

CONSTITUTION,  
STANDING REGULATIONS &  
STANDING RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE GRAND COUNCIL  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS  
OF MARYLAND

As Amended October 22, 2020

**Constitution, Standing Regulations & Standing Resolutions  
Of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland**

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## **Constitution of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland**

### **Article I – Name**

This Body shall be known as the  
GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF MARYLAND.

### **Article II – Members**

Section 1: Its Members are and shall be:

- a. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Recorder, and Grand Treasurer. (Amended May 2012.)
- b. The Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, Past Grand Recorders and Past Grand Treasurers, while they continue members of a Council under this jurisdiction. (Art. II, Sect 1-2-2001).
- c. Past Masters of Subordinate Councils, and such Past Masters from other Jurisdictions who have affiliated with a Council of this Jurisdiction, and elected to membership in this Grand Council.
- d. All Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work of Subordinate Councils under this Grand Council.

Section 2: No Companion can be an Officer of Member of this Grand Council unless he be at the same time a Member of a Council under jurisdiction of this Grand Council.

### **Article III – Jurisdiction & Powers**

Section 1: This Grand Council has:

- a. The supreme legislative, judicial, executive power, and jurisdiction of the several subordinate Councils comprising this Grand Council.
- b. The exclusive power and authority to constitute and grant Charters to new Councils, grant and revoke Warrants, Dispensations and Charters of Councils under its jurisdiction.
- c. To adopt such Statutes, Laws, Regulations, Edicts and Resolutions necessary for the good of the Order.
- d. To require the several subordinate Councils to pay such portion as may be proper of the sum received by them for Petition or Affiliation, and in addition such sum annually from each member of the Councils as may be deemed necessary for the support of the Grand Council.

### **Article IV – Assemblies**

Section 1: The Grand Council shall meet annually on the fourth Friday or succeeding Saturday in October at such place as may be determined by the Grand Council, at such hour as the Grand Master may direct, or on such date as may be determined by the Grand Council. A Semi-Annual Assembly shall be held in May by call of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Section 2: Special meetings of the Grand Council may be called by the Grand Master, or in his absence or incapacity, by the Deputy Grand Master, whenever deemed necessary. (Art. II, Sect. 12-2001).

Section 3: A Quorum of the Grand Council consists of nine members entitled to vote, including an officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more Councils are represented.

Section 4: Each member of the Grand Council present, or by proxy, shall be entitled to one vote. In case of a tie vote the Grand Master may cast the tie-breaking vote. Unless otherwise provided all questions shall be decided by a majority vote.

Section 5: During the Grand Assembly an appeal lies to the Grand Council from a decision of the Grand Master save on Point of Order. At all other times the decisions of the Grand Masters shall have full force and effect. Such decisions involving the constitution and Statues of the Grand Council on appeals lies to the Grand Council.

Section 6: The members named in Article II, Section 1, c and d, may be represented by proxy belonging to the same bodies. A proxy does not by virtue of such appointment become a member of the Grand Council. He shall, before acting, produce acceptable evidence of his appointment in writing.

#### **Article V – Voting & Representation**

Section 1: Voting other than election of Grand Officers, shall be by ancient custom, except if requested by a member, the Grand Master shall call for a standing vote. In the election of Grand Officers, voting shall be in accordance with Article VII.

Section 2: Each member of the Grand Council has one vote and no more, but if any officer of a Council is not present his vote may be cast by proxy. Unless otherwise provided all questions submitted shall be by a majority of the votes cast.

Section 3: No member of a Council shall be entitled to vote unless the Council dues have been paid to the Grand Council on or before October 1.

Section 4: No new Council shall be entitled to vote until its officers shall have been installed and the Council shall have been regularly constituted.

#### **Article VI – Officers**

Section 1: The officers of this Grand Council shall be:

- Grand Master
- Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
- Grand Recorder
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Captain of the Guard
- Grand Conductor of the Council

Grand Marshal  
Grand Steward  
Grand Sentinel  
Grand Lecturer  
Grand Chaplain  
Grand Organist

The first five of whom shall be elected, and the remaining shall be appointed Officers. (Amended May 2012.)

Section 2: Titles:

- a. The honorary title of the Grand Master is “Most Illustrious,” the official title is “Grand Master.”
- b. The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Recorder, and Grand Treasurer is “Right Illustrious.” (Amended May 2012.)
- c. The honorary title of other Grand Officers is “Illustrious.”
- d. The honorary title of Masters of Subordinate Councils is “Thrice Illustrious,” and the official title is “Master.”
- e. The honorary title shall be used in addressing or referring to an officer, and when so used shall precede the official title, e.g., “Most Illustrious Grand Master,” “Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master,” “Illustrious Grand Lecturer,” “Thrice Illustrious Master.”

