

CONSTITUTION AND  
STANDING RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL  
ARCH MASONS OF MARYLAND

*As Amended October 23, 2021*

## **Article I The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**

**Section 1:** This Grand Chapter shall be known by the name of  
THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MARYLAND

It shall consist:

- (a) Of the following Officers, that is to say: Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, three Grand Masters of the Veils, Grand Lecturer, Grand Organist, Grand Sentinel, three Grand Trustees who shall be elected, respectively, for terms of three, two and one years, and thereafter for terms of three years.
- (b) Of the Past High Priests of the Chapters under this jurisdiction; also such Past High Priests of other jurisdictions who have taken residence within this jurisdiction, become affiliated with a Chartered Chapter and have been elected to permanent membership by this Grand Chapter.
- (c) Of the High Priests, Kings, Scribes, of the Chartered Chapters under this jurisdiction, or their proxies duly appointed.

**Section 2:** No companion can be an officer or member of the Grand Chapter unless he is at the same time, a member of some Subordinate Chapter.

## **Article II Convocation and Government of the Grand Chapter**

**Section 1:** The Annual stated Convocation of this Grand Chapter shall be held on the fourth Friday or succeeding Saturday in October or on such date as may be determined from year to year by the Grand Chapter.

**Section 2:** A Semi-Annual Convocation shall be held at such time and place in May as determined by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

**Section 3:** Special Convocations of the Grand Chapter shall be called by the Grand High Priest or, in his absence or incapacity, by the Grand King, or in his absence or incapacity, by the Grand Scribe, whenever deemed necessary.

**Section 4:** The Grand Chapter cannot be opened unless there be present a representative of three Chapters.

**Section 5:** In the absence of the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, the High Priest of the oldest Chapter shall preside.

### **Article III Power of the Grand Chapter**

**Section 1:** The Grand Chapter has the sole government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters within its jurisdiction; and shall receive appeals, redress grievances, and remove all complaints of the several Chapters, and shall have full power and authority, under the Seal and manual signature of the Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, attested by the Grand Secretary, to constitute new Chapters, with authority to confer, in the following order, the degrees of Mark Master Mason, Past Master Mason, Most Excellent Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason.

**Section 2:** During the recess of the Grand Chapter the Grand High Priest, and in his absence or incapacity, the Grand King or in his absence or incapacity the Grand Scribe, shall have power to grant a dispensation to a competent number of petitioners, possessing the necessary qualifications, empowering them to open a Chapter and confer therein the four degrees specified in the previous Section. But no dispensation thus granted shall remain in force longer than the next stated Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

### **Article IV Duties of the Grand Officers**

**Section 1:** The duties of the Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe are established by ancient usage and custom, and are too well known to be particularized in this article. They, with the Grand Secretary, shall attend the convocation of the General Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy at the expense of the Grand Chapter, said expense not to exceed an amount to be budgeted by the Finance Committee. (May 1977).

**Section 2:** The Grand Treasurer, for the time being, shall enter into bond with the Trustees of the Grand Chapter, in such sum as the Grand Chapter may deem sufficient, for the faithful performance of the duties of his office; he shall keep a set of books in proper order, which books being the property of the Grand Chapter, shall contain an account of all the money he shall have received and paid from time to time, on account and for the use of the Grand Chapter, from whom received, to whom paid, and by what authority. He shall attend all Convocations of the Grand Chapter with all the necessary books and papers of his office, and have ready for inspection whenever required. He shall be paid from the funds of the Grand Chapter such sum as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Grand Chapter. He shall deposit all money received in the name of the Grand Chapter in a Bank or Trust Company approved the Trustees, such money to be withdrawn only on orders signed by the Grand High Priest, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, except in cases of emergency, when the Grand King may sign in lieu of any one of the three officers previously mentioned, and only when such officers are unavailable for signature. He shall rent a box in a Bank or Trust Company approved by the Trustees with access to the subject box only by any two Trustees or one Trustee and the Grand Treasurer.

All investments, before being made, shall have the approval of the Trustees and Grand High Priest. Investments shall be sold or disposed of only with the consent of the Trustees, the Grand High Priest and Grand Treasurer.

