

**THE LAWS
of
THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
A.F. & A.M.**

CONTAINING

**The Corporate Charter, the Constitution and Ancient Charges,
the Statutes and Masonic Forms**



(Revised 2014)

**Prepared and Published by Authority of
The Grand Lodge**

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This volume contains all the Laws governing the Grand Lodge of Texas, its subordinate Lodges and the Craft, under its jurisdiction, except those of a ritualistic nature which, insofar as they are committed to writing, are contained in "The Approved Monitor of the Lodge." Compilation of this volume, which represents the combined labors of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, had its inception in an adopted recommendation of the Grand Master in 1950 stating that the latest (1945) Revision was "excellent and in the main in good form," but pointed out that subsequent changes and amendments required another revision which should include: classification of Laws and Forms; harmonizing and integrating laws; omitting obsolete decisions and combining and summarizing others; consolidating indexes; adding a proper outline and brief canons of construction.

It has been the earnest endeavor of the Committee to attain these objectives, as well as another contained in the following quotation from a letter of Grand Master Sam P. Cochran to Geo. W. Tyler, P.G.M., Chairman of a Revision Committee in 1912: "In refraining or restating the Law on any particular subject, cover the matter fully and make it so clear that the crossroads Brother can understand it." The paramount difficulty in this regard is one inherent in rule and law making generally: that of covering all contingencies and factual situations then extant or that may reasonably be foreseen in expressions of such degree of certainty as to resolve them beyond reasonable controversy. Such an ideal has never been attained in any field, even by the best trained legal minds. One can only strive toward it.

Quoting further from the same source: "Masonic Jurisprudence has come to have a significant meaning in the world at large." This estimate derives from the fact that it has been gleaned and garnered, in like manner as the philosophy and symbolism of Freemasonry, by an unbroken line of able, devoted and consecrated scholars, writers and leaders, from the cumulative wisdom of the ages as it has developed throughout the history of the Order, in the realms of morals, philosophy, religion, art, science and government.

FOREWORD

Its development in this jurisdiction presents a story both instructive and fascinating, which we believe not amiss to relate herein brief resume.

THE CORPORATE CHARTERS

There have been four of these, each supplementing or superseding its predecessor: 1. The 1845 "Act to Incorporate the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, and other Subordinate Lodges;" 2. The 1846 "Act to Incorporate the Society of Free Masons, composed of Lodges and Chapters;" 3. The 1879 "Act to Incorporate the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in and for the State of Texas, under and by the Name and Style of the Grand Lodge of Texas;" and 4. The present Charter of 1900 obtained under Article 713a Revised Civil Statutes (present Arts. 1399-1407). A copy of each is printed in this volume, the first three for reference only.

THE CONSTITUTION AND ANCIENT CHARGES

The December 1837 Convention, which established the Grand Lodge of Texas, adopted the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana "for present government ** so far as it is applicable to our situation," and appointed a committee to draft a Constitution. It is interesting to note that the resolution of adoption was by Jefferson Wright, our first Grand Senior Warden, a portrait artist of note and "known as the semi-official artist of the Republic of Texas," and that the resolution creating the Committee was by Dr. Anson Jones, our first Grand Master and last President of the Republic. At the first Communication (April 1838) the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee was adopted "with such changes in its regulations and phraseology as will adapt it to the local conditions and wants of this Grand Lodge." The committee was continued and at an adjourned Communication (May 19, 1838) reported, and the Grand Lodge adopted its first constitution consisting of four Chapters headed: 1. Of the Grand Lodge; 2. Of Subordinate Lodges; 3. Of Finances; and 4. General Provisions. There have been four subsequent revisions of the Constitution: 1841; 1848; 1856, and 1920. The first three were largely recodifications in that they consisted, in the main in bringing down to date by inclusion of amendments and making such textual changes as seemed necessary to clarification and

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elimination of conflict and ambiguity. The 1848 revision added "The Old Charges," and that of 1856 substituted six Articles for the former four chapters, and "The Charges of a Freemason" for "The Old Charges." The original Constitution and the revisions prior to 1920, contained in large measure the general body of laws and regulatory minutiae and procedure pertaining both to the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges.

The present Constitution adopted in 1920, with the few amendments thereto, is that published in this volume. It is mainly the work of Geo. W. Tyler, P.G.M., a distinguished lawyer, eminent scholar, and profound student of Masonic law, history and philosophy. His work began as Chairman of a Committee created in 1911 to revise both the Constitution and Laws. Draft of the Constitution was completed and reported December 2, 1912; adopted, printed in the proceedings and submitted to the Lodges in 1913. It evoked considerable debate in Lodges and Masonic publications, and was defeated in 1914 by a vote of 645 to 774. It developed, however, that the objections urged were few and not of great importance, and a new Committee was created in 1915, consisting of Jewel P. Lightfoot, P.G.M., Chairman, two members each of the Jurisprudence and Finance Committees, and three members who were not officers of the Grand Lodge or members of either of these Committees. At the 1919 Communication the draft was presented by Judge Tyler for the Committee (General Lightfoot having moved to Chicago), adopted and referred to the Lodges. It was finally adopted in 1920.

As noted above, prior Constitutions were encumbered with a large body of rules and regulations that more properly belonged in the Laws. Judge Tyler informed his Committee at the outset that his objective would be "to embrace in the Constitution only permanent and fundamental provisions for the organization and government of the Grand Lodge and Craft in Texas, but carrying forward in Edicts (Laws) everything of a transient nature and administrative details which may need to be altered from time to time or abandoned, as exigencies of the time and experience may demand and thus doing away with submitting such alterations to the Lodges and of incurring a year's delay." At that time the Constitution contained 190 Sections and the "Laws and Edicts" 660 Articles. These were all carefully screened and the permanent sifted from the temporary and regulatory with meticulous precision.

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The purpose Clause (Art. I, Sec. 2) was the first of that nature to appear in the Constitution, and was entirely of Tyler authorship. It is an eloquent summation of the fundamental purposes of the Grand Lodge, and a literary gem of the first magnitude. The entire draft in the estimation of this Committee, is a masterpiece in its field, and an enduring monument to its distinguished author. Comparison of the 1912 draft with that adopted in 1920 evidences that changes in the latter were few and of minor importance.

THE STATUTES

As already noted, the Constitution originally contained the principal body of the Laws, other pronouncements having the force of law being contained in resolutions, reports of Committees and decisions of Grand Masters, referred to generally as "Edicts." The first compilation of these, under the heading "Resolutions" was published in 1857 in compliance with a directive: "That such resolutions of a general character, as having been adopted at this Communication, be published by way of appendix to the Proceedings with those heretofore in force." Taylor's Monitor, which ran into ten editions (1859-1878) carried "A Digest of Resolutions and Edicts." The first general compilation of Texas Masonic Law was Sayles' "The Masonic Jurisprudence of Texas," adopted in 1879. The author, who acted under a resolution recommended in 1876 by Grand Master Joseph D. Sayers (later member of Congress and Governor of Texas), was Grand Master in 1852. He was celebrated as a compiler and digester of Early Texas Laws and was a great student of Masonic law, history and customs. The volume contained:

1. The Constitution and Ancient Charges; 2. Resolutions and Edicts;
3. Digest of Opinions of Grand Officers and Reports of Committees, alphabetically arranged; 4. "Forms," consisting of the ceremonies now contained in the Manual; 5. By-Laws for Subordinate Lodges;
6. Masonic Forms; 7. Comprehensive index.