**Article VII – Election of Officers**

Section 1: At the Semi-Annual Assembly of the Grand Council there shall be elected by ballot the following named Grand Officers (Amended May 2012):

Grand Master  
Deputy Grand Master  
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work  
Grand Recorder  
Grand Treasurer

Section 2: No Companion shall be eligible for an elective or appointive office in this Grand Council, except the Grand Chaplain and Grand Organist, unless he shall be a member thereof, and that he be a Thrice Illustrious Master or Past Thrice Illustrious Master.

Section 3: In the conduct of the election of officers ballots shall be distributed by the Credentials Committee at the time of registration of representatives and others entitled to vote. Registration shall be conducted outside the Grand Council Room.

Section 4: Immediately prior to the election, which shall be held one hour after convening on the day of the Semi-Annual Assembly, unless otherwise specified in the annual notice, the Credentials Committee shall report to the Grand Council the exact number of ballots issued.

Section 5: Any companion leaving the Grand Council Room during the course of the

election, except members of the Election Committee, shall deposit the remaining portion of his ballot with the Grand Steward, who will re-issue the ballot should the companion surrendering the ballot return during the course of the election.

Section 6: The Election Committee shall be appointed by the Grand Master, and shall consist of a Most Illustrious Past Grand Master as chairman, and six other members. Announcements of the appointment of the Committee shall be made immediately following the opening of the Grand Council.

### **Article VIII – Appointment of Officers**

Section 1: After the elected officers have been installed the Grand Master shall appoint the following Grand Officers:

- Grand Captain of the Guard (Amended May 2012)
- Grand Conductor of the Council
- Grand Marshal
- Grand Steward
- Grand Sentinel
- Grand Lecturer
- Grand Chaplain
- Grand Organist
- Grand Inspector for each Council
- Grand Representatives to other Grand Jurisdictions

Section 2: Appointments to office, except Grand Inspectors and Grand Representatives, shall be distributed between Councils so far as practicable, and such appointments shall be rotated among the various Councils.

### **Article IX – Installation of Officers**

Section 1: The Officers of the Grand Council may be installed by the Grand Master, or a Past Grand Master.

Section 2: The Grand Officers shall be installed at the Annual Assembly, and no Grand Officer may act as such until he shall have been installed, except for the advancement of Grand Officers as provided in Article X, Section 2 and 3.

Section 3: Any Grand Officer who cannot be present at the regular installation may be installed by taking the Oath of Office before a Grand Officer or Past Grand Master designated by the Grand Master. Such obligating shall be certified to the Grand Recorder.

### **Article X – Duties of Grand Officers**

Section 1: The Grand Master shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Supervision over all Councils under his jurisdiction, and to see that the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Council are properly observed.

- b. To appoint all committees and officers not made elective and to fill vacancies. Such appointments to serve at his pleasure or until their successors have been elected or appointed and installed.
- c. To visit and preside in any Council within his jurisdiction and to give instruction and direction as may be required.
- d. To grant the forming of new Councils. No dispensation shall be granted unless the petition meets the criteria established by the Grand Council.
- e. During the recess of the Grand Council may exercise the prerogatives and powers of his office.

Section 2: The Deputy Grand Master, in the event of the absence of the Grand Master, or in his inability to perform the duties of his office, shall act as the Grand Master. At all other times he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Master or Grand Council.

Section 3: In the case of temporary absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall perform the duties of the Grand Master.

Section 4: Duties of the Grand Recorder:

- a. To record the proceedings of the Grand Council and cause the same to be printed after close of each stated assembly.
- b. To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Council. Receive, file and safeguard all papers and documents of the Grand Council.
- c. To have charge of the Seal of the Grand Council, which shall be affixed to all papers requiring it, to safeguard the Seal from unlawful use.
- d. To give notice of all assemblies, send out all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Statues, give due and timely notice of Special Assemblies, which notice shall contain a statement of the business to be transacted.
- e. To issue summons when required to do so by the Grand Council.
- f. To receive all moneys and deposit the same in a checking account for the operation of the Grand Council, furnishing the Grand Treasurer a copy of the deposit slip, and issuing checks to the Grand Treasurer for the budget accounts established as "funds: by the Finance Committee and approved at the Grand Council Annual Assembly.

Section 5: Duties of the Grand Treasurer:

- a. To take charge of all funds and securities of the Grand Council, except those required for operation of the Grand Council and the Permanent Fund, and unless otherwise directed by the Grand Council, to invest with the approval of the Grand Master and Finance Committee, any and all funds not required for current expenses, all investments before being made must have the approval of the Grand Council.
- b. To deposit all moneys received in the name of the Grand Council in a Bank or Trust Company approved by the Grand Council, such moneys to be withdrawn only on orders signed by the Grand Master, Grand Recorder, and Grand Treasurer.
- c. To rent a box in a Bank or Trust Company approved by the Grand Council with access to the box only by any two; Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Recorder, and Grand Treasurer.
- d. To make available all books and accounts for inspection and audit to the Finance Committee at the close of the Fiscal Year, and to submit a detailed statement of all receipts and disbursements at the annual Assembly.