**Section 3:**

- (a) The Grand Secretary shall attend all Convocations of the Grand Chapter, with all the necessary books and papers of his office; he shall keep a true and faithful register of all the Subordinate Chapters, and all members thereof, so far as the same shall be made known to him. All the books, records, papers, the seal, etc., kept by him in virtue of his office, shall be the property of the Grand Chapter, which he shall exhibit for inspection, or deliver to its Committee, whenever properly called for.
- (b) He shall purchase all books, stationary and other supplies for the Grand Chapter, and procure all its necessary printing to be done on the most reasonable terms. All purchases exceeding Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) shall be on a competitive basis, subject to prior approval of the Committee on Accounts.
- (c) He shall notify the Subordinate Chapters of all stated Convocations of the Grand Chapter, at least one month previous to the same, and shall give as early notice of all Special Convocations as the urgency of the case may admit.
- (d) He shall have the Minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter (such as are proper to be published) printed within two months after the close of each stated Convocation, and shall transmit one copy thereof to each of the Grand Officers, and to such of the Grand Representatives and member of this Grand Chapter as shall, after being notified by the Grand Secretary that a copy will be mailed upon request, request the same; he shall also mail such number of copies to each Grand Chapter maintaining fraternal relations with this Grand Chapter, and to each of the officers of the General Grand Chapter.
- (e) He shall affix the seal of the Grand Chapter to all Warrants, certified copies of any portion of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, and all Royal Arch Diplomas or Certificates, which shall, without his signature and the Grand Seal so affixed, be null and void.
- (f) He shall be paid for his services, from the funds of the Grand Chapter, such sum as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 4:** The Grand Lecturer shall visit all the Subordinate Chapters in the jurisdiction at least once every year, and impart to them such instructions, as they may need. He shall report at each Annual Convocation the condition of the several Chapters. He shall be paid for his services, from the funds of the Grand Chapter, his actual expenses incurred, and such sum as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 5:** It shall be the duty of the Grand Inspectors to see that the Chapters under their charge strictly conform to and abide by the Constitution and regulations of the Grand Chapter. They shall report the Masonic condition of the Chapters under their respective jurisdiction to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest at least ten days before each stated Convocation of the Grand Chapter and such other time as the Grand High Priest may require.

**Section 6:** The Grand Trustees shall have custody of all bonds, also all securities representing investments of the Grand Chapter. They shall have full power, from time to time to invest and reinvest the funds of the Grand Chapter, by and with the consent and approval of the Grand High Priest and the Grand Treasurer, and shall, at each Annual Convention (Convocation), report in writing the investments made during the year and the investments then held.

### **Article V Articles and Dispensations**

**Section 1:** No dispensation to form a new Chapter can be granted to a lesser number of Companions than nine. Nor can either of the Grand Officers issue the same unless it has been recommended in open Session by the Chapter nearest to the place in which the petitioners desire to form and hold their Chapter.

**Section 2:** No Charter can be granted to a lesser number of Companions than nine, nor unless the petition be recommended as required for dispensation, except the petitioning Companions have been already working under a dispensation; and if a Chapter working under a dispensation wishes to obtain a Charter, it must return its dispensation to the Grand Chapter, at its next Convocation, with a true and fair copy of its proceedings, when and if the Grand Chapter approves the same, it may direct the Grand Secretary to issue a Charter.

**Section 3:** Petitioners for a new Charter may apply with the intention of transferring their membership from their current Chapter to the new Chapter; or they may apply with the intention of retaining membership in their current Chapter and becoming a plural member in the new Chapter.

Petitioners for a new Charter who desire to transfer their membership from their current Chapter to the new Chapter must file their demits with the Grand Secretary. Chapters may however, issue conditional demits to such petitions, to become final only when the Charter for the new Chapter has been granted, of which fact the Grand Secretary shall notify the issuing Chapter. If a Charter be refused, the Grand Secretary shall cancel and return the conditional demits to the issuing Chapter. In the meantime such petitioners shall not be liable to the parent Chapter for dues.