Subsequent revisions were in 1895, 1908, 1921, 1932, 1939 and 1945. The first three of these followed the same pattern, modeled manifestly after the Texas Civil Statutes, grouping the Subjects under Titles, Chapters under Titles, and Articles numbered con-

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secutively throughout. There were Six Titles with these headings: I. The Grand Lodge; II Subordinate Lodges; III Membership; LV Degrees; V Trials; VI Miscellaneous. None of these revisions was annotated. The 1932 revision was largely the work of Jewel P. Lightfoot, P.G.M., Attorney General 1910-1912, eminent Masonic research scholar and writer, and author of the "Manual of the Lodge" (1934). The distinctive feature of this revision was the Annotations, which entailed the prodigious labor of analyzing, classifying and digesting all important decisions and rulings of the previous 95 years, and arranging them under appropriate Articles. The "Constitution and Laws" were arranged under four "Divisions": I Constitution and Ancient Charges; II Laws Governing the Grand Lodge; III Subordinate Lodges; IV Discipline. Titles were omitted and Sections were substituted for Chapters. Both Sections and Articles were numbered consecutively throughout. There were three appendixes: A. Forms for Masonic Trials; B. General Forms; C. Old Regulations, which was a new addition. The index to the Decisions was separate from the General Index. The two subsequent revisions were entirely Lighifoot's work, consisting in bringing down to date the laws and decisions and making such textual and other changes therein as seemed necessary. The loose-leaf format of the last edition was upon recommendation of the Finance Committee.

THE PRESENT VOLUME

The following changes are believed to be helpful:

1. For the reason that the Charter and Adopted Forms are authoritative expressions of Law, the entire volume, entitled "The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas," is arranged under the following four Divisions: I Charter; II Constitution and Ancient Charges; III Statutes; IV Forms.
2. The 1895-1920 arrangement of "Laws and Edicts" under Titles and Chapters under Titles has been adopted under the general designation "Statutes," omitting Title VI, the Articles under which were carried forward in the 1932 revision under appropriate Sections.
3. The Statutes have been carefully reexamined and: (A) Each Article given a heading; (B) Clarified as to ambiguity and

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conflict; (C) Broadened to include clarifying decisions; (D) Obsolete and non-clarifying decisions omitted, and those retained redrafted in the form of appended notes, and tabulated. The proviso added to Articles 107 (181) and 177 (213) imposing the duty upon the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence of designating and editing the decisions for publication in the Laws, is designed to obviate the confusion and conflict heretofore arising from copying all adopted decisions in the Laws in full as reported in the Proceedings.

4. Masonic Forms. Such changes, additions and rearrangement were made, as deemed appropriate.

5. A complete Table of Contents has been added which meets the 1950 Recommendation for a "proper outline."

6. Canons of construction have also been added. These precede the Statutes as they apply to all laws therein.

7. A single consolidated index to cover the entire Volume has been substituted for the two present indexes.

8. Title, Chapter, Article and Form numbers are carried at the top of each page. The Article numbers in parentheses are those of the 1945 Revision and amendments thereto. The year of effective date and page numbers are at the bottom of each page. The looseleaf format is retained, and future substitute leaves will carry the date of substitution.

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE

DIVISION I

CORPORATE CHARTERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

The present corporate Charter of the Grand Lodge and the enabling legislative act, under which it was created, are as follows:

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris.

WHEREAS, at a Stated Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, held in the City of Houston, in Harris County, in the State of Texas, on to wit, the 5th day of December, A. D. 1900, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Texas accepts the provisions of Chapter 11, Title 21, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended by the Twenty-sixth Legislature, and incorporates thereunder; provided the doing shall in no way affect the legality of any act of the Grand Lodge done under or by virtue of its present incorporation.'

WHEREFORE, by virtue of said resolution, the officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, do hereby agree to become a body corporate under Title 21, Chapter 11, and Article 713a, enacted by the Twenty-sixth Legislature of Texas, at its regular session, and do declare as follows:

FIRST

The name of such corporation shall be "THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS."

SECOND

The said Grand Lodge and this corporation is formed for charitable and benevolent purposes, and to cement bonds of good fellowship and brotherly love among its members and adherents, and to practice the art of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry as has been done from time immemorial.

It shall have all the rights, privileges, and benefits of other like corporations under the laws of the State of Texas, as well as those given and provided for in the aforesaid Article 713a, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part hereof.

All subordinate Lodges of Masons in Texas now working under and holding charter from and by said The Grand Lodge of Texas, or that may hereafter be instituted under such charter, are hereby incorporated, and do by virtue hereof become bodies corporate tinder and in the name given them respectively in the charters heretofore issued to them, or that may hereafter be so issued.

CHARTER OF GRAND LODGE

Such subordinate Lodges shall have all rights granted hereby to said Grand Lodge which are not inconsistent with, but must be wholly subject to, the Constitution, By-Laws, Resolutions, and Edicts of said Grand Lodge.

THIRD

The business of said Grand Lodge shall be transacted at the City of Houston, in Harris County, Texas, or at such place or places in Texas as may be provided by resolution or law of said Grand Lodge. And the business of said subordinate Lodges shall be transacted at the place designated in their respective charters or warrants.

FOURTH

The Grand Lodge of Texas and its subordinate Lodges shall have perpetual existence, and have perpetual succession of its officers and members.

FIFTH

The officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Texas shall be: a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Grand Senior Warden, a Grand Junior Warden, a Grand Treasurer, and a Grand Secretary, and such other officers, members, and committees as may be provided by the Grand Lodge; and the six officers specifically named above who may from time to time be selected by the Grand Lodge, shall constitute the Trustees or Directors having charge of the business affairs of the Grand Lodge under its laws and regulations, during its vacation.

But the Grand Lodge may provide certain duties and powers to be performed and exercised by the Directors of the Masonic Widow and Orphans' Home, or by any other officer or committee.

At this time the six officers first mentioned above and their respective residences are as follows:

Robert M. Lusk, Grand Master, Bonham, Texas.

Nat M. Washer, Deputy Grand Master, San Antonio, Texas.

William Clark, Grand Senior Warden, Jefferson, Texas.

W.Madden Fly, Grand Junior Warden, Gonzales, Texas.

Benjamin F. Frymier, Grand Treasurer, Houston, Texas.

John Watson, Grand Secretary, Houston, Texas.

The officers and trustees of subordinate Lodges shall be such as are or may be provided by the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge.

SIXTH

Neither the Grand Lodge nor its subordinate Lodges shall have any capital stock, but they may own and hold property as herein provided.

The present estimated value of the goods, chattels, lands, rights, and credits of said Grand Lodge is two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

CHARTER OF GRAND LODGE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the said Robert M. Lusk, Grand Master, a resident of Bonham, Texas, and Marcus F. Mott, Past Grand Master, a resident of Galveston, Texas, and John Watson, Grand Secretary, a resident of Houston, Texas, all members of said Grand Lodge, have hereunto subscribed our names at the City of Houston, Texas, on this the 5th day of December, A.D. 1900.

R.M. LUSK, Grand Master,
MARCUS F. MOTT, Past Grand Master,
JOHN WATSON, Grand Secretary.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris.

Before me, Ingram S. Roberts, a Notary Public in and for Harris County, Texas, on this day personally appeared Robert M. Lusk, Marcus F. Mott, and John Watson, all known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this the 5th day of December, A.D. 1900.

INGHAM S. ROBERTS,
Notary Public, Harris Co., Texas

Article 713a. (Arts. 1399-1407 R.C.S. 1925) passed by the Twenty-sixth Legislature at its regular session, and approved May 23, 1899, accompanying and to be a part of the attached Articles of Incorporation:

Article 713a. The Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas (Masonic), the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Texas, and other like institutions and orders, organized for charitable or benevolent purposes, may, by the consent of their respective bodies, expressed by a resolution or otherwise, become bodies corporate under this title, and the incorporation of any such grand body shall include all of its subordinate lodges or bodies holding warrant or charter under such grand body, and each of such subordinate bodies shall have all the rights of other corporations under and by the name given it in such warrant or charter issued by the Grand body to which it is attached, such right being provided for in the charter of the grand body.