Section 6: Duties of the Grand Lecturer:

- a. Overall supervision of the Ritualistic Work in Subordinate Councils, conduct schools of instruction for officers of the Grand Council and Subordinate Councils, conduct examination of officers in the ritual to insure competency in conferring the Cryptic Degrees, and issue Certificates of Proficiency to the respective Council Recorder prior to installation of officers.
- b. The Grand Master for good cause may waive the requirement of competency to confer the traditional work of the Cryptic Degrees.
- c. To visit all Subordinate Councils to observe, and where necessary, assist in instructing and exemplifying the Cryptic Degrees, and to report at the annual Assembly the condition of the several Councils in their proficiency in the work.
- d. To insure provision is made for the conferral of the Super Excellent Masters Degree on all eligible Cryptic Masons. Organize and superintend the conduct of the degree, and provide Recorders of Subordinate Councils date and names of members receiving the degree.
- e. Provide for and superintend the conferral of the Past Thrice Illustrious Masters Degree on all Thrice Illustrious Masters-elect, at a time and place to be designated, and prior to installation to office. Provide date and names to the Grand Recorder for issuance of certificate and card.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Grand Officers, whose duties have not been specifically defined herein, to discharge those duties as may be assigned to them by the Grand Master or Grand Council.

**Article XII - Subordinate Councils**

Section 1: Every Council of Royal and Select Masters under jurisdiction of this Grand Council shall have a Dispensation or Charter issued under the authority of the Grand Council, and no Council shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter.

Section 2: No Council shall be constituted until it is provided a suitable place of assembly properly furnished.

Section 3: A Council can only be constituted by the Grand Master, or such officers appointed by proxy. Nine members must be present and voting.

Section 4: A petition for Dispensation to form a new Council must be signed by nine Cryptic Masons. Petitioners must file their demits with the Grand Recorder who shall hold such demits pending final action of the petition. If action is unfavorable the demits will be returned to the petitioners. Any petitioner who wishes to sever his association with the new Council before a Charter has been granted shall notify the Grand Recorder who shall cancel the demit and return it to the issuing Council, and the petitioner remains a member of that Council.

Section 5: When a Council has been constituted it shall enact By-Laws, not in conflict with the Constitution and Standing Regulations of the Grand Council, for the government and transaction of business.

### **Article XIII – Consolidation of Councils**

Section 1: A Council proposing to consolidate with another Council in this jurisdiction shall submit in writing to the Grand Master, or in his absence of incapacity by the Deputy Grand Master, or in the absence of both officers, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, a detailed plan of the merger and the Councils involved. The Grand Officer to whom the plan has been submitted shall appoint a committee of three companions of the Grand Council to conduct a thorough investigation of the proposed consolidation, and report the findings and recommendations to that officer.

Section 2: A consolidation shall not be effective unless two-thirds of the members present at each Council vote in favor of the proposition. Two or more Councils having decided to consolidate may unite under the Charter of one of said Councils, retaining the officers thereof, or may elect new officers by proper dispensation. The Charter or Charters surrendered must be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

Section 3: The title of all property and effects of the consolidating Councils shall, on consolidation be vested in the new Council, and the new Council shall be liable for indebtedness of the Council consolidating.

Section 4: All members of the Councils consolidating shall immediately become members of the new Council.

### **Article XIV – Surrender of Charter**

Section 1: The Charter of a Council may be surrendered by a two-thirds vote of its members present at any stated assembly, provided that a written resolution proposing such surrender shall have been read and filed with the Recorder at the previous assembly, and at least thirty days notice shall be given each member of the Council.

Section 2: A Charter surrendered or arrested cannot be used to form a new Council, but may be restored by the Grand Council to not less than nine non-affiliated former members in good standing. In such case it is not proper to reconstitute the Council.

Section 3: The forfeiture or surrender of a Charter of a Council does not affect the good standing of the members thereof.

Section 4: When the Charter of a Council is surrendered or arrested the members in good standing, upon payment to the Grand Recorder of their dues, shall be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder, which shall have the effect of a demit.

Section 5: When a Council ceases to exist, its members may join another Council upon petition and Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder that his standing was good when said Council ceased to exist.

Section 6: The funds and property of such extinct Council becomes the property of the Grand Council.

Section 7: Upon demise of a Council, or forfeiture of its Charter, the last Recorder and Treasurer shall, within six months, remit or surrender to the Grand Recorder, or a companion appointed by the Grand Master to receive them, the Charter, Seal, Books, Papers, Jewels, Furniture, and Funds of said Council.

### **Article XV – Composition of a Council**

Section 1: A Council under jurisdiction of this Grand Council consists of:

- Master
- Deputy Master
- Principal Conductor of the Work
- Recorder
- Treasurer
- Captain of the Guard
- Conductor of the Council
- Marshal
- Steward
- Sentinel

The Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Recorder, and Treasurer shall be elected.

