

## **EDICTS (2018-2019)**

### **Edict 1 – Receiving Petitions**

To the Chapter MEHP, Secretaries and Members, it has come to the attention of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, there have been some irregularities in the reception of petitions for new candidates seeking admission into the Royal Arch Chapter of Maryland. The irregularities have included accepting petitions and then proceeding to confer the Mark Master on a candidate before verifying that he is eligible to receive the degree; also, in accepting and conferring the degrees upon a resident of an adjoining State without prior approval of the Grand Chapter in which he resides.

The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, A. F. & A.M., requires any newly raised Master Mason to show his proficiency in the Catechism of the Master Mason Degree before he can join any of the collateral bodies in Maryland.

In addition, a Master Mason living in another State must be granted a “Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction” by the state in which he resides before he can be accepted into a Royal Arch Chapter in Maryland. If he is a member of good standing in a Blue Lodge in Maryland, whether or not he resides in Maryland, the proficiency requirement still holds.

I, by the authority in me vested as Most Excellent Grand High Priest, do issue the following order:

- a. The Secretary of all Royal Arch Chapters accepting a petition for the Royal Arch Degrees will provide the Grand Secretary with the name of the petitioner as well as his Blue Lodge Number in order to verify he is a Master Mason in Good Standing.
- b. For any petitioning Master Mason who resides outside the state, the Chapter must seek a Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction from his home state. As soon as a Secretary receives a petition from an out-of-state Brother, he needs to forward the contact information immediately (within 48 hours) to the Grand Secretary who will apply the same haste to securing a Waiver.
- c. A Chapter receiving a petition for the degrees less than seven (7) days prior to a scheduled conferral of the Mark Master degree may seek approval via an email to the Grand Chapter Secretary. All pertinent information should be included to include the petitioner’s name and his member identification number on his Blue Lodge Dues Card

## **EDICT 2 – Voting on Petitions; also Conferral of Degrees**

The Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland stipulates (Subordinate Chapters, Article XII, Section 2) “Five (5) members of a Chapter are necessary to transact any business other than the opening and closing of, and the conferring of degrees in a Mark Master’s, Past Master’s, or Most Excellent Master’s Lodge. Nine Royal Arch Masons are still necessary for the opening, closing, and conferral of the Royal Arch Degree.

Chapters can open in the Past Master Degree and conduct any necessary business, such as the reading of minutes, paying any necessary bills, and accepting petitions, provided there are at least 5 members of the Chapter present, (Article XII, Section 2)

I by the power in me vested as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland do order the following:

Balloting on a petition:

- a. To ballot on a Master Mason to receive thee degrees of the Royal Arch, there must be at least five (5) members of the Chapter present.
- b. To elect Officers of the Chapter there must be at least five (5) members present.

Conferral of Degrees:

- a. For the Royal Arch Degree, there must be nine (9) Chapter members present.
- b. For the Most Excellent Master Degree at least (5) Chapter members present.
- c. For the Past Master Degree at least (3) Chapter members present.
- d. For the Mark Master Degree at least (7) Chapter members present.

## **Edict 3 - Change of Location**

Per the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, (Article XII, Subordinate Chapters, Section 21, no Chapter shall change its place of convocation from one village town or county to another, without having obtained permission from the Grand Chapter or in case of emergency or urgent necessity during the recess of the Grand Chapter, the existence of such emergency or urgent necessity to be a matter resting to the sole discretion of the Grand High Priest, making it needful or advisable for any Chapter to change its place of convocation, the Grand High Priest may approve such change by an official edict, which shall be considered as an amendment to the Charter of such Chapter, so far as its permanent place of Convocation is concerned. The Grand High Priest shall report such edict to the Grand Chapter at its next Annual Convocation.

## **DISPENSATIONS (2018-2019)**

As been the custom, The Grand Secretary will continue to have the authority to grant certain dispensations on behalf of the Grand High Priest.

### **Short form/amble Opening and Closing**

As been the custom, I continue to grant permission for all PGHP and the current Grand Dias Officers to Open and/or Close a Chapter in short/amble form.

### **Attitude of Prayer**

I by the authority in me vested as Most Excellent Grand High Priest, do continue the custom of placing the right hand over the heart during all opening and closing prayers, and during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fraternally,  
William C. Eppig,  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest