliance with the Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline. **(1857-62)**
2. A Lodge that fails or refuses to punish offenders should have its Charter arrested. **(1885-72)**
3. Neither the Grand Master nor the Grand Lodge has power to pardon offenders. Where guilt is established, some penalty must be fixed. **(1875-14) (1884-8, 9, 55) (1891-59) (1901-73)**
4. The demands of justice, when the dignity and decency of the Institution of Freemasonry is involved, speak in tones more exacting and obligatory than the appeals of mercy. The appeals of mercy might be considered in the infliction of the penalty. **(1915-186)**
5. A member of one Lodge, tried and convicted by another Lodge **(1878-38)** must have the penalty inflicted by the Lodge where he holds membership or the latter Lodge is subject to the arrest of its Charter. **(1917-145)**
6. There is no conflict between the provisions of Section 27 of the Rules and Regulations and Rule 24 of the Rules Relating to Masonic Discipline. There are at least three offenses for which, if guilty verdicts are rendered, a mandatory stance of expulsion is required. They are: the making or selling whiskey; conversing on a Masonic subject with a clandestine Mason or a clandestine Lodge; or being incarcerated in the penitentiary. But in all cases the trying Lodge must vote on the infliction of the penalty just the same as in all other cases following a guilty verdict and in which the Lodge has some discretion in the determination and assessment of the penalty. **(1977-50) (1985-65)**
7. The Lodge would satisfy itself to decide after guilt is established, that no punishment should be inflicted. **(1907-75)**

8. When there is a plea of guilty, the vote should be taken at once, **(1884-8, 55)** as in other cases, and the penalty fixed. The only difference between such a trial and one where a contest is made is that no evidence in support of the accusation is necessary. **(1883-55) (1901-72)**
9. It is mandatory on the Lodge to expel a member who is in the penitentiary. (1933-22) (1940-90)
10. When the accused is in the penitentiary he must be notified of the nature of the charge and the time and place of the trial. This notification can be sent him through the penitentiary authorities; if he does not select someone to represent him at the trial then the Master should appoint someone. (1919-55)
11. The law offers no extenuating circumstances that might justify the infliction of a lesser penalty. If the member is in the penitentiary he must be expelled. **(1975-64)**
12. The Grand Master has no power to interfere with the judgment of the Lodge. He may arrest the Charter for inadequate penalty or failure to do its duty, but he cannot direct its decisions. **(1975-16)**
13. A conviction and sentence without notice or an effort to give notice to the accused are null and void. **(1875-65) (1876-5) (1877-62) (1894-23)**
14. Suspension runs from the time when the Lodge passes sentence. **(1871-55, 58) (1872-65)** A suspended or expelled Mason is not entitled to any Masonic rights and privileges. No dues accrue against him during the period of suspension. Suspension for a definite period, unless sooner terminated by the Lodge, terminates ipso facto at the expiration of that period. The time cannot be extended by vote of the Lodge. **(1856-56)** Indefinite suspension terminates at the pleasure of the Lodge by a two-thirds majority vote. **(1854-163)** Definite suspension may be terminated at the pleasure of the Lodge by a majority vote. **(Digest 1958-76)**
15. A suspended Mason may be tried for an additional offense, which, if sustained, would require a higher order of punishment. **(1868-9, 38) (1874-42) (1930-45)** A suspended Mason, when being tried for an additional offense, may be admitted into the Lode for that purpose. His status is not affected by the additional charges; he is still a suspended Mason, and is entitled to no Masonic privileges, except such as may be necessary to enable him to make his defense. **(1896-91)**
16. Expulsion continues in force until removed by the Grand Lodge itself, but before the Grand Lodge has confirmed a sentence of expulsion, the person is regarded as suspended, and all his Masonic rights are in abeyance. But any time before confirmation of a sentence of expulsion by the Grand Lodge, the Lodge may, by a two-thirds vote, rescind its action and substitute suspension, definite or indefinite, provided there is no appeal pending. **(1883-55) (1891-59)**
17. The local secretary must notify the Grand Secretary at once of the expulsion of a member. If three months have expired, and no appeal be pending, at the next session of the Grand Lodge the member is automatically expelled, and the fact is so recorded in the Grand Lodge Proceedings. **(1849-42) (1854-113) (1870-57) (1872-36) (1900-50)**