Section 2: The title of the Master of a Council is “Thrice Illustrious Master.” The honorary title of the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work is “Illustrious.”

### **Article XVI – Assemblies**

Section 1: Stated: Every Council shall assemble for work at a minimum of once every three months, except during the months of July, August and September, when it may assemble at the option of the Master.

Section 2: Special: Special Assemblies may be called by the Master. They shall be held for the conferring of the degrees, or such business as may be presented by regulation, and at the place of assembly, provided that the Grand Master may grant a dispensation on due petition to authorize assembly at such place other than that specified in the charter or dispensation. Notice or summons for all special assemblies shall signify the business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such assembly.

### **Article XVII – Duty to Attend Grand Assemblies**

Section 1: It is the duty of the Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work of Subordinate Councils to attend the Assemblies of the Grand Council in person or by proxy.

Section 2: The Recorder shall provide the appointed proxy with a letter or certificate attesting the named proxy is entitled to sit in Grand Assembly, and vote in accordance with Article IV, Section 6.

## **Article XVIII – Term of Office**

Section 1: Officers of subordinate Councils shall hold office and discharge the duties of their office for the term for which they were elected, or appointed, and until their successors are duly elected and installed or invested.

## **Article XIX – Duties of Officers**

Section 1: It is the duty of the Master to:

- a. See that the By-Laws of the Council, as well as the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Council, are duly observed.
- b. See that true and exact records of all transactions of the Council are kept by the Recorder.
- c. See that the Treasurer keeps and renders exact and just accounts of all moneys belonging to the Council.
- d. See that regular returns are made to the Grand Recorder and the annual per capita tax be regularly and punctually paid.
- e. Exercise the right and authority of calling the Council together at his pleasure, upon any emergency, or occurrence, which in his judgment such meeting is required.
- f. See that the Charter committed to his especial care is safeguarded.

Section 2: It is the duty of the Recorder:

- a. To record correctly all transactions of the Council.
- b. To collect all dues and assessments and other moneys due the Council, and promptly turn them over to the Treasurer taking his receipt.
- c. To have charge of the Seal of the Council, and affix it to all papers requiring the same.
- d. To submit on or before October 1st to the Grand Council an annual report in the format prescribed by the Grand Recorder, and such other information as may be required by the Grand Council.
- e. To submit his books and records to the Audit Committee for inspection prior to the election of officers.
- f. To give notice of all assemblies, stated and special, and state the business to be transacted.
- g. To remit to the Grand Recorder per capita tax before October 1st of each year.

## **Article XX – Election of Officers**

Section 1: Each Council shall elect its officers annually in March. Election shall be by written ballot, and a majority of ballots being cast necessary for election.

Section 2: No Council shall elect as Thrice Illustrious Master any companion unless he be a Deputy Master, Past Deputy Master, or Past Thrice Illustrious Master.

Section 3: All officers shall be installed at the first regular assembly following annual conferral of the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree.

## **Article XXI – Succession to Office**

Section 1: In the temporary absence of the Master, the Deputy Master, and in the absence of both officers, the Principal Conductor of the Work, shall perform the duties of Master.

Section 2: In the case of disability of all three officers the Grand Master shall issue a dispensation for an election to fill all vacancies. Pending the issue of a dispensation the Junior Past Thrice Illustrious Master, or such Past Thrice Illustrious Master as the Grand Master may appoint, shall act as Master.

## **Article XXII – Election of Candidates**

Section 1: Anyone who is a Master Mason, and is a member in good standing in a Lodge and Chapter, who is physically able to conform to the ceremonies, or whose physical inability to conform shall have been waived by dispensation of the Grand Master, and who, immediately prior to date of his petition had resided for at least one year within the jurisdiction of the Grand Council may petition for the degrees of Cryptic Masonry.

Section 2: The petition bearing the recommendation of a companion Cryptic Mason will be referred to a committee of three members of the Council for investigation, and lie over to the next stated assembly before balloting.

Section 3: In the conduct of York Rite Festivals, Councils are permitted to receive and ballot on the petitions for the Cryptic Degrees at any assembly, stated or special, held within thirty days prior to the festival, provided the assembly is held at the regular meeting place and the members duly notified.

## **Article XXIII – Balloting**

Section 1: Ballots on petitions may be taken collectively, and in the event of a negative ballot, each candidate shall be voted on separately. The Master may order not more than two re-ballots before the results of a ballot upon any separate petition had been announced before any companion has left the assembly.

Section 2: An unfavorable report from the committee does not dispense with the necessary ballot. Every member present when a ballot on a petition is taken is required to vote unless excused by the Master before the ballot has begun. The ballot on a petition for membership must be secret and unanimous. The reason for rejection cannot be questioned or disclosed.

Section 3: Any individual whose petition has been rejected cannot again petition until after a period of six months, and the Recorder of every Council which a rejection takes place shall inform the Grand Recorder of such action.