Such grand bodies and their subordinates may elect their own trustees or directors, or name certain of their officers as such, and perform such other acts and things as are directed or provided by law in the case of other corporations, and shall have full power to make constitutions and bylaws for the government and regulation of their affairs.

Such institutions or orders, grand and subordinate, as are mentioned or included within this chapter, shall have the right to acquire and hold such lands and personality as may be necessary or convenient for sites upon which

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to erect buildings for their use and occupancy, and for homes and schools for their widows, orphans, or aged, or decrepit, or indigent members, and to sell or mortgage the same, such conveyances to be executed by the presiding officer, attested by the Secretary and the seal; but the power and authority of such subordinate bodies to sell or to mortgage shall be subject to such conditions prerequisite as may be from time to time prescribed or established by the grand body to which the subordinate is attached.

Such subordinate bodies shall at all times be subject to the jurisdiction and control of their respective grand bodies, and subject to have their warrants or charters revoked by such grand body. Upon the demise of any subordinate body so incorporated, all property and rights existing in such subordinate body shall pass to and vest in the grand body to which it was attached, subject to the payment of all debts due by such subordinate body; but the grand body shall never be liable for any sum greater than the actual cash value of the effects of such subordinate actually received by it, or its authority.

Any grand body incorporated under this article shall have the right and authority to loan any funds held and owned by it for charitable purposes, for the endowment of any of its institutions or otherwise, and may secure such loans by taking and receiving liens on real estate, or in such other manner as it may elect, and upon sale of any real estate under such lien such grand body may become the purchaser thereof and hold title thereto. Any grand body incorporating under this chapter may provide in its charter for the expiration of its corporate powers at the end of any given number of years, or it may provide in its charter for its perpetual existence, and by its corporate name have perpetual succession of officers and members; provided, that any such grand body or subordinate body now having a valid chartered existence may continue under its present charter, or reincorporate under this chapter. Bodies incorporated under this chapter shall not be subject to pay a franchise tax.

The following corporate charters of the Grand Lodge which have been superseded by the above Charter, are inserted here for historical reference only:

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE GRAND LODGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS AND OTHER SUBORDINATE LODGES

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled, That the Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, be, and are hereby constituted and declared to be a body corporate and politic, under the name and style of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, with power and authority, to sue and be sued, pleased and be impleaded; to have and use a common seal, and at pleasure to alter or change the same, and in their corporate capacity to hold and possess estate, real and personal, not exceeding twenty thousand dollars in value, with full and ample powers to dissolve their corporation at any time they may deem proper, and to sell and

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convey their corporate property and distribute the proceeds among the individual members of the Lodge or in such other manner as they may direct, provided the amount of real estate in lands shall not exceed five acres, and further provided, that when real estate shall accrue to said Grand Lodge, and subordinate Lodges, by donation or will, they shall have the period of two years to dispose of the same.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That the provisions of the first section of this act, shall be extended to the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Holland Lodge, number one, at Houston, to the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Harmony Lodge, number six, at Galveston; to the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Orphans Friends Lodge, number seventeen, at Fantharps in Montgomery county, and to such other subordinate Lodges as are, or may be established under the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, that may avail themselves of the same.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved, January 30th, 1845.

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE SOCIETY OF FREE MASONS, COMPOSED OF LODGES AND CHAPTERS

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the officers and members of the grand lodge of free masons in Texas, and their successors in office, shall have in their corporate capacity, power to hold property, both real and personal, for the purpose of erecting, endowing and maintaining an institution of learning, and to sell and convey the same at pleasure: Provided, that at no time, shall the capital exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for said grand lodge and the subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction, to erect buildings for their own convenience, and to hold such meetings and at such times as they may deem proper, for the better management of their charitable funds, and the application of the same to proper purposes, and the transaction of all other business relating to their own affairs, and shall have full power and authority to make, constitute and ordain bylaws, rules and regulations, for their own government.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That the jurisdiction of the said grand lodge, is coextensive with the limits of Texas, as claimed and defined by the present statutes, as the boundary.

Section 4. Be it further enacted, That the officers and members of the present grand chapter of royal arch masons in Texas, and their successors in office, be and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, with power to sue and be sued, and that all the provisions, powers and authority

CHARTER OF GRAND LODGE

granted by this act, to the grand lodge, be extended to the said royal arch chapter, and to the subordinate chapters, in the State of Texas, and that this act take effect from and after its passage.

Approved, 28th April, A. D. 1846.

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS, UNDER AND BY THE NAME AND STYLE OF THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in and for the State of Texas, now or hereafter acting under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, be and are hereby incorporated under and by the name and style of "The Grand Lodge of Texas," and by that name shall have and exercise corporate powers, and by that name shall have perpetual succession of officers and members; shall have a common seal, which may be changed at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge; shall have full power to take and acquire, hold and enjoy, real and personal property; to sue for and recover all sum or sums of money or property of any description, and shall have the right to sell, alien, and convey its property of all kinds at its will and pleasure, and to incumber by mortgage with usual clauses or such clauses as it pleases, any or all of its property in such manner as may be deemed expedient by the Grand Lodge, and shall in like manner have the right to borrow money and to execute its obligations therefor in such form as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge, or that may be approved by said Grand Lodge when obligations have already issued by the said Grand Lodge.

Section 2. That all subordinate Lodges heretofore chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas, and now existing, and all Lodges which may hereafter be chartered by said Grand Lodge, shall constitute and form part and parcels of the Grand Lodge incorporated by this act, under the name or names by which such subordinate Lodges were or may be chartered; and such subordinate Lodges shall have the right to sue and be sued by their corporate name and shall have the right to acquire and hold real or personal property, and to sell or mortgage the same; but the power to sell or to mortgage shall be subject to such conditions and prerequisites as may be from time to time established by said Grand Lodge; and no sale or mortgage shall be made except by the previously obtained consent of the Grand Lodge. Such subordinate Lodges shall at all times be subject to the jurisdiction and control of said Grand Lodge, and subject, as heretofore, to have their charters revoked by said Grand Lodge. Upon the demise of any subordinate Lodge, all property and rights existing in such Lodge shall pass to and vest in the Grand Lodge, subject in its hands to the payment of all debts due by such subordinate Lodge; but the Grand Lodge shall never be liable for any sum greater than the actual cash value of the effects of such subordinate Lodge actually received by it or its authority.

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Section 3. This act is declared to be a public general statute, and shall as such be taken notice of by all courts and in all places.

Section 4. The Charter under which the Grand Lodge of Texas is now acting being defective, creates an imperative public necessity and emergency which requires that this act should be immediately passed, and to take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Approved March 19th, A. D. 1879.

DIVISION II

CONSTITUTION AND ANCIENT CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

As Adopted December 8, A.L. 5920, and Amended
December 6, 1922; December 2, 1925; December 4, 1947;
December 4, 1957; December 8, 1990; December 5, 1992
and December 6, 1997.

ARTICLE I

TITLE AND PURPOSES

Section 1. – Title.

The title and corporate name of this Grand Body is “The Grand Lodge of Texas.”

Section 2. – Purposes.

The purposes of this Grand Lodge are to control and regulate the practice of Freemasonry throughout its jurisdiction, in accordance with the immemorial usages of this ancient and honorable Craft; to advance the moral and social interest of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and brotherly love, and generally to promote, in its own way, the happiness of mankind – it is a Fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, eschewing all interest in factional politics and sectarian religion, and free from the dictation or discussion of both in this Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges. (Revised 2012)

ARTICLE II

OF WHOM COMPOSED

Section 1. – Members and Representatives.

The Grand Lodge of Texas is composed of the following members and representatives of Lodges:

Members

- (a) The Grand Officers, elective and appointive, in this Constitution provided, during their respective terms of office.
- (b) The Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens of the Grand Lodge of Texas, while members of Lodges of its obedience.
- (c) The regular Past Masters of Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, while members of Lodges of its obedience.