### **§25-11.3 NEW TRIAL**

Any Mason convicted of unmasonic conduct may be granted one new trial, either by the Master who presided at the trial, or by the Lodge, if good cause exists therefore.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 25 (1902-138; 1961-139)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. When a new is granted , the accused may be tried upon the former charges, or new ones may be preferred. If new charges are preferred, a new trial must be had. **(Digest 1958-79)**
2. The Grand Master may not reverse the action of a Lodge at a trial, nor order a new trial. **(1875-16) (1881-19)**

### **§25-11.5 RESTORATION**

(a) Expulsion continues in force until removed by the Grand Lodge itself, but before the Grand Lodge has confirmed a sentence of expulsion, the person is regarded as suspended, and all of his Masonic rights are in abeyance. At any time before confirmation of a sentence of expulsion by the

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Grand Lodge, the Lodge may, by a two-thirds ballot, rescind its action and substitute suspension, definite or indefinite, except in those cases where expulsion is mandatory, provided that there be no appeal pending.

(b) Suspension takes effect upon the date of its infliction by the Lodge, and if for a definite period, terminates with the expiration of that period, without any further action by the Lodge, unless sooner terminated by it. If indefinite, it continues until the Lodge shall by the same ballot by which it was inflicted, remove it, which a Lodge may do without confirmation by the Grand Lodge.

(c) Restoration from indefinite suspension and restoration from definite suspension, if made before the end of the term thereof, shall only be made on petition in writing, signed by the petitioner, setting forth the grounds on which he petitions for restoration. The petition must be presented at a Stated Communication and referred to a committee of investigation to report at a subsequent Stated Communication. When the report of the committee is received, the ballot must be spread. He may be restored by the same majority ballot that suspended him.

(d) Restoration from expulsion shall only be made on petition in writing, of the petitioner, setting forth the grounds on which he petitions for restoration. The petition must be presented at a Stated Communication and be referred to a committee of investigation to report at the next Stated Communication. When the report of the committee is received, the ballot must be spread. If unanimous, the Lodge shall recommend to the Grand Lodge the restoration of the expelled Mason. If concurred in by the Grand Lodge, the recommendation of the Lodge takes effect as of the day of said concurrence and not otherwise.

(e) Except for penalties imposed under Section 25-9.17, the petition for reinstatement from an indefinite suspension may not be presented until one (1) year after the imposition of the sentence, and the petition for reinstatement from expulsion may not be presented until three (3) years after the Grand Lodge confirms the sentence of expulsion. If a petition for reinstatement is rejected, no other petition shall be filed until one year after the date of the prior rejection.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 29 (1925-143, 1934-64, 1985-65); (2013-62)**

***Cross References: Const. Art. I, Secs. 2, 3, 5; Gen. Laws §25-1.1***

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. An expelled Mason can only be restored to membership in his Lodge by the Grand Lodge on the unanimous recommendation of the Lodge that expelled him. He must petition in writing, setting forth the reasons for making such a request. The petition must be presented at a Stated Communication and be referred to a Committee of Investigation to report at the next Stated Communication. The vote must be taken by secret ballot and must be unanimous before the Lodge can ask the Grand Lodge to restore one who has been expelled. **(1898-65) (1902-130)**
2. The Grand Lodge possesses power to reverse or abrogate the decision of a Lodge expelling or suspending a Mason, but it cannot restore an expelled or suspended Mason to membership in the Lodge that expelled or suspended him, no matter how far the Proceedings may be tainted with illegality, unfairness, or Masonic impropriety. **(1875-92) (1884-56)** So far as his Lodge membership is concerned, he is entirely without a remedy and must submit to the verdict of his Lodge. On reversal the Grand Secretary gives him a certificate which operates as a demit. **(Digest 1958-72)** When the Grand Lodge sets aside a sentence of expulsion, the expelled Mason does not thereby become a member of the Lodge from which he was expelled. His status is that of a non-affiliate. If he pays his dues to the Lodge under whose Jurisdiction he resides, he has the right of visitation. **(1902-130)**

3. Expulsion continues in force until removed by the Grand Lodge itself, but before the Grand Lodge has confirmed a sentence of expulsion, the person is regarded as suspended, and all his Masonic rights are in abeyance. **(1883-55) (1891-59)**
4. Suspension begins to run from the time when the Lodge passes sentence. Suspension for a definite period terminates ipso facto at the expiration of that period. Indefinite suspension terminates at the pleasure of the Lodge by a two-thirds majority vote. **(1854-169) (1856-56) (1871-55) (1872-65)**
5. One suspended for unmasonic conduct by a Lodge that afterwards becomes defunct from any cause, may be restored by the Lodge that succeeds to the Jurisdiction of the defunct Lodge. (Digest 1958-74)

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**CHAPTER 13 - APPEALS**

**RULE**

- §25-13.1            APPEAL**
- §25-13.3            RECORD**
- §25-13.5            NO APPEAL, NO RECORD**

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**§25-13.1            APPEAL**

The accused, or the Mason who preferred the charges, or any member of the Lodge, who may deem himself or the cause of Masonry injured by the decision of the Lodge at any trial may within three months of such decision, take an appeal to the Grand Lodge in which notice he shall set forth his objections to the action of the Lodge.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 26 (1902-138)**

*Cross References: Const. Art. I, Secs. 2, 3, 5; See Gen Laws §25-15.3*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The accuser, the accused, or any member of the Lodge may, within three calendar months, appeal from the decision of the Lodge to Grand Lodge, **(1879-55) (1697-23.3)** he appeal must be in writing and must set forth the action of the Lodge that the appellate considers to be in error. **(1903-49)** A copy of the record containing all matters pertaining to the trial of a Mason must be sent up with the appeal. **(1854-113) (1849-42) (1874-38)** An appeal must be sustained if the findings of the trial Lodge were contrary to the evidence. When the evidence clearly shows guilt, the action of the Lodge in acquitting the accused should be reversed by the Grand Lodge a new trial ordered. **(1860-68)**
2. The Grand Lodge cannot direct a verdict. When one expelled has lost his right to appeal, the Grand Lodge, on his memorial, may grant a new trial in another Lodge. **(1857-74) (1871-50)**
3. There can be no rehearing after the sentence has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge on appeal. A petition for restoration is the only course open. **(1897-28)**
4. The Grand Master cannot set aside the Proceedings of a Lodge in suspending or expelling a Brother, however erroneous the Proceedings may be. The Grand Lodge alone can disturb the action of a Lodge in the trial of a Brother, and then only when the case comes before it on appeal. **(1884-56)**
5. The removal from the Jurisdiction of one whose appeal is pending in the Grand Lodge does not affect the right of the Lodge to re-try him on reversal. **(Digest 1958-72)**
6. The name of a member expelled or suspended should not be dropped from the annual returns while an appeal to Grand Lodge is pending. The sentence does not take effect until the Grand Lodge acts on the appeal. **(1917-142)**

**§25-13.3            RECORD**

When the Master of a Lodge shall receive notice of an appeal being taken from its decision at a trial, he shall instruct the Secretary to forthwith make a full and perfect record of all the Proceedings, and he shall sign the same and have it forwarded, without delay, to the Grand Secretary. And it shall be the duty of such Master to inspect such record and to see that nothing is omitted there from which was before the Lodge at the trial, including the notice of appeal, and that the Secretary duly certifies to the same under the seal of the Lodge. Any Master refusing or neglecting to perform this duty shall be held guilty of contumacy toward the Grand Lodge.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 27 (1902-138)**

*Cross References: Const. Art I, Secs. 2, 3, 5*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. A copy of the record contain all matters pertaining to the trial of a Mason must be sent up with the appeal, **(1847-352)** and it will be dismissed if there is none, **(1858-108)** there must not be an omission of a material fact, and it should contain all that is necessary to prove that the Lodge properly took charge of the accusation and conducted the trial, also that the accused had the benefit of the safeguards which the rules afford for the protection of the innocent. It should show the number present and that the requisite number voted to convict and assess the punishment; it is not sufficient that it should say that he was declared expelled, for a Brother cannot be declared expelled on motion, or without concurrence of three-fourths (now two-thirds) of the votes cast, (1853-105) the accused is the sole judge as to what papers are necessary as a part of his defense. **(1895-26)**
2. When charges are preferred against the Secretary of the Lodge, it is improper for him to keep a record of his own trial. The Master should appoint one to act as Secretary for the trial. **(1890-8)**
3. It appearing, outside of the record, that the trial was forced upon the accused before he was ready, the finding was reversed and trial transferred to another Lodge. **(1867-64)**