Petitioners for a new Charter who desire to retain membership in their current Chapter and become a plural member in the new Chapter must file their certificates of good standing with the Grand Secretary. Such petitioners shall remain liable to the parent Chapter for dues.

Any signer of a petition for a dispensation who may desire to sever his connection with the new Chapter before a Charter has been granted, shall notify the Grand Secretary, who shall cancel the conditional demit and return it to the issuing Chapter, in which Chapter the petitioner's membership shall be immediately revived. (Plural Membership Information Added May 2014.)

**Section 4:** Any Chapter, proposing to merge with another Chapter, in this jurisdiction, shall submit in writing, to the Grand High Priest, or in his absence or incapacity, to the Grand King, or in the absence or incapacity of both said officers, to the Grand Scribe, a fully detailed exposition of the plan of merger as to all Chapters involved. The Grand Officer to whom the plan shall have been submitted, shall, upon receipt thereof, appoint a committee, consisting of three Companions of this Grand Chapter, one of whom shall be designated the Chairman, whose duty it shall be to investigate the proposed merger, having in mind the best interests of all parties concerned, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Grand Officer who shall have appointed the said committee, it shall be the prerogative of the Grand Officer to whom the same shall have been submitted, to approve or disapprove the merger. Should the merger be disapproved, the Chapter proposing the same shall have the right of appeal to the Grand Chapter, for review and determination (Added May 1972).

## **Article VI Fees and Dues to the Grand Chapter**

**Section 1:** The fee for every dispensation for a Charter shall be ninety dollars, which shall be paid into the hands of the Grand Secretary before the dispensation is issued. In the event a Charter is being ordered without a dispensation first having been granted, a like fee shall be paid before such Charter shall be issued.

**Section 2:** Each Chapter shall pay to the Grand Chapter by October 1st of each year the sum of ten dollars for each exaltation since the last annual return and an annual assessment, whose value shall be Five Dollars plus the per member assessment due to the General Grand Chapter plus the amount due to the General Grand Chapter for the Royal Arch Magazine for each Companion who is a member of the Chapter on August 31st of that year, except that where a Chapter has excused one of its members from the payment of dues by reason of residence in the Maryland Masonic Homes or because of such member being confined in an Institution as non compos mentis, such Chapter shall make no return of per capita tax on such member. However, all such members shall be listed in the annual returns in the space provided for the same.

**Section 3:** With the annual returns payments for exaltations and annual assessments, each Chapter shall pay to the Grand Chapter by October 1st of each year the sum of Forty Dollars for the support of the Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests. Prior to the annual meeting of the Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests, the Grand Treasurer shall forward payment of the total collected from the Chapters, without the need for any vote or other authorizing action by the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest.

No High Priest-elect can be installed to that office until after he has been Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood in Maryland. The Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests is the oldest Council in existence. The Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests is governed by its own By-Laws, presided over by its Most Excellent President, and operated with the consent of its members, and is not a member body of this Grand Chapter; nor is it or its members entitled to a Representative vote in the Grand Chapter.

This section becomes effective upon the Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests changing its

## **Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**

**As Amended October 23, 2021**

By-Laws to eliminate the life membership fee charged to Anoint, Consecrate and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood the High Priests-elect of the Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. This section shall be rescinded if the Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests has not amended its By-Laws to utilize this section before the May 2017 Grand Chapter SemiAnnual Convocation.

This section shall be rescinded if the Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests thereafter reinstates charging a fee to Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter to Anoint, Consecrate and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood their High Priests-elect; or if it establishes a dues structure requiring payment from those whose membership was received by being Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood as the High Priestelect of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

This section does not prohibit or impact the authority of the Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests from charging such fees as it may establish for Chapters that are not under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter for the service of Anointing, Consecrating and Setting Apart their High Priests-elect, or establishing dues payments for their ongoing membership in the Council (Added October 2015).