REPRESENTATIVES

- (d) The Masters and Wardens of all the chartered Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, or the proxies of such Lodges who may be elected by such Lodges to represent them in the next succeeding Communication only of the Grand Lodge, and who, during such Communication, and in the absence of the Master and Wardens thereof, shall be entitled to cast the vote of their respective Lodges on all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, provided that each proxy must be a member of the Lodge he represents, and a resident of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE III

JURISDICTION AND POWERS

Section 1. – Exclusive Jurisdiction Over Masonry in Texas.

The Grand Lodge of Texas has exclusive jurisdiction over all regular Lodges and of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons within the limits of the State of Texas, and has exclusive power to constitute new Lodges, to revoke charters granted, to maintain uniformity in the mode of working, and generally to control Masonic affairs in this State, and is the highest power therein over the first three Degrees of Craft Masonry, to-wit: the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason.

Section 2. – Inherent Power to Regulate Masonry.

It has also inherent power to make local ordinances and new regulations and to amend old ones for its own benefit and for the good of Masonry in general, provided that the Ancient Landmarks

of the Fraternity be preserved and that all of its powers be exercised in accordance with the provisions of its own Constitution.

Section 3. – **Anderson’s “Old Charges of a Freemason.”**

The “Old Charges of a Freemason” originally prepared by Dr. Anderson, approved A.D. 1722, contains the system of ancient laws and customs of the Craft, and is recognized as binding in points where this Constitution and our laws are silent.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

Section 1. – **Style and Rank.**

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

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden
Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain
Right Worshipful Grand Orator
Right Worshipful Grand Marshal
Worshipful Grand Senior Deacon
Worshipful Grand Junior Deacon
Worshipful Grand Senior Steward
Worshipful Grand Junior Steward
Worshipful Grand Pursuivant
Worshipful Grand Musician
Worshipful Grand Photographer
Worshipful Grand Tiler

The title of Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens and District Deputy Grand Masters shall be Right Worshipful.

(Amended 1990)

Section 2. – **Elective Grand Officers.**

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be elected.

(Amended 1990)

Section 3. – **Appointive Grand Officers.**

(a) The Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Musician, Grand Photographer,

Grand Tiler and District Deputy Grand Masters shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

(b) The Grand Junior Deacon and Grand Pursuivant shall be appointed by the Grand Senior Warden.

(c) The Grand Stewards shall be appointed by the Grand Junior Warden.

Section 4. – Time of Election and Installation.

The election of Grand Officers shall be held on the day of each Annual Communication at such hour as the Grand Lodge may fix, and shall have priority over all other business; and as soon thereafter as convenient, during the same Communication, the officers, elective and appointive, shall be duly installed; provided, that if any one so elected or appointed is not present for installation, the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, may provide for his installation.

(Revised, 1992)

Section 5. – Failure to Elect or Install Grand Officers.

If the Grand Lodge shall fail to meet or to elect or install the Grand Officers at the appointed time, those in office shall, unless installed into another office, continue therein and exercise full authority until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 6. – Eligibility to Office.

The Grand Officers, except the Grand Chaplain, Grand Musician and Grand Photographer, must be members of the Grand Lodge at the time of their selection and, if willing to serve again, are eligible as often as may be the pleasure of the Grand Lodge or of the officer having the power of appointment (as the case may be), and except as provided in Section 6(a) every member of the Grand Lodge is eligible to any office therein, whether present or not at the time of his selection.

(Revised 2013)

(a) In the statement of availability for the office of Grand Junior Warden, such member must disclose in his statement of availability whether or not he has received any reimbursement or payment of expenses from the Grand Lodge of Texas within the previous twelve month period, or, if the member is nominated from the floor of Grand Lodge, then such member shall make such disclosure in writing upon his nomination in Grand Lodge.

(Adopted 2008)

Section 7. – Mode of Election.

(a) The presiding officer shall request the members to nominate some skillful Brother or Brethren for the office of Grand

Master. Should only one name be placed in nomination, the vote shall be taken without ballot. Should more than one Brother be placed in nomination, the members shall prepare their written ballots for Grand Master, to be collected by the Grand Deacons (and such others as may be appointed to assist them), who shall examine the same at the Grand Secretary's desk and announce to the presiding office the number of votes cast for each nominee, and he shall, in either case, proclaim the Brother receiving the majority of all votes cast as the Grand Master of Masons of Texas.

(b) The Grand Master-elect shall nominate some skillful brother for his Deputy, and the members may nominate one or more Brethren in opposition, if they desire. If only one nomination be made, the vote shall be taken without ballot, but if more than one Brother be placed in nomination, the ballot shall be taken as in the election of Grand Master.

(c) In like manner shall the election of Grand Wardens, and other elective Grand Officers be conducted, except that the nominations therefor shall be made by members only. It shall require a majority of all votes cast to elect to any position.

Section 8. – District Deputy Grand Masters.

The State shall from time to time be divided into a convenient number of Masonic Districts of contiguous territory and comprising, as nearly as practicable, an equal number of Lodges, and be numbered accordingly. The Grand Master shall appoint for each District, a District Deputy Grand Master, who shall be a member of a Lodge of that District and a regular Past Master of a Lodge of our obedience and a Brother who has previously attended the Grand Lodge (if such a one is available) and who is well versed in the Masonic Law and usage. Should any Brother appointed decline to serve, or the office become vacant from any cause, the Grand Master shall appoint some other Brother to supply the place. (Revised 1989)

Section 9. – Other Officers May Be Provided.

In view of the unusual extent of our Masonic territory, comprising a very large and increasing number of Lodges and Masons, and in order to relieve the Grand Master of many of the merely formal and perfunctory duties of his office, and with a view to

securing at all times a close personal supervision and direction of the labors of the Craft by properly accredited representatives of the Grand Lodge, provision may be made, from time to time, for the appointment of other officers, or deputies, with such title, rank, powers, and duties as may be prescribed by law.

Section 10. – Installation of Officers.

(a) At the time appointed, the Grand Master or some Past Grand Master shall cause the Grand Master-elect to be conducted to the chair, and, after introducing him to the members as a skillful and worthy Brother, shall invest him with the badges and implements of his office and install him in due form.

(b) The installation of all the other officers shall then follow in due order.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS

Section 1. – Duties of the Grand Master and His Deputy and Grand Wardens.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Wardens, to attend all Communications of the Grand Lodge, and to conduct its labors in accordance with the ancient customs and usages, as outlined in the Old Constitution, and as established by the customs of the Grand Lodge, and each of said officers shall perform faithfully such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the laws, resolutions, and edicts of the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. – Powers of the Grand Master.

The Grand Master has power to grant dispensation for new Lodges and for conferring all degrees, and for other purposes, according to the laws and customs of the Grand Lodge; to install and constitute new Lodges; to preside in any Lodge; to suspend Lodges, and depose officers of subordinate Lodges, on information of un-Masonic conduct; and generally to superintend and direct the labors of the Craft: but the exercise of all these powers is subject to the laws of the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. – Duties of Other Grand Officers.

The other Grand Officers shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as are or may be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE VI**QUORUM, PRESIDING OFFICERS,
COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.****Section 1. – Quorum.**

To constitute a quorum to transact business at any Communication of the Grand Lodge, the representatives of at least fifty Lodges must be present.

Section 2. – Presiding Officers.

(a) The Grand Master, if present, must preside at any Communication of the Grand Lodge, and he may call upon any eminent Brethren to fill vacancies temporarily; and these duties will devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden in due order of succession, in the absence of his superior officers; and in the absence of all of them the Master of the oldest chartered Lodge present shall preside as Grand Master pro tem, or he may call upon some Past Grand Master to preside as Grand Master pro tem.

(b) In case of the absence from the State or the disability or death of the Grand Master or other Grand Officer above named at any time during his term of office, the same order of succession shall take place as above directed, either temporarily or until the next regular election, as the case may be.