Section 4: A rejected petitioner, if still residing within the jurisdiction of a Council, may again petition after the expiration of six months, but shall not petition any other Council until the expiration of six months after rejection without the consent of the Council by which he was rejected.

Section 5: A member of a Council in good standing, whether or not present when the ballot is taken, may object to the conferring of the degree upon an elected candidate, and cannot be required to disclose his reasons for the objection. The fact that objection was made, and not the objector, shall be entered in the Minutes, but such objection may be withdrawn before the ballot is taken and the results announced.

#### **Article XXIV – Demits and Affiliation**

Section 1: A member on written request presented in open assembly is entitled to Demit without a vote of the Council, provided he is not indebted to the Council and no charges are pending against him.

Section 2: A companion who is a member of one Council in this Grand Jurisdiction cannot petition for membership in another Council unless accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing. After his demit has been received from the petitioner's other Council he may be enrolled as a member.

Section 3: A companion of a Council in another Grand Jurisdiction, whose laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Council if he meets all requirements of affiliation. The petition must be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing from his parent Council.

Section 4: A member wishing to change his membership and be continuously affiliated, may file his petition with the Council he desires membership and a Certificate of Good Standing from the Recorder of his Council under the Seal showing his dues paid and shall file a written application to his Council for demit. When elected to membership in the Council petitioned the Recorder shall immediately forward the application for demit to that Council.

#### **Article XXV – Forfeiture of Membership**

Section 1: Voluntary non-affiliation in a Lodge or Chapter for six months shall deprive a companion his membership in a Council and the member shall be so advised by the Recorder.

Section 2: When a member has been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or Chapter for any reason, he shall, after due notice, with respect to the fact of such suspension or expulsion only, be suspended or expelled as the case may be from his Council.

Section 3: Acquittal, suspension, or expulsion by a Lodge or Chapter on a charge of un-Masonic conduct does not deprive a Council the right to try a member for the same offense committed either before or after his trial in a Lodge or Chapter.

Section 4: Suspension or expulsion of a companion by a Council deprives him of membership in the Council, and all rights and privileges so long as the judgment remains in force.

Section 5: When a companion has been suspended or expelled from his Council solely because of suspension or expulsion from a Lodge or Chapter, restoration in such Lodge or Chapter shall entitle him to restoration in his Council on written application and a majority vote at a stated assembly and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Council may require.

## **Article XXVI – Non-Payment of Dues**

Section 1: The Master of a Council shall determine whether it is advisable to remit the dues of a delinquent member because of illness, infirmity or financial means, and shall recommend remission of dues whenever he deems the same justified.

Section 2: A member who fails to pay his dues for two consecutive years is subject to suspension by a Council. Thirty days before the Council acts to suspend the member the Recorder shall notify the member he is subject to suspension for non-payment of dues, and to retain membership he must pay all outstanding dues up to time of suspension prior to the next regular assembly.

Section 3: A Council shall act to suspend a member who is two years in arrears in his dues at a stated assembly following notice to the delinquent member, and he may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of all members present. The Recorder will notify the member he has been suspended, and he has sixty days in which to remit payment in full to be reinstated without loss of membership. The notice shall be sent by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to the member's home of record. Notice of mailing shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Council.

Section 4: A member suspended for non-payment of dues who shall within sixty days of such suspension pay all back dues shall be reinstated as a member in good standing.

Section 5: A member suspended for non-payment of dues who fails to pay outstanding debt within sixty days can only be reinstated by petition for reinstatement in regular form, vouched for, and placed before the Council for action. Ballot for reinstatement must be unanimous. Should the petition be rejected by the Council the companion shall become a non-affiliated Cryptic Mason, and shall have the right to petition for membership in another Council.

## **Article XXVII – Amendment**

This Constitution, Standing Regulations and Standing Resolutions may be amended at any Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly of this Grand Council by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that: (1) the proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing at least ninety days prior to the Annual or Semi-Assembly; or (2) the proposed amendments have laid over from a previous Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly. Any amendment proposed at an Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly is adopted by unanimous approval, otherwise it shall lay over to the next Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly.

## **Standing Regulations of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland**

### **Article I – Fees, Assessments and Compensation**

Section 1: A fee of Fifty Dollars shall be paid to the Grand Council for the issue of each Dispensation for the formation of a new Council, and an additional sum of Five Dollars shall be paid to the Grand Recorder before the Dispensation or Charter is issued.

Section 2: Each subordinate Council shall pay to the Grand Recorder Ten (\$10.00) Dollars for each Companion greeted or affiliated, and an annual per capita tax, as determined from time to time by the Grand Council, plus General Grand Council assessment, for each member on the rolls of such Council as of September 30 of each calendar year. Where a Council has exempted a Clergyman, or a member in confinement, Nursing Home, or unable to pay, from a payment of dues there will be no return of per capita tax for such member. The name of the member shall be listed in the annual return to the Council.