### **Article VII Voting**

**Section 1:** Voting, other than election of Grand Officers shall be by ancient custom; except that when demanded by three members of separate Chapters, the same shall be by roll call or written ballot. Roll call in order of Chapter seniority of High Priest, King, Scribe, and Past High Priest as recorded in the last available reports of the several Chapters. In the election of Grand Officers, voting shall be in accordance with Article IX, Section 4.

**Section 2:** Each member of this Grand Chapter has one vote, and no more, in his own right; but, if any officer of a Chapter is not present in person or by proxy, his vote may be cast by the senior officer present, or, if none, by the proxy of the senior officer or no officer or proxy is present the senior Past High Priest from the Chapter shall be entitled to three votes in addition to his own individual vote. Every proxy shall be a member of the Chapter he represents. A roll call or written ballot shall be according to the registration by the committee on Conference, by Chapter Past High Priest in order of Chapter seniority.

**Section 3:** No Chapter can be deprived of its Representative vote by reason of its representative or proxy being an officer or member of the Grand Chapter, and voting as such.

**Section 4:** No Chapter shall be entitled to a vote unless its dues are paid to the Grand Chapter on or before October 1st each year.

**Section 5:** No new Chapter shall be entitled to a vote until its officers have been installed, and the Chapter has been regularly constituted.

**Section 6:** No vote shall be passed at a Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter, in which a distant Chapter or Companion is particularly concerned, unless such Chapter or Companion have been previously notified of the intention of the Grand Chapter to act on the business.

### **Article VIII Representative and Representation**

The proper representatives of a Chapter are the High Priest, King, and Scribe, whose duty it is to attend every Convocation of the Grand Chapter in person or by proxy.

### **Article IX Elections of Grand Officers to be Installed**

**Section 1:** At every Semi-Annual convocation of the Grand Chapter in May, there shall be elected by ballot, if more than one companion is nominated for an office, the following Grand Officers in order in which they stand, a majority of all the ballots cast being necessary to a choice, viz: Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, any Grand Trustee whose offices shall be vacated.

**Section 2:** A roll call or written ballot shall be according to the registration by the Committee on Conference, by Chapter, and Past High Priest in order of Chapter Seniority: Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Past Grand Officers, by their grades, Chapters, according to seniority, and Past High Priests

**Section 3:** No Companion can be installed as an officer of this Grand Chapter unless he shall be a High Priest or Past High Priest, and at the time a member of some Chapter under this jurisdiction.

**Section 4:** In the conduct of the election of Grand Officers, ballots shall be distributed by the Committee on Conference at the time of registration of the representatives and others entitled to vote, and said registration shall be conducted outside the Grand Chapter room prior to the opening of the Grand Chapter. Immediately prior to the election, which shall be held on the day of the Semi-Annual Convocation, the exact time being at the discretion of the Grand High Priest, provided all members of this Grand Chapter are duly notified in advance, the Chairman of the committee shall report to the Grand Chapter the exact number of representatives and others entitled to vote who have registered, and the number of ballots issued.

Any Companion leaving the Grand Chapter room during the course of the election, except members of the Election Committee, shall deposit the remaining portion of his ballot with the Grand Royal Arch Captain, who will re-issue the ballot should the Companion surrendering it return during the course of the election.

**Section 5:** Nominations for each elective office in the Grand Chapter shall be made beginning at the election time, as noted in Section 4 of this Article, and prior to the election for each office. Such nominations must be made only with the approval of the companions so nominated and eligibility for nomination must comply with previous Sections of this Article concerning elective

**Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**

**As Amended October 23, 2021**

officers. Furthermore, if only one Companion is nominated for an office, he shall be declared elected without vote by the membership of this Grand Chapter.

**Article X Installation of Officers**

The Grand Officers, if present, shall be installed at the Subsequent Convocation, and no elected Grand Officers can act as such until he has been installed, except for the appointment of Grand Officers as provided for in Article X, Section 1.