Section 3. Communication.

(a) The Grand Lodge shall meet in Grand Annual Communication at such time and place as may be fixed by Law.

(Revised 1997)

(b) Special Communications of the Grand Lodge may be convened whenever the Grand Master, or presiding officer for the time, shall deem that the interests of the Craft require, but in such case at least one month's notice shall be given to each Lodge by the Grand Secretary, specifying in such notice the time, place and the purpose or purposes of such special Communication; and at such special Communication no business shall be transacted other than that mentioned in such notice.

ARTICLE VII

MANNER OF VOTING IN THE GRAND LODGE

Section 1. – **Voting by “Lodges and Members” and Otherwise.**

All questions shall be determined by a majority of votes cast as follows:

(a) In fixing the time for the Annual Communication, or whenever the representatives of twenty-five Lodges shall demand it, the vote shall be taken “by Lodges and Members.” In all other cases, where not specially provided otherwise, it shall be taken by votes of members present.

(b) The vote “by Lodges and Members” shall be in the following manner: The Masters, Wardens and proxy; of Lodges present shall vote as one body and constitute the representative body or the “Lodges;” and the Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers and Past Masters present and entitled to vote shall vote as one body and alone constitute the other body or the “Members.”

(c) When the vote is taken “by Lodges and Members” each Lodge represented is entitled to three votes, to be cast by its representatives collectively, and each member of the Grand Lodge present in person is entitle to one vote. In other cases each representative and each member present is entitled to one vote.

(d) When the vote is taken by ballot, the vote of each Lodge shall be cast together, as a majority of its representatives present may agree; if only one is present he shall cast the whole vote; if two are present and they do not agree, then the senior officer of them shall cast the whole vote.

Section 2 – **No Member Can Cast More Than Four Votes.**

No member shall have more than one vote unless he is also a representative, and in no case can one Brother cast more than four votes, and cannot represent other than his own Lodge.

Section 3. – **Presiding Officer Votes in Case of a Tie.**

In ease of a tie in a vote by members present, the presiding officer shall, in addition to his own vote, give the casting vote.

ARTICLE VIII SUBORDINATE LODGES

Section 1. – Dispensations, Charters, Etc.

No set of Masons shall ever take upon themselves to work together, or to form a new Lodge, without a dispensation or charter issued according to the laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas; and no Lodge or body of persons in Texas, under whatever name, conferring or pretending to confer the first three degrees of symbolic Masonry, can be recognized as a regular Lodge of Masons, unless it holds its warrant from and under The Grand Lodge of Texas.

Section 2. – No Lodges Chartered in Other States or Countries.

No dispensation or charter to constitute a Lodge shall be granted by the Grand Lodge, or under its authority, to Masons residing in any other State or country where there is a Grand Lodge that adopts the principles of this and the foregoing section.

Section 3. – Grand Master May Grant Dispensations for New Lodges.

The Grand Master only has power to grant dispensations for new Lodges, and to revoke the same as well as charters, under regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. – Charters Granted by the Grand Lodge Only.

Charters for forming new Lodges can be granted by the Grand Lodge only, either on application of a Lodge under dispensation or otherwise as provided by law.

ARTICLE IX RETURNS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. – Lodges Shall Make Annual Returns.

The several Lodges on record shall make out annually their returns and forward the same to the Grand Secretary at the time and in the manner and form prescribed by law.

Section 2. – Annual Contributions.

Each Lodge shall pay annually, and at such time as is or may be provided by law, as a contribution to the Grand Lodge,

the sum of fifty cents for each member on its rolls, and one dollar for each degree conferred, all of which shall constitute a part of the General Fund, and shall pay annually the further sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents for each member on its roll to maintain the widows and to educate and maintain the orphan children of deceased Master Masons in Texas, under such regulations and by such agencies as are now or may hereafter be provided in this Constitution and Bylaws; provided, that any further or additional sum may be added to the above by law, at such time as it may be deemed advisable, for the use and benefit of the General Fund or for the use and benefit of the Masonic Orphans Home.

(Amendment adopted December 6, 1922.)

Section 3. – Charter Suspended for Failure to Make Returns or Pay Dues.

If any Lodge shall fail to make its annual returns or to pay its annual dues within such time as may be prescribed by law, it shall not be represented in the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge; and if it continues in neglect of either of these duties for six months after such Annual Communication, it shall stand suspended, unless the Grand Master, for good cause shown, shall grant it further time.

Section 4. – Fees for Dispensations and Charters.

The fee for each dispensation to form a new Lodge shall be twenty-five dollars, for each charter subsequently granted an additional twenty-five dollars, and for each charter granted, where no dispensation has previously issued, fifty dollars; such fee in each case to accompany the application and to be returned if the application be not granted. All such fees will constitute a part of the General Fund.

ARTICLE X
WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Section 1. – Honor and Resources Pledged.

The Grand Lodge of Texas, having from its organization in 1837 to the present time, undertaken to provide for the maintenance of the widows and for the education and maintenance of the orphaned children of the deceased members of our Fraternity

does hereby pledge anew its sacred honor to the accomplishment of this noble design, and will devote to its full and continued realization the financial resources at its command and all that may be achieved by the earnest thought, generous hearts, and willing hands of our great Fraternity.

Section 2. – Masonic Home and School.

The Masonic Home and School heretofore established and supported by the Grand Lodge, at Fort Worth, is recognized as a means for the attainment of the commendable purposes above set forth, and its future growth and expansion in beneficence and usefulness will ever be the subject of our constant care and solicitude.

Section 3. – Provisions for Widows and Orphans.

To maintain the widows and to educate and maintain the needy children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas, and such other children who qualify under the provisions of the Laws of this Grand Lodge; the following funds are hereby dedicated and set apart, to wit:

(a) The annual contributions from each Lodge of one dollar and twenty-five cents for each member on its rolls, in this Constitution provided for said purposes.

(Revised 1990)

Section 4 – Board of Directors.

(a) The powers and duties of the Grand Lodge in relation to these benevolent purposes toward the widows and orphans of our deceased Brethren are hereby delegated to and vested in a Board of five Directors. Five members of said Board of Directors shall be elected by the Grand Lodge, from its membership, to serve a term of five years each, one of whom shall be elected at each Annual Communication at the same time and in the same manner as the Grand Officers are elected, the present members of said Board to serve out their respective terms, and all elections to fill vacancies created by the death or resignation of such elective members on said Board shall be for the unexpired term, only.

(b) Said Board of Directors shall have exclusive control and management of said Masonic Home and School, and the investment of the funds belonging thereto. No member of said Board shall ever borrow, directly or indirectly, any of the funds under its

control, or make loans to any member of any committee, whose duties require the auditing of the accounts of said Board.

(c) The members of said Board shall not receive any compensation as such, the honor and distinction of serving the Craft in a capacity so useful and beneficent being deemed a sufficient reward for their services.

Section 5. – Funds Administered by Grand Lodge and Board of Directors.

The manner in which said funds shall be administered and expended for the accomplishment of the purposes hereinbefore disclosed, and the particular individuals or class of individuals who may receive the benefit of said funds, are matters entirely within the control of said Board of Directors.

(Amendment adopted December 4, 1947.)

(Revised 2010)

ARTICLE XI

COMMITTEE ON WORK

Section 1. – **Election, Term of Office, Etc.** A Committee on Work, consisting of five members, shall be elected from the members of the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master shall be ex officio chairman thereof. They shall be elected for a term of five years each, and shall continue to discharge their duties for the term for which they are elected, so long as they each remain members of the Grand Lodge and preserve their good standing as Masons; one of whom shall be elected at each Annual Communication, at the same time and in the same manner as the Grand Officers are elected; the present members of said committee to serve out their respective terms, and all elections to fill vacancies on said committee shall be for the unexpired term only. The title of members of the Committee on Work shall be Right Worshipful, and each past member of the Committee on Work who has served a full term shall retain the title Right Worshipful and retain their aprons to be worn on appropriate occasions. (Revised 2006)

ARTICLE XII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. – **No Expense of Officers, Representatives, or Committees Paid.** The Grand Lodge shall not pay any compensation to, nor the expenses, or any part thereof, of officers, members, representatives, or members of committees, incurred in going to, attending upon or in returning from its Communications, but this provision shall not in any way apply to the Committee on Work, nor to the representatives before said Committee.