(2021 – Present Per Capita Tax is \$7.50 per Companion not otherwise exempted)

Section 3: The fee for initiation in a Council of the Grand Council jurisdiction shall be Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, and for affiliation of a companion from another jurisdiction not less than Five Dollars. Fees for initiation will be paid at the time a petition is submitted to a Council. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to Clergymen petitioning a Council whose By-Laws exempt him from payment of fees. (The fee to take affect January 1, 2013. Amended May 2012.)

Section 4: The salaries and expenses of the Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Lecturer, the gratuities of the Grand Chaplain and the Grand Organist, shall be in the amounts authorized from time to time by the Grand Council.

Section 5: The Grand Master shall in person, or by proxy, attend the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, at the expense of this Grand Council. The Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and the Grand Recorder attending the Grand Assembly shall be entitled to a portion of their expenses. The amount to be paid in each case shall be determined by the Committee on Finance.

### **Article II – Charters**

Section 1: The Dispensation or Charter of a Council must be in the meeting room throughout the assembly.

Section 2: Should the Charter of a Council be lost, mutilated, or destroyed, the Grand Master, upon satisfactory proof, shall direct the Grand Recorder to issue an attested copy under Seal.

### **Article III – Resignations, Filling Vacancies & Retention of Past Title**

Section 1: Any officer of the Grand Council or Subordinate Council may resign his office by submitting a written resignation to the Grand Recorder, or Recorder, save that the resignation of the Grand Recorder shall be filed with the Grand Master, and the Recorder of a Subordinate Council with the Master.



Section 2: A vacancy in any office of the Grand Council created by resignation shall be filled as provided in Constitution Article X, Section 1, b, as to officers stated therein. A vacancy in a Council shall be filled by the Master to serve until the annual election of officers.

Section 3: One who has filled by installation and term of service the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, or Master, Deputy Master, or Principal Conductor of the Work shall retain the title of highest office attained by him in the Grand Council, or Council, with the word "Past" immediately preceding the official title.

Section 4: A member resigning from any office numerated in the named preceding section shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in which he served a full term, and shall not retain the title of any office occupied by him at the time of his resignation.

#### **Article IV – Grand Inspectors**

Section 1: The Grand Master shall appoint a Board of Inspectors composed of a President and a Grand Inspector for each subordinate Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council. Grand Inspectors shall not serve for more than six consecutive years. They may be re-appointed after one year.

Section 2: As a representative of the Grand Master they shall visit the Council to which assigned at least once every three months when the Council is in session. When visiting a Council to which assigned they shall be extended all courtesies pertaining to their office.

Section 3: It is the responsibility of the Grand Inspector to see the subordinate Council conforms to the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Council. Any infraction or failure to conform shall be reported to the Grand Master. The Grand Inspector will ensure that the officers of the Council are familiar with the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Council, and copies of the Constitution are present and available for use within the Council. He shall act as liaison between the Grand Council and the subordinate Council.

Section 4: The Grand Inspector shall not interfere in the administration of a Council, nor attempt to correct any deviation from the Ritualistic Work. The Grand Inspector should note any questionable practices and report them promptly to the President of the Board.

#### **Article V – Grand Representatives**

Section 1: The Grand Master shall appoint a Grand Representative to a Grand Council with which this Grand Council has fraternal relations.

Section 2: The Grand Representative upon receipt of appointment shall communicate with the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council to which appointed. Copies of all correspondence will be furnished the Grand Recorder. When corresponding with Grand Councils outside the United States, Masonic courtesy requires that correspondence be directed through the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council having jurisdiction.

Section 3: It is essential that the Grand Representatives acquire knowledge of the Grand Representative to be fully informed on the doings of this Grand Council so that in the exchange of correspondence requesting information concerning this Grand Council may be responded to favorably.

Section 4: It is the duty of the Grand Representative to attend the annual Grand Assembly and be prepared to report verbally, or in writing, on the doings of the Grand Council which he represents. Failure to attend three consecutive Grand Assemblies shall be cause for discharge or relief from appointment.

## **Article VI – Standing, Elective and Special Committees**

Section 1: Standing Committees of the Grand Council:

- Doings of Grand Officers
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Jurisprudence
- Committee on Correspondence
- Committee on Unfinished Business
- Committee on Fraternal Relations
- Committee on Membership
- Committee on Recognition and Awards
- Committee on Grand Council History
- Committee on Youth Relations
- Cryptic Mason’s Medical Research
- Time Capsule 2000 – Walk of Remembrance (Amended October 22, 2020)

Section 2: Elective Committees of the Grand Council:

- York Rite Committee
- August Scene Committee
- Permanent Fund Committee

Section 3: Special Committees of the Grand Council:

- Committee on Credentials
- Committee on Grievance
- Committee on Dispensations and Charters
- Committee on Grand Council Constitution
- Committee on TIM Degree
- Committee on Election
- Committee on Triennial

Section 4: The Grand Master may from time to time appoint such Ad Hoc committees as necessary to serve a specific requirement.