**Section 1:** Prior to the installation of the elected officers at each Annual Convocation, the Grand High Priest-Elect shall appoint the following named Grand Officers:

- Grand Chaplain
- Grand Captain of the Host (Changed From Elected Office May 2012)
- Grand Principal Sojourner
- Grand Royal Arch Captain
- Three Grand Masters of Veils
- Grand Lecturer
- Grand Organist
- Grand Inspectors for each Chapter in the State Grand Sentinel

**Article XI Appointment**

**Section 1:** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Trustee, by death, resignation or otherwise, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment, by the Grand High Priest, until the next election, so that there shall be at all times three Trustees.

**Section 2:** He shall also appoint the following standing committees:

- Conference
- Doings of the Grand Officers
- Accounts
- Correspondence
- Fraternal Relations with other Jurisdictions
- Grievance
- Unfinished Business
- Work
- Election
- Medal for Meritorious Service and Recognitions
- Jurisprudence

The duty of the last named committee shall be to consider and give approval or disapproval to all amendments to the By-Laws of Subordinate Chapters as well as new By-Laws; pass on all dispensations issued by the Grand High Priest and give consideration and decisions concerning all questions of Grand Chapter law.

## **Article XII Subordinate Chapters**

**Section 1:** Every Chapter shall assemble for work at least once in three months, or more often if necessary, except during the months of July, August, and September, when it may assemble or not, at the option of the High Priest.

**Section 2:** Five members of a Chapter are necessary to transact 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 (May 2015).

**Section 3:** On or before October 1st each year, every Chapter shall make a complete return of all its members as of August 31st, stating particularly the date of each exaltation, the admission, death, rejections, suspension, expulsions, and reinstatements of members, accompanied by the amount of its dues to the Grand Chapter; together with its number, and the time and place of its stated Convocations, agreeably to form which the Grand Secretary may from time to time provide; which return shall be signed by either the High Priest, King, or Scribe and attested by the Secretary; and any Chapter that fails such returns and pay its dues to the Grand Chapter, for two stated Convocations in succession, shall be deemed extinct, and its Charter forfeited.

**Section 4:** Upon the demise of a Chapter, or forfeiture of its Charter, the last Secretary and Treasurer shall, within six months thereafter, transmit or surrender to the Grand Secretary, or some other Companion who shall be appointed by the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest to receive them, the Chapter, Seal, Books, Papers, Jewels, Furniture, and Funds of said Chapter.

### **Section 5: ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (May 2016)**

(a) Each Chapter shall elect its officers in March annually by ballot, beginning in March 1962.

(b) Qualifications for High Priest.

(1) To be nominated for election to High Priest of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland, a Companion must have the following qualifications:

- a. A Companion must be a member in good standing in the Chapter in which he is nominated.
- b. He must be certified by the Grand Lecturer as meeting the current standards for Ritual proficiency.

1. A Companion must have exemplified the following as the presiding officer, without assistance of written material, and with minimal corrections:

i. Opening & Closing of Chapter

ii. One of the following combinations:

- 1) The Mark Master Degree and the Most Excellent Master Degree.
- 2) The Past Master Degree and the Royal Arch Degree.

## Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland

As Amended October 23, 2021

- 3) The Mark Master, Past Master, and either the Principal Sojourner or Captain of the Host in the Royal Arch Degree.
  - 4) Any other pattern of Exemplification will require prior approval and dispensation of the Grand High Priest.
- c. He must be a current or past High Priest, King, or Scribe of a constituent Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland.
1. Consideration of any other member requires prior dispensation of the Grand High Priest.
  2. Consideration of a Companion having served in another jurisdiction shall be referred to the Grand High Priest for direction.
- (2) A Companion may not be elected to serve as High Priest when he has been elected to serve in the same Capitular year in another Maryland Chapter, except if granted prior dispensation of the Grand High Priest, and it shall be the joint responsibility of the Companion and Chapter to prohibit this situation with prior dispensation.
- (3) A Companion, having been qualified as above, must be elected by a simple majority ballot at the Stated March Convocation of the Chapter. Dispensation for elections in other circumstance must be granted by the Grand High Priest. (4) A qualified Companion, having been duly elected by his Chapter shall:
- a. Attend the Annual Law School conducted by the Grand Lecturer.
  - b. Receive a satisfactory instruction in the Degree conferred by the Council of Anointed High Priests, when he shall be Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood in Maryland.
  - c. Having been Qualified, instructed in the Law, & Elected, Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood in Maryland, the High Priest-Elect shall be installed at a Stated or Special Convocation of the Constituent Chapter, following the Semi-Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.
  - d. If a Chapter is to Install a Past High Priest, or the current High Priest for the succeeding term, the Chapter may do so prior to the Semi-Annual Convocation.
- (c) Election of King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary and other positions established by Chapter Bylaws:
- (1) Shall be held annually at the same time as the election for High Priest.
  - (2) Special elections for vacancies may be held only by dispensation of the Grand High Priest.
- (d) Nominations for the elective officers can be made and seconded in open Chapter. Nomination declarations shall consist only of the name of the nominating Companion, who must be a Chapter member, the name of the nominee and the office to be elected. A second is required. The second Companion will give his name and declare a second for the nomination. There shall not be nominating speeches. The nominee may stand, in place, to be recognized. He may only accept or reject the nomination. Uncontested officers will be declared elected from the East, and contested offices will be balloted on, secret and written (May 2014).

## **Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**

**As Amended October 23, 2021**

- (e) Installation of Officers shall be in compliance with the authorized version(s) of the Grand Chapter Ritual. The Grand High Priest shall be consulted regarding Installing Officers.
- (f) The Chapter Secretary shall report to the Grand Secretary within one week of Installation of Officers the contact information for all the installed Officers to include:
  - (1) Full Name.
  - (2) Mailing Address.
  - (3) The Companion's preferred phone number.
  - (4) The Companion's preferred email address.
- (g) An installed Most Excellent High Priest holding Plural memberships shall be automatically enrolled in the Chapter which has installed him as his Mother Chapter for all purposes of Grand Chapter functions and organization. This status shall revert to his original Mother Chapter upon the completion of his term as High Priest.

**Section 6:** No Chapter can, at any extra Convocation, alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated Convocation.

**Section 7:** Every Master Mason who is desirous of receiving the Capitular Degrees, must petition some regular Chapter for advancement. He shall be recommended by a member of the Chapter in good standing; and if elected and exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, he thereby becomes a member of the Chapter, and as such shall be returned to the Grand Chapter.

**Section 8:** Committees for the purpose of inquiring into the qualities and character of petitioners for advancement shall always consist of three Royal Arch Masons.

**Section 9:** No Chapter shall confer any degree on a Brother, who has been advanced in another Chapter unless under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, without first obtaining, if practicable, the permission of said Chapter, and a certificate that complied with all its requirements.

**Section 10:** No chapter shall confer the degrees without payment of the fee which shall be \$50.00. No fee, nor any part thereof, may be remitted (May 2014).

**Section 11:** No Chapter shall advance a Brother who is not affiliated with some warranted Lodge, nor without the unanimous consent of the members present; and no petition for advancement, when once before the Chapter, can be withdrawn, but must be acted on within three months after its presentation, except in case of the petitioner's death.

**Section 12:** No Chapter shall receive a petition for the degrees from any person unless he shall have resided within the jurisdiction for the space of six months last preceding such application, and shall state in his application whether he has been previously rejected.

**Section 13:** Ballots on petitions may be taken collectively, and in the event of a negative ballot, each candidate shall be voted upon separately.

## Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland

As Amended October 23, 2021

**Section 14:** No Chapter shall advance any candidate who has been rejected within six months after such rejections; and the Secretary of every Chapter in which a rejection, suspension, expulsion or reinstatement shall take place, shall forthwith inform the Grand Secretary, on a form to be furnished by him.

**Section 15:** Each Chapter shall keep an alphabetical list of all expulsions, suspensions, reinstatements, and rejections occurring therein.

**Section 16:** No Chapter shall confer the Capitular degrees on any candidate rejected by any other Chapter, without first procuring the consent of such rejection Chapter, provided that such Chapter is in existence.

**Section 17:** No Chapter shall confer any other degrees than those of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch.