Section 2. – **All Propositions Must Be Referred to Committee.** All resolutions and all Grand Master's Recommendations and other new business intended for the action of the Grand Lodge, if providing for the expenditure of money, amending the laws, or affecting jurisprudence in any way, shall be first referred to and reported upon by the appropriate committee before the same is placed before the Grand Lodge for its action thereon, unless the same emanates from a committee, in a report thereof on some matter regularly and properly referred to it by the Grand Lodge; provided however, that if the matter includes amending the law, or affecting jurisprudence in any way, the same shall be concurrently referred to and first reported upon by the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence as to whether the same is in proper and legal form and not inconsistent with any other provision of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 1997)

Section 3. – Same Question Not Acted Upon Again Unless Reconsidered.

When any question is decided by a vote in the Grand Lodge, the same shall not be again acted upon during the Communication, unless upon a motion to reconsider, which motion can be made only by a member who voted with the majority and on the same or the next day.

Section 4. – Questions of Order Decided by the Presiding Officer.

All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer, without debate or appeal, and he may ask the advice of any member before deciding.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

No amendment to the Constitution either by alteration, addition or repeal, shall be made, unless in the manner following, to-wit:

Section 1. – Amendment Must Be Approved and Submitted to Lodges.

The amendment proposed must be presented at an annual Communication, referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, who shall report thereon, and, after being read, discussed and, if necessary, amended, if it be approved by a majority of the members present, it shall be entered of record, printed in full in the proceedings and specially notified to the Lodges by the Grand Secretary; provided, it shall be sufficient in such special notice to Lodges to refer to the general subject or purpose of the proposed amendment and to the page of the Proceedings where the same appears printed in full.

Section 2. – Voted on at Next Communication.

At the next Annual Communication it shall be again considered and voted on without further amendment, and if approved by a majority of votes cast, the amendment shall become thereupon a part of this Constitution and be recorded as a part thereof.

Section 3. – All Laws in Conflict Herewith Repealed.

All laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge, or of any Lodge, inconsistent with this Constitution, are hereby repealed; but those on which it is silent, or referring to matters not provided for by it, remain in full force.

Section 4. – All New Laws to Be Printed in Proceedings.

All laws, rules and resolutions of the Grand Lodge of a general and permanent character, adopted since the last preceding officially published revision or digest of the laws, shall be, by the Grand Secretary, collected, numbered and published as an appendix to the Annual Proceedings.

Section 5. – Date of Taking Effect of This Constitution.

So much of this Constitution as relates to the Grand Lodge, its officers and committees, and their duties, shall take effect from its adoption. All that relates to subordinate Lodges, their officers and duties, shall take effect on the first day of March next after its adoption.

THE CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

Extracted from the Ancient Records of Lodges beyond the sea, and of those in England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the use of Lodges in London; to be read at the making of new Brethren, or when the Master shall order it.

I

CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION. – A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine.

But though in ancient times, Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet, it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves; that is, to be good men and true, or men of honor and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance.

II

OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATES, SUPREME AND SUBORDINATE.—A Mason is to be a peaceable subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates; for, as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed and confusion, so ancient kings and princes have been much disposed to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answered the cavils of their adversaries, and promoted the honor of the Fraternity, who ever flourished in times of peace.

So that if a Brother be a rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanced in his rebellion, however, he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and, if convicted of no other crime, though the loyal brotherhood must and ought to disown his rebellion, and give no umbrage or ground of political jealousy to the government for the time being, they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible.

III

OF LODGES.—A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence, that assembly, or duly organized society of Masons, is called a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its bylaws, and the general regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annexed. In ancient times, no Master or Fellow could be absent from it, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, until it appeared to the Master and Wardens that pure necessity hindered him. The persons admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true men, freeborn, and of a mature and discreet age; no bondmen, no woman, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report.

IV

OF MASTERS, WARDENS, FELLOWS AND APPRENTICES.—All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only; that so the lords may be well served, the Brethren not put to shame, nor the Royal Craft

despised. Therefore, no Master or Warden is chosen by seniority, but for his merit. It is impossible to describe these things in writing, and every Brother must attend his place and learn them in a way peculiar to this Fraternity.

Only candidates may know that no Master should taken an Apprentice, unless he has sufficient employment for him, and unless he be a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the art of serving his Master's lord, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellowcraft in due time, even after he has served such a term of years as the custom of the country directs; and that he should be descended of honest parents; that so, when otherwise qualified, he may arrive to the honor of being the Warden, and then the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to his merit.

No Brother can be a Warden until he has passed the part of a Fellowcraft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden; nor a Grand Warden unless he has been Master of a Lodge; nor Grand Master unless he has been a Fellowcraft before his election, who is also to be nobly born, or a gentleman of the best fashion, or some eminent scholar, or some curious architect, or other artist, descended of honest parents, and who is of singular great merit in the opinion of the Lodges. And for the better and easier and more honorable discharge of his office, the Grand Master has a power to choose his own Deputy Grand Master, who must be then, or must have been, formerly, the Master of a particular Lodge, and has the privilege of acting whatever the Grand Master, his principal, should act, unless the said principal be present, or interpose his authority by a letter.

These rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate, of the Ancient Lodge, are to be obeyed in their respective stations by all the Brethren, according to the Old Charges and Regulations, with all humility, reverence, love and alacrity.

V

OF THE MANAGEMENT OF TILE CRAFT IN WORKING.

— All Masons shall work honestly on working days, that they may live creditably on holy days; and the time appointed by the law of the land or confirmed by custom, shall be observed.

CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

The most expert of the Fellowcraftsmen shall be appointed the Master, or Overseer of the lord's work; who is to be called Master by those that work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill language, and to call each other by no disobligeing name, but Brother or fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of cunning, shall undertake the lord's work as reasonably as possible, and truly dispend his goods as if they were his own; nor to give more wages to any Brother or apprentice than he may really deserve.

Both the Master and the Masons, receiving their wages justly, shall be faithful to the lord, and honestly finish their work, whether task or journey; nor put the work to task, that hath been accustomed to journey.

None shall discover envy at the prosperity of a Brother, nor supplant him or put him out of his work, if he be capable to finish the same; for no man can finish another's work so much to the lord's profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the designs and drafts of him that began it.

When a Fellowcraftsman is chosen Warden of the work under the Master, he shall be true to both Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the work in the Masters' absence to the lord's profit; and his Brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employed shall meekly receive their wages, without murmuring or mutiny, and not desert the Master till the work is finished.

A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the materials for want of judgment, and for increasing and continuing of brotherly love.

All the tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

No laborer shall be employed in the proper work of Masonry; nor shall Freemasons work with those that are not free, without an urgent necessity; nor shall they teach laborers and unaccepted Masons as they should teach a Brother or fellow.

VI

1. OF BEHAVIOR IN THE LODGE WHILE CONSTITUTED.

You are not to hold private committees, or separate conversations, without leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master; nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; not use any unbecoming language upon any pretense whatsoever; but to pay due reverence to your Master, Wardens and Fellows, and put them to worship.

If any complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the award and determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent judges of all such controversies (unless you carry it by appeal to the Grand Lodge), and to whom they ought to be referred, unless a lord's work be hindered the meanwhile, in which case a particular reference may be made; but you must never go to law about what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute necessity apparent to the Lodge.