**§25-13.5 NO APPEAL, NO RECORD**

Whenever a Mason shall be expelled and no appeal taken to the Grand Lodge, the Master shall cause the Secretary to certify to the Grand Secretary the sentence, under seal of the Lodge, but no other portion of the record shall be sent up to the Grand Lodge, which shall confirm such expulsion on such certificate, if the time for appeal has expired. Expulsion must be confirmed by the Grand Lodge before it is effective, but before the Grand Lodge has confirmed a sentence of expulsion the Mason is regarded as suspended.

**Rules of Discipline Rule 28 (1925-143)**

*Cross References. Const. Art. I, Secs. 2, 3, 5; Gen Laws §25-15.1*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. The local Secretary must notify the Grand Secretary at once of the expulsion of a member. If three months have expired and no appeal be pending, at the next session of the Grand Lodge the member is automatically expelled and the fact is so recorded in the Grand Lodge Proceedings. **(1849-42) (1854-113) (1870-57) (187236) (1900-50)**

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**CHAPTER 15 – TRIAL IN GRAND LODGE**

**RULE**

<b>§25-15.1</b>	<b>HEARING BY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>§25-15.3</b>	<b>COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE RECORD</b>
<b>§25-15.5</b>	<b>IMPEACHMENT OF GRAND OFFICERS</b>
<b>§25-15.7</b>	<b>NO JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT</b>
<b>§25-15.9</b>	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY</b>
<b>§25-15.11</b>	<b>DUTY OF COMMITTEE</b>

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**§25-15.1 HEARING BY COMMITTEE**

The Grand Master shall cause the Committee of Appeals of the Grand Lodge to assemble at the place appointed for the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge and one day prior thereto, and direct it to open and examine with care the charges and specifications and evidence in every impeachment of the presiding officer of a Lodge and to prepare for submission to the Grand Lodge its conclusions, which report shall include a clear synopsis of the evidence, or if it thinks necessary to do so, for the better information of the Grand Lodge, the evidence in full, and it shall hear arguments of the accused or his accusers, if present and desiring to be heard, or if it shall deem that the interests of justice and the welfare of the Craft demand, it may refer the parties for hearing to the Grand Lodge, and on the coming in of such report the Grand Lodge shall proceed and consider the same and render such decision as justice and the welfare of the Craft may demand.

**Grand Lodge Trial Rule 1 (1902-138)**

*Cross References: Gen Laws §§25-1.5; 25-13.1*

**DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. Grand Lodge reserves to itself the power to try the Masters of Lodges for offenses committed by them during their term of office. The Lodge cannot try a Master during his term of office for any offense. He is subject to charges nevertheless and may be tried by the Grand Lodge during his term of office, and after its expiration, by his Lodge, the same as any other member, for an offense not connected with the duties of his office, even though the offense was committed during the period in which he held the office of Master. **(1858-11, 21) (1873-15, 56) (1881-65) (1891-55)**
2. If the Master neglects his duty, or is unable to preserve harmony, five members may impeach him. **(1858-11, 81) (1878-13)** Procedure in impeachment: They shall charge him with improper official acts, stating specifically wherein the impropriety lies, and transmit the charges to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. **(Digest 1958-79)**

**§25-15.3 COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE RECORD**

The Committee on Appeals of the Grand Lodge shall at its meeting prior to the meeting of the Grand Lodge, proceed and examine the record in every case appealed to the Grand Lodge from the decision of a Lodge suspending or expelling a Mason and if present and desiring to be heard, they shall hear the accused and accusers, and prepare a report with its conclusions, embracing a clear statement of evidence, so far as may be necessary for the full understanding of the Grand Lodge. And if all appeals to the Grand Lodge cannot be heard within one day, the Grand Master

may direct an earlier meeting of the Committee to be held for that purpose, at which he shall direct the attendance of the accused and his accusers, if they choose to be present.