**Section 18:** No Chapter shall confer the several degrees on a candidate whose physical defects are such as to prevent him from conforming literally to all the requirements of those degrees, except by dispensation from the Grand High Priest

**Section 19:** All Chapters shall procure and keep Mark Books for the registry of the Marks of their respective members. The registry shall include a copy of the Mark, with description. No candidate shall be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch who has not previously recorded his Mark.

**Section 20:** No Chapter shall decide on any petitions for advancement or membership in any other way than by ballot (May 2016).

**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.

**Section 22: Plural and Dual Membership** – A member of a Maryland Chapter may affiliate with other Maryland Chapters and shall be known as a *Plural Member* if he is subsequently elected to membership in those Chapters. A member of a Chapter or Chapters in other Grand Jurisdictions, whose Laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Chapter if he is at least eighteen years of age and meets and all other requirements of affiliation, and shall be known as a *Dual Member* if he is subsequently elected to membership in that Chapter. In both situations his application must be accompanied by a current certification of good standing from his home Chapter.

## Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland

As Amended October 23, 2021

- (a) A member of a Chapter in Maryland may request a Certificate of Good Standing for the purpose of transferring his membership or applying for plural membership in another Maryland Chapter or dual membership in a Chapter of another Grand Jurisdiction.
- (b) The membership of a plural or dual member in a Maryland Chapter shall not be affected by his demit or suspension for nonpayment of dues from another Maryland Chapter or any Chapter in any other Grand Jurisdiction. Expulsion or suspension for cause by another Maryland Chapter or by a Chapter in any other Grand Jurisdiction shall automatically terminate his membership in a Maryland Chapter upon receipt of certified action by the other Chapter.
- (c) Dual membership entitles an affiliating Companion from any other Grand Jurisdiction to all the rights and privileges of a member of the Maryland Chapter with which he affiliates, without regard to such honors and offices he may have received or attained in any other Grand Jurisdiction. However, a Companion who affiliates with a Maryland Chapter and relinquishes his membership in all other Chapters or another Grand Jurisdiction shall be recognized by his Maryland Chapter as having all of the honors that were accorded him in his former Chapter.
- (d) If a Companion is a member of two or more Maryland Chapters, he shall pay to all Chapters the dues and assessments required of him under the Bylaws of those Chapters, but only his home Chapter shall be required to pay Grand Chapter dues and assessments with respect to him.
- (e) If a Plural Companion is a member of two or more Maryland Chapters, and Chapter membership is a factor in a particular situation, he shall be considered a member of his home Chapter (May 2014).

**Section 23:** Subordinate Chapters shall suspend from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, without trial, any member who shall fail to pay his dues for two years; provided, that no member shall be suspended under this section until he shall have at least one month's notice of the intention of this Chapter to take action upon his delinquency, and the penalty of which he renders himself liable by failure to liquidate his indebtedness. Should any member who shall be suspended under this section, within six months after the notice of the action of the chapter is given him, pay all arrearages up to his suspension, he shall automatically be restored to all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry and failing to do so within six months, he can regain those rights and privileges only by paying all arrearages due by him up to the time of suspension and petitioning the Chapter in regular form for reinstatement. Should the latter be denied him by his Chapter, he shall be considered a non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason, and shall have the right of petitioning another Chapter. Nothing in this section shall be construed, in any way, as affecting the rights of a Chapter to remit the dues of any member.

Notice to a member in arrears for dues of the intention of the Chapter to suspend him for nonpayment thereof, as provided herein, shall be sent to such member within sixty days after the expiration of the second year for which the dues of such member are in arrears. This notice shall be sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to such member so in arrears, to his residence, if known, then said notice, duly mailed at the Post Office nearest his last known place of residence, shall be deemed legal notice; proof of service of notice shall be required by the Chapter and the same duly recorded amount the minutes of the proceedings. Notice of actual suspension shall be sent to such member by certified or registered mail in the same manner as provided herein for notice of intention to suspend.