Section 5: The Grand Council shall elect at the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly a member to serve on the York Rite Committee, August Scene Committee and Permanent Fund Committee. Members elected to serve on the York Rite Committee, August Scene Committee and Permanent Fund Committee shall serve for a term of three years unless sooner terminated by discharge, relief or resignation.

## **Article VII – Subordinate Councils**

Section 1: No Council may change its place of assembly without consent of the Grand Council. In case of an emergency or urgent necessity occurring during the recess of the Grand Council, the Grand Master may issue a dispensation authorizing such a move. A report of such dispensation shall be made at the next assembly of the Grand Council.

Section 2: No Council shall confer any degree other than the Royal Master and Select Master. The Super Excellent Master Degree shall be conferred at such date and place as determined by the Grand Lecturer. The Recorder shall provide the Grand Lecturer with the names and number of members eligible to receive the degree.

Section 3: All By-Laws and amendments shall be submitted to the Grand Recorder, in quintuplet, for approval of the Grand Council, or in recess by the Grand Master.

Section 4: No companion, other than a Past Thrice Illustrious Master, may be installed as Thrice Illustrious Master until he has been certified by the Grand Lecturer, or Grand Inspector; (a) as being qualified to confer the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees, (b) pass satisfactory examination on the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Council and By-Laws of his Council, (c) has had the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree conferred on him. See Constitution Article X, Section 6.

Section 5: The Master shall not be responsible for his official acts, or otherwise, to the Council over which he presides, but shall be at all times subject to discipline from the Grand Council or Grand Master.

Section 6: No Council can at a special assembly alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated assembly.

Section 7: At the opening ceremonies of a Council the “Pledge of Allegiance” shall be recited following the prayer. A companion who is not a citizen of the United States shall not be required to recite the pledge. He should, however, remain at attention during the ceremonies.

Section 8: A subordinate Council under jurisdiction of this Grand Council may receive and act on a petition for membership by affiliation by a companion who has received the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia or West Virginia; or by a letter under the Seal of said Chapter attesting to the fact and date of conferring the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia or West Virginia. Before being accepted as a member of a subordinate Council of the Grand Council the petitioner must be healed by assuming the Obligation of Royal Master and Select Master in accordance with the ritual of this Grand Council.

## **Standing Resolutions of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland**

1. RESOLVED, That any Subordinate Council shall suspend any member who may be in arrears for dues over two years, and who may neglect or refuse to pay the same after thirty days notice, by registered mail, return receipt requested, or by certified mail, return receipt requested, the intention of the Council to consider his delinquency. Should a companion so suspended pay all arrearages within six months after his suspension, he shall be automatically re-instated. – November 14, 1876. Revised December 15, 1954 and December 10, 1968.
2. RESOLVED, That the membership of the Subordinate Councils forming this Grand Council be considered to be those who were members of the various Councils prior to the formation of the Grand Council, and who have not expressed a desire to be relived of their membership, in addition to those who have sine becoming members of the said Councils. – November 14, 1876.
3. RESOLVED, That non-affiliated Cryptic Masons of this jurisdiction in affiliating with the Subordinate Councils be required to assume the O.B. according to the revised work, and also that of allegiance to the G.G. Council of the United States. – November 9, 1881.
4. RESOLVED, That there be printed in the yearly proceedings of the Grand Council, in addition to the names of the five elective officers of each Council, the names of the living Past Thrice Illustrious Masters, listed immediately beneath the names of the elective officers of their respective Councils. – December 14, 1938.
5. RESOLVED, That the Thrice Illustrious Master's degree, as conferred by the Grand Council of North Carolina, be adopted by this Grand Council as a part of our ritual, and that this degree be conferred at our Annual Assembly, at a time to be designated by the Most Illustrious Masters-elect as a prerequisite to their installation as Thrice Illustrious Masters of their respective Councils; that said degree also be conferred upon all present and past Thrice Illustrious Masters as of the date of the adoption of this resolution who may desire to have the degree conferred upon them; and that the degree shall be conferred without any expense to those who receive it. – December 13, 1939.
6. RESOLVED, That any Subordinate Council working under the jurisdiction of The Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, may receive and act upon a petition for membership by affiliation submitted by a companion who has received the R.M. and S.M. Degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia or West Virginia; said petition to be accompanied by a demit from petitioner's former R.A. Chapter of Virginia or West Virginia or by a letter under legal seal of said Chapter attesting to the fact and date of conferring of the R.M. and S.M. Degrees in a R.A. Chapter of Virginia or West Virginia; and Provided further that said petitioner at the time of petitioning be a member in good standing of a Royal Arch Chapter working under the jurisdiction of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter other than those of Virginia or West Virginia.

And be it further RESOLVED, That before being accepted as a member of a Subordinate Council of R.M. and S.M. of Maryland, the said petitioner be healed by assuming the Obligations of Royal Master and Select Master in accordance with the ritual of The Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. – December 13, 1944.

7. RESOLVED, That the Grand Council of Maryland apply to the Grand Council of North Carolina for a charter enabling our Grand Council to confer the T.I. Master Degree in the State of Maryland.

RESOLVED, That the Grand Council of Maryland retain direct control of the Degree.

RESOLVED, That the M.I. Grand Master shall following his installation, appoint a committee composed of not less than three members of this Grand Council who have received the Degree of T.I. Master, said committee being charged with the responsibility of arranging for the conferring of that Degree at the time and place of the holding of the Grand Assembly of the Grand Council that year.

RESOLVED, That the Grand Council arrange to have suitable cards printed and distributed to all companions on whom the Degree has been or shall be conferred in the State of Maryland. These cards to certify that the companion has received the Degree on a given date over the signature of the Grand Recorder. – December 13, 1944. Revised December 14, 1960.

8. RESOLVED, That for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive the Past Thrice Illustrious Master's Degree and for that purpose only, any Companion who has been duly elected to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master by any subordinate Council in this State shall be deemed a virtual Past Thrice Illustrious Master from and after the date of such election. – December 12, 1945.

9. RESOLVED, That each Council shall assemble once a month during the year, except the months of July and August when the assembly may be optional. Any Council failing to assemble for three consecutive months shall be reported to a Committee consisting of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Lecturer and the Committee on Jurisprudence for such action as it may deem advisable. – December 15, 1954. Revised December 14, 1960.

10. RESOLVED, That Grand Representatives shall be appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and hold office at his pleasure. Any representative failing to attend three consecutive assemblies of the Grand Council shall be dropped and a new representative appointed in his place, unless the Grand Council shall order otherwise. – December 15, 1954.

11. RESOLVED, That a Companion of a subordinate Council who is no longer in good standing in his Blue Lodge or Chapter shall be automatically suspended from the Council after proper notice. Upon reinstatement to good standing in the Blue Lodge or Chapter, the companion is automatically restored to good standing in the Council. Should a Companion of a subordinate Council demit from either his blue Lodge or Chapter, he shall be permitted a period of six months from the date of granting of the demit to affiliate before being automatically suspended from the Council. – December 15, 1954.

12. *(Deleted May 10, 2012.)*

13. RESOLVED, That a Council may admit to membership any Companion who is a member of one other Maryland Council in this Grand Jurisdiction, or a member of a Council or Councils in another Grand Jurisdiction, who laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Council, if such Companion meets all other requirements of affiliation. In both

situations his application must be accompanied by a current certificate of good standing in his home Council. – May 8, 1995

14. RESOLVED, That the Cyril H. York Golden Trowel shall travel from Cryptic Year to Cryptic Year, and be awarded annually to the Council having highest gain in membership as computed by percentage of membership gained. – May 11, 1981.

15. RESOLVED, That the rules for the awarded of the William C. Smith Traveling Bible are as follows:

- a. After the yearly Cryptic Mason's Medical Research Campaign has been declared closed by the Grand Council Chairman – a winner of the Traveling Bible be determined by the Chairman.
- b. The Council having contributed the largest per capita moneys to the Cryptic Mason's Medical Research Fund during the campaign period shall be declared to have won the bible.
- c. No Moneys submitted for the contest should be tabulated unless recorded as received by the Grand Council of Maryland's chairman no later than March 31.
- d. The Traveling Bible is to be returned by the winning Council for presentation to its successor at the Grand Session. – May 10, 1982.

16. RESOLVED, That the miniature Grand Council Banner Award shall be granted to the subordinate Council that has had the greatest increase in attendance at their assemblies during the Cryptic Year. The supervision and awarding of this banner shall be under the direction of the Recognition and Awards Committee. – May 9, 1983.

17. DISPOSITION OF THE GRAND MASTER'S APRON

“That the Apron, used by the Presiding Grand Masters for the past several years, and which, is to be retired, in accordance with the recommendation of the Junior Past Grand Master, M.I. Companion Joseph C. Bryan, III, be loaned to York Council No. 23, R. & S.M., for replacement in the Masonic Museum at Camp Springs, Maryland, where it shall remain, as long as the subject Council meets in the Camp Springs Temple. Should York Council, at any time, decide to vacate the aforementioned premises, it shall be the prerogative of the Grand Council of Maryland to make the decision as to the disposition of the Apron, heretofore mentioned.” – Adopted May 9, 1966.

18. RESOLVED, That the Time Capsule 2000 – Walk of Remembrance Committee may establish its own financial account on behalf of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, doing business as “Time Capsule 2000” for the purpose of depositing funds collected for bricks/stones in the walkway and making expenditures for the committee's operating expenses (such as for the engraving and placement of the memorial bricks/stones). When the fund balance in such account exceeds the level deemed necessary by the committee, or as determined by the Grand Council by resolution at a Semi-Annual or Annual Grand Assembly, half of the surplus amount shall be dispersed each to a charity designated by the Grand Council and a charity designated by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. – October 22, 2020.