**Grand Lodge Trial Rule 2 (1902-138)**

*Cross References: Gen Laws §§25-13.1; 25-13.3; 25-13.5*

### **§25-15.5 IMPEACHMENT OF GRAND OFFICERS**

Whenever a Grand Officer shall be impeached, like Proceedings shall be had as in case of the presiding officer of a Lodge, except that the record shall be submitted direct to the Grand Lodge, without the intervention of the Committee on Appeals, and the hearing shall be in Grand Lodge, before whom the accused and his accusers may appear in person or by counsel.

**Grand Lodge Trial Rule 3 (1902-138)**

#### **DIGEST AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

1. If charges are made against an elected and installed officer of the Grand Lodge in his Lodge, the trial must be deferred until his official relation ceases, or the Grand Lodge is summoned. **(1870-58)**
2. The Grand Lodge alone has the power to try its own officers. **(Digest 1958-80)**

### **§25-15.7 NO JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT**

In no case shall there be judgment by default on any trial on the hearing of an appeal in Grand Lodge, but the same shall be tried on the evidence, or record, as the case may be, whether the accused is present or absent.

**Grand Lodge Trial Rule 4 (1902-138)**

### **§25-15.9 CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY**

Reference of charges and specifications against the presiding officers of Lodges impeached, and of appeals from the decision of the Lodge, suspending or expelling Masons, to a committee, is not an evasion of the Constitutional duty of the Grand Lodge to hear appeals, redress grievances, and remove complaints from Lodges, but merely to facilitate their hearing by the Grand Lodge, the decision always being with it.

**Grand Lodge Trial Rule 5 (1902-38)**

*Cross References Gen Laws §§25-5.9; 25-13.1*

### **§25-15.11 DUTY OF COMMITTEE**

Whenever it may be necessary for it to do so, the Committee on Appeals shall perform for the Grand Lodge duties analogous to those of the Committee on Complaints and Offenses in Lodges.

**Grand Lodge Trial Rule 6 (1902-138)**

*Cross Reference: Gen Laws §25-1.5*

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**APPENDIX A – PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

Some of the pronunciations we use are archaic and do not agree with some current dictionaries. However, they have been in our usage for many years and are considered as “adopted” pronunciations.

**Pronunciation Key**

CAPITAL LETTERS indicate accented syllables

a-short a as in the word bat

i-short I as in the word ill or is

e-short as in the word ethic

€ barely audible short e

u-short u as in the word but

Abif	uh BIF
Acacia	uh KAY sha
Accessory	ak SES uh ree
Accidentally	AK si DENT€ lee
Alludes	uh LOODS
Amiable	AYE mee uh bul
Ammonitish	AM on ite ish
Ancient	AYN chen
Anteroom	An tee room
Architect	AHR ki tekt
Archives	AHR kives
Artificer	ahr TIF i ser
August	aw GUST

Bade	bad
Barbarous	BAR buhr us
Beneficent	bi NEF I sent
Blessed	BLESS ed
Brethren	BRETH ren

Celestial	si LES chul
Cement	si MENT
Chapiter	CHAP I ter
Clandestine	Klan DES tin
Column	Kol um

Compasses	KOM pus iz
Conflagration	kon fla GRAY shuns
Conflict	kon FLIKT
Contemplative	con TEM ple tiv
Cowardice	COW er dis

Daubing	DAW bing
Discordant	dis COR dent
Discretion	dis KRESH un
Dispatch	dis PATCH
Display	dis PLAY
Divested	di VEST id
Doric	DAR ik

Ephraimites	EE free im ites
Equivocation	uh kwi vuh KAY shun
Ere air	
Erect	I REKT
Err ur	
Evasion	I VAY shun
Excess	Ek CESS
Exemplary	eggs em PLAR ee
Expert (adj.)	ek SPERT
Expert (noun)	EK spert

Forehead	FOR ed
Fruition	froo ISH un

Gilead	GIL i AD
Guttural	GUT er al

Hecatomb	HEK uh TOOM
Hele	hail
Hieroglyphically	HIGH (e) ro GLIF ik lee

Homage	HAHM ij
Humble	Hum bel
Hypocrisy	hi PAH kri see

Illicit	I LIS it
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Illustrate	ILL us trate	Pilaster	Pih LASS ter
Imminent	IM i nent	Pomegranate	PAHM gran it
Immortality	IM or TAL i tee	Preceding	pree SEED ing
Imperceptibly	IM per SEP ti blee	Preferment	pri FER ment
Imprecations	IM pri KAY shuns	Proceed	pro SEED
Incense (noun)	IN since	Prudentially	proo DEN chi lee
Incense (verb)	in SINCE	Poor	PUR (rhymes w/ lure)
Incensed (verb)	in SINCED	Pythagoras	pi THAG uh rus
Inculcate	In CULL kate		
Indissoluble	in DIS a li bul	Recapitulate	ree kuh PITCH yoo late
Inestimable	in ES ti mi bul	Recesses	Ri SES iz (short i as in it)
Interment	in TER ment	Reformation	ref or MAY shun
Intrinsic	in TRIN sik	Reptile	REP til
Introduce	IN tro duce		
Inundations	in un DAY shuns	Sanctum	SANK tum
Inviolably	in VIGH uh la blee	Sanctorum	sank TORE um
Ionic	eye OWN ik	Speculative	spec yoo LATE iv
Irregular	ear REG yoo ler	Stupendous	stoo PEN dus
		Superfluous	soo PER flus
Jephtha	JEF thuh	Superfluities	soo per FLOO i teez
		Succoth	SUCK uth
Lamentable	LAM ent i bul	Supplant	Suh PLANT
Lebanon	LEB a nun	Survey	ser vay
Licentious	ligh SEN shus	Sword	sord
		Symmetry	Sim i tree
Manuel	MAN yoo wel		
Mathematics	math (e) MAT iks	Tempestuous	tem PES choo us
		Temporal	TEM per ul
Naked	NAY kid	Tenets	TEN ets
Naphthali	NAF ti ligh	Terrestrial	ti RES tri el
		Tyre	Tire
Obdurate	OB du rit		
Of AHV (not UV)		Virtue	VER choo
Often	OFF en		
Operative	op er ATE iv	Yesterday	YES ter dee
Our	HOUR (not ARE)	Your	Yur (Not Yore)
Palliate	PAL i ate	Zarthan	Zar THAN
Pedal	PEE dal	Zealous	ZEL us
Persevering	per si VEER ing		
Persist	per ZIST		

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## APPENDIX B – WORD AND PHRASE STYLES

### 1. USE

Freemasonry – not Free Masonry

Freemason – not Free Mason

Tiler – not Tyler

Fellow Craft – not Fellowcraft

*When designating a Lodge number, use “No.” instead of “#”*

### 2. CAPITALIZE

All versions of the word Mason - *i.e. Mason, Masonic, Masonic Law, Masonry, etc.*

All Masonic organizations – *i.e. Lodges, Lodges, etc.*

All specified types of Communications (meetings) – *i.e. Stated, Called, Special, Annual, etc.*

All forms of law – *i.e. By-Laws, Charge, Charges, Landmarks, Constitution, Edict, Resolution, General Laws, Rules, etc.*

All forms of authority or official correspondence – *i.e. Charter, Dispensation, Warrant, Returns, etc.*

All Degrees – *Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Past Master, Degree, Degrees, etc.*

All Officer Salutations – *i.e. Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful, Junior, Senior, etc.*

All Officer Titles – *i.e. Marshal, Master, Senior Deacon, Junior Grand Warden, Deputy, etc.*

All Forms of Address – *Brother, Brethren, etc.*

All denominations of Masonry – *Operative, Speculative, Symbolic, Craft, etc.*

#### **Other Capitalizations:**

Ancient - *in reference to Charges, Landmarks, Regulations, Usage, etc.*

Congressional School - *in reference to Schools conducted by the Grand Lecturer and Board of Custodians of the Work*

Craft

Grand – *in reference to Master, Officers, Lodge, Honors, Communication, etc.*

Jewels – *in reference to Jewels of the Lodge or Office*

Jurisdiction – *in reference to Grand or Lodge Jurisdiction*

School of Instruction – *in reference to Schools conducted by the Grand Lecturer and Board of Custodians of the Work*

Third Degree – *in reference to Master Mason Degree*

Three Degrees – *in reference to the Three Degrees in Masonry*