## **Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**

**As Amended October 23, 2021**

**Section 24:** The suspension or expulsion of a Royal Arch Mason by a Lodge shall deprive him of membership in the Chapter. When membership in the Chapter has been lost through action by the Lodge, restoration to membership in the Lodge shall reinstate membership in the chapter. Voluntary non-affiliation with a Lodge for a period of six months shall automatically cause loss of Chapter membership, which may only be restored upon renewal of affiliation with the Lodge.

**Section 25:** All by-laws and amendments to by-laws of Chapters shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary, in quintuplicate, for approval of the Grand Chapter or, in its recess, by the Grand High Priest, before they become effective, subject in both cases to the previous consideration of the Committee on Jurisprudence. In submitting both by-laws and amendments to by-laws, the questionnaire, which shall accompany same, shall also be submitted in quintuplicate, having been approved by the committee on Jurisprudence, copies of which are obtainable, upon request, from the Grand Secretary.

**Section 26:** No public procession, for any purpose except for funeral occasions and attending Divine Services, can take place without a dispensation from the Grand High Priest.

**Section 27:** The Grand Inspectors shall meet the Grand Lecturer and Committee on Work in such places as may be designated, on such dates as may be determined, the time to be devoted to instruction and rehearsal.

**Section 28:** No Chapter shall confer more than two degrees upon any candidate at the same Convocation, except by dispensation from the Grand High Priest.

**Section 29:** At the option of the High Priest, the date of a regular Convocation of a Chapter may be changed to another date, or, a Convocation may be omitted, if the regular date shall fall upon a legal holiday or upon a stated meeting of any of the Grand York Rite Bodies, provided, however, that due and timely notice of such change or omission shall be given to the chapter membership (May 1974).

### **Article XIII Amendments**

This Grand Chapter may alter or amend this Constitution on the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at an Annual or Semi-Annual Convocation, provided that the proposed alterations and/or amendments shall have been submitted, in writing, to the Grand Secretary, at least sixty days prior to the Annual Semi-Annual Convocation, at which time action is to be taken. Notice of action on such alterations and/or amendments shall be printed and mailed to all members of this Grand Chapter, thirty days prior to the scheduled action, provided, however, that a proposed amendment may be submitted, in writing, at an Annual or Semi-Annual Convocation, and if unanimously concurred on, it may be adopted at once, but if the vote is not unanimous, then it shall lie over until the next Annual or Semi-Annual Convocation and notice of the proposed amendments shall be included in the Annual Proceedings.

**STANDING RESOLUTIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF MARYLAND**

1. Any Subordinate Chapter in any adjoining Jurisdiction, that confers the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch only, may confer the degrees of Capitular Masonry on Master Masons of this State, who resides nearer to such Chapter than any Chapter in this State, provided the same privileges be extended to the Chapter in this State such adjoining Jurisdiction.
2. No Member of a defunct Chapter shall be allowed to visit any Chapter in this Jurisdiction unless he has paid his dues in full to said defunct Chapter, and has received a certificate to that effect from the Grand Secretary.
3. Before entering the Grand Chapter, every member and/or representative shall register with the Committee on Conference.
4. A Chapter that has been deprived of its Charter by the Grand Chapter may have the same restored by the latter through the petition of nine or more of the late members and payment to the Grand Chapter of all arrearages for fees and dues.
5. That the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland present a 50-year membership pin to each and every member of a Subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, who had held Royal Arch membership for a total period of 50 years.
6. That a certificate of proficiency be awarded by the Grand High Priest to those Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, who shall pass a satisfactory examination in the ritual pertaining to the four Capitular degrees of Masonry.
7. In conducting York Rite Festivals in this Jurisdiction, any and all Chapters participating in such Festivals will be permitted, without dispensation to receive and ballot on such petitions for the Capitular Degrees, at any and all Convocations, stated or special, held within thirty days prior to the Festival, provided the Convocations for balloting, and the members of the subject Chapters are duly notified. (May 13, 1969).
8. That no Chapter in this Jurisdiction shall issue any check, unless signed by any two of the following: High Priest, King, Treasurer and Secretary, preferably the High Priest and Treasurer. (May 12, 1970).