2. BEHAVIOR AFTER THE LODGE IS OVER, AND THE BRETHREN NOT GONE.

You may enjoy yourselves with innocent mirth, treating one another accordingly to ability and avoiding all excess, or forcing any Brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination, or hindering him from going when his occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive or that may forbid an easy and free conversation; for that would blast our harmony and defeat our laudable purposes. Therefore, no private piques or quarrels must be brought within the door of the Lodge, far less any quarrels about religion, or nations, or state policy, we being only, as Masons, of the catholic religion above mentioned; we are also of all nations, tongues, kindreds and languages, and are resolved against all politics, as what never yet conduced to the welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This charge has been always strictly enjoined and observed; but especially ever since the reformation in Britain, or the dissent and secession of these nations from the communion of Rome.

3. BEHAVIOR WHEN BRETHREN MEET WITHOUT STRANGERS, BUT NOT IN A LODGE FORMED.

You are to salute one another in a courteous manner as you will be instructed, calling each other Brother, freely giving mutual instruction, as shall be thought expedient, without being overseen or overhead, and without encroaching upon each other, or derogating from the respect which is due to any Brother, were he not a Mason; for though all Masons are as Brethren upon the same level, yet Masonry takes no honor from a man that he had before; nay, rather, it adds to his honor, especially if he has deserved well of the brotherhood, who must give honor to whom it is due, and avoid ill manners.

4. BEHAVIOR IN PRESENCE OF STRANGERS NOT MASONs.

You should be cautious in your words and carriage that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and, sometimes, you shall divert a discourse, and manage it prudently for the honor of the worshipful Fraternity.

5. BEHAVIOR AT HOME AND IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

You are to act as becomes a moral and wise man; particularly not to let your family, friends and neighbors know the concerns of the Lodge, etc., but wisely to consult your own honor, and that of the ancient brotherhood, for reasons not to be mentioned here. You must also consult your health, by not continuing altogether too late, or too long from home, after Lodge hours are past; and by avoiding of gluttony or drunkenness, that your families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working.

6. BEHAVIOR TOWARD A STRANGER BROTHER.

You are cautiously to examine him, in such a method as prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant, false pretender, whom you are to reject with contempt and derision, and before of giving him any hints of knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want, you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved. You must employ him some days, or else recommend him to be employed. But you are not charged to do beyond your ability, only to prefer a poor Brother, that is a good man and true, before any other poor people in the same circumstances.

FINALLY, All these charges you are to observe, and also those that are to be communicated to you in another way; cultivating BROTHERLY love, the foundation and cap-stone, the cement and glory of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all wrangling and quarreling, all slander and back-biting, nor permitting others to slander any honest Brother, but defending his character, and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your honor and safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his Lodge; and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge at the quarterly communication, and from thence to the annual Grand Lodge, as has been the ancient laudable conduct of our forefathers in every nation; never taking a legal course, but when the case cannot be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of Master and Fellows, when they would prevent your going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all law suits, that so you may mind the affairs of Masonry with the more alacrity and success; but with respect to brothers or fellows at law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their mediation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that submission is impracticable, they must, however, carry on their process or law suit, without wrath and rancor (not in the common way), saying or doing nothing which may hinder brotherly love and good offices to be renewed and continued; that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time. Amen. So mote it be.

DIVISION III
THE STATUTES

being the
CODE OF MASONIC LAWS
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
AND SUBORDINATE LODGES
UNDER ITS JURISDICTION

CANONS OF CONSTRUCTION

(These Canons are general rules of construction to be applied as aids in ascertaining the true intent and meaning in all cases where there appears to be a conflict, ambiguity, inconsistency, uncertainty, confusion or vagueness as to the true meaning of a Statute, resolution, rule, regulation, edict or decision promulgated or approved by the Grand Lodge.)

I

The Constitution of this Grand Lodge is paramount, and all Statutes, or General Laws, and all resolutions, rules, regulations, edicts and decisions, promulgated or approved by the Grand Lodge inconsistent with any of its provisions, or in conflict therewith, are null and void. (218).

II

In construing Statutes promulgated by the Grand Lodge, there is a general presumption of validity, and they should be given a construction that will render them valid wherever possible. Only when there is irreconcilable conflict – and only to that extent – should they be declared void. Where, however, the invalid portion is so interwoven with the valid as to make separation unreasonable, ineffectual or purposeless, the entire Statute should be held void.

III

There is a like presumption in favor of the validity of resolutions, rules, regulations, edicts and decisions approved by the Grand Lodge, and they likewise should be given a construction, wherever possible, that would not render them inconsistent with the Constitution or Statutes.

IV

When there is any conflict between Statutes, resolutions, rules, regulations, edicts or decisions, the last Statute, resolution, rule, regulation, edict or decision shall control.

V

In construing the Statutes, the singular number may include the plural, and the past and present, the future, according to the context.

VI

In all interpretations that prime consideration should be to ascertain the true intention of the Grand Lodge. That intention should be diligently sought, keeping in view the former law or rule, the fault sought to be remedied and the remedy applied.

VII

Words should be given their general dictionary meaning except when used in a technical or some Masonic sense.

VIII

Wherever possible a construction should be given a Statute, resolution, rule, regulation, edict or decision that will not render it unreasonable, meaningless or purposeless.

IX

To attain these objectives all Statutes, resolutions, rules, regulation, edicts and decisions should be liberally construed.

TITLE I**CHAPTER 1 – TITLE I
THE GRAND LODGE**

Art. 1. Style and Title. The style and title of this Grand Lodge shall be as follows: The title and corporate name is “The Grand Lodge of Texas,” which title shall be used in all legal documents.

The Honorary title of this Grand Lodge is and shall be “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas,” which title shall be used in the ceremonies of opening and closing and in the labors of this Grand Lodge.

**CHAPTER 2 – TITLE I
COMMUNICATIONS**

For “Time and Place of” see Constitution Art. VI, Sec. 3, Sub-div. (a);

For “Special Communications” see Constitution Art. VI, Sec. 3, Sub-div. (b).

Art. 2. Annual Communication. This Grand Lodge shall meet in Annual Communication in the City of Waco at 1:30 p.m. on the Thursday before the first Friday of December each year, unless the Grand Master and the majority of the Grand Lodge Trustees consider and declare the Grand Lodge shall meet in Grand Annual

Communication in another designated location at 1:30 p.m. on the Thursday before the first Friday of that December, however, no business requiring reports of Committees, balloting or voting by the membership of Grand Lodge shall be conducted until the Grand Lodge is called to labor at 9:00 a.m. on the first Friday of that December, and while in session for the transaction of business, no Constituent Lodge owing obedience to it shall hold any meeting either Stated or Called for any purpose except for funerals as provided in Article 359 or for valid emergencies approved by the Grand Master. (Revised 1998)

In the event of a severe emergency, the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Trustees may specify the labors of a Grand Annual Communication to be transacted in a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge under conditions enumerated in Article VI, Section 3, sub-section (b), of the Constitution. (Revised 1997)

To defray the expenses incurred in holding such regular or special called communication of the Grand Lodge, each Member of Grand Lodge as herein defined, each Lodge Representative and each Master Mason of a Texas Lodge must pay a ten dollar (\$10.00) registration fee to attend an annual or called meeting of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 2012)

Art. 2a. Representations of the Grand Lodge. Representations of the Grand Lodge may be opened at any time by the Grand Master, for the purpose of conducting Grand Lodge funerals, leveling cornerstones, consecrating or dedicating buildings, cemeteries or other appropriate places or objects, unveiling statues, and for such other occasions as may be deemed appropriate and desirable by the Grand Master. It shall not be necessary except where otherwise provided in these Statutes, but it is permissible, if deemed by the Grand Master desirable, to open a Lodge in connection with such representations. (Adopted 1962)

CHAPTER 3 - TITLE I MEMBERSHIP

For “Members of the Grand Lodge” see Constitution Art. II, Sec. 1; For “Representatives in the Grand Lodge” see Constitution Art. II, Sec. 1(d).

Art. 3 Proxies. Each subordinate Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas will elect a member as proxy to represent it at all Grand Lodge Communications where there will be a ballot taken on any and all subjects. The proxy will be elected at the last stated meeting in October of each year or no later than 30 days prior to the relevant Grand Lodge Communication. A proxy so elected cannot claim his seat, or exercise any rights as a proxy, when the Master or either of the Wardens is present. Past Masters, as such, cannot be represented by a proxy. (Revised 2003)

Art. 4. Proxy Certificates. Every proxy elected to represent a Lodge in this Grand Lodge must be furnished with a copy of a certificate of his election, with the seal of the Lodge affixed and signed by the Secretary. The Secretary of such Subordinate Lodge will immediately send the certificate of such proxy to the Grand Secretary and said certificate will be by him turned over to the Committee on Credentials when that Committee meets. This certificate must certify that the proxy was duly elected by the Lodge; that the election was entered in the minutes; and that such proxy did not solicit, either directly or indirectly, his election. This Certificate must be received by the Grand Lodge no later than 15 days before the relevant Grand Lodge Communication. No proxy shall be recognized by this Grand Lodge in the absence of such a certificate on file at Grand Lodge. (Revised 2003)

Art. 5. Proxy Certified to Grand Secretary. When a Lodge member is elected as a proxy by a Subordinate Lodge to represent it in this Grand Lodge, the Secretary of such Subordinate Lodge will at once send a certificate of such proxy to the Grand Secretary, and said certificate will be by him turned over to the Committee on Credentials when that committee meets. This certificate must be on file fifteen (15) days before each Grand Lodge Communication of each year. (Revised 2003)

Art. 6. Grand Lodge Membership Lost by Dimit: How Regained. A Past Master, Past Grand or Deputy Grand Master or Grand Warden who dimits from his Lodge loses his membership in the Grand Lodge, as well as the rights, titles and honors attaching to such Past Office. If within one year after such dimit is granted he applies for affiliation in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction and is elected thereto, he shall be automatically reinstated to membership in the Grand Lodge with all rights, titles and honors attaching to his Past Office. Where affiliation is upon application filed after said one year period, reinstatement to Grand Lodge membership can only be obtained by petition to the Grand Lodge under the procedure prescribed in Articles 669-672.

Art. 6a. Statement of Availability. Any eligible member of this Grand Lodge desiring to service in any elective office or position as provided for in the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge may, on or before the first day of August, preceding each Annual Communication, file with the Grand Secretary a Statement of Availability for such office or position containing: (1) a resume of his service to his Lodge or Lodges in which he holds or has held membership; (2) a record of his service to this Grand Lodge; (3) a recitation pertaining to family, education, business or profession, civic activity and military service, and: (4) a photograph, if available. (Revised 2010)

Such statement of availability shall be printed and forwarded by the Grand Secretary to all Constituent Lodges for study along with all Resolutions and/or Recommendations as required by

the Laws of this Grand Lodge and shall be published in the Fall issue of the *Texas Mason Magazine*. This Grand Lodge, however, may elect any eligible member whether or not he has previously submitted such statement of availability. (Revised 1995)

CHAPTER 4 – TITLE I VISITORS

Art. 7. Master Masons. Any Master Mason, in good standing and a member of a regular Lodge of this obedience or of the obedience of a Grand Lodge with which we are in fraternal relations may be admitted as a visitor to this Grand Lodge. Such visitor is not authorized to speak unless so requested by the Grand Master or one of the Grand Wardens, or by permission of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 8. Exclusion of Visitors. Visitors may be excluded by the Grand Master while this Grand Lodge is being opened and organized and should circumstances render it expedient.

CHAPTER 5 – TITLE I JURISDICTION AND POWERS

For “Extent of” see Constitution, Art. III.

Art. 9. Rights Exclusive in Texas. This Grand Lodge does not recognize the right of any Grand or Subordinate Lodge of another jurisdiction to exercise any rights, powers or privileges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 10. Esoteric Work. This Grand Lodge alone has power and authority to establish and disseminate the esoteric work of the first three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry in this jurisdiction.

Notes on Decisions:

Note: Associations composed of Certificate or other Masons organized for the purpose of disseminating the esoteric work are prohibited.

Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Associations, composed of such officers in any Masonic district, may be organized with the approval of the Grand Master. Copy of the by-laws of each such association must be filed with the Grand Secretary and approved by the Grand Lodge. In districts having concurrent territorial jurisdictions, there shall be only one such association. In other cases, such associations may include all the officers of two or more Masonic districts.

See under this note the following Annual Proceedings: 1910, p. 26, Dec. 22; 1924 Jur. Com., p. 285; 1943, Dec. 18, 1954, rec. 6(b), pp. 102-3, Com. on P. & P., pp. 136-7, Jur. Com., p. 157.

Art. 11. Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction. This Grand Lodge or its officers, shall not exercise jurisdiction over Masons or Lodges in any territory where a regular Grand Lodge has been duly established, unless consent thereto has been given by such Grand Lodge.

Art. 12. Regalia. This Grand Lodge shall provide appropriate regalia to be worn by the Grand Officers during the Annual and Special Communications of this Grand Lodge, and on other appropriate occasions, said regalia to consist of a collar made of gold-colored metal links, each such link embodying distinctive Masonic emblems, and from which shall be suspended the appropriate insignia of office, jewel, and an apron of white lambskin, symbolic in dimensions and decorations in accordance with the design established by this Grand Lodge. The regalia of the Past Grand Masters shall consist of a symbolic apron and collar each of the same design as provided for a Grand Master; and a Past Grand Master's jewel. The regalia of members of the Committee on Work shall consist of a symbolic apron. The design of this apron shall be the "47th PROBLEM OF EUCLID." A detailed description of the specifications of the collars, aprons and jewels of each Grand Officer and of members of the Committee on Work shall be preserved in the archives of the office of the Grand Secretary. Aprons of the design described in the address of the Grand Master at the 1958 Grand Annual Communication shall be provided by The Grand Lodge for District Deputy Grand Masters. When a District Deputy Grand Master has served as such for the full term for which he was appointed, he may retain such apron and wear it on appropriate occasions and this includes those appointed to fill a vacancy as provided for in either Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution or in Article 24 of the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas. No constituent Lodge or the officers thereof may adopt or use any collar or apron of similar color or character or which may be confused with those of the Grand Lodge, its Officers or Past Grand Masters, or District Deputy Grand Masters. (Revised 2005)

Art. 13. (Repealed 2000).

Art. 13a. Past Grand Master's Jewels. The Grand Lodge shall present to each Past Grand Master an appropriate jewel of his rank, with suitable inscription thereon; also with the symbolic apron worn by him while serving as Grand Master and a suitable case therefor, if requested by the Grand Master. (Revised 2000)

Art. 13b. Past Grand Master's Portrait. The Grand Lodge shall display in the Grand Foyer of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building a painting, photograph likeness, or suitable inscription if the foregoing are unavailable, of all of the Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge. (Adopted 2000)

Art. 14. Masonic Service Awards.

1. At each Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, each Master Mason in attendance thereon, and a member of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction who has been in good standing in a Lodge or

Lodges for a total of fifty years or more shall be presented with a suitable emblem commemorating such membership, which shall be known as the “Fifty-Year Masonic Service Award,” provided the applicant must file his certificate of eligibility therefor, duly authenticated by the Secretary of his Lodge, not later than 9:00 o’clock A.M. on the first day of the Communication of the Grand Lodge. Provided further that only one emblem shall be presented to the same member. Prior to the hour set for the presentation the Grand Secretary shall furnish to the Grand Master a list containing the name of each of those shown by the records to be eligible to receive the emblem, which shall also show the address, name of the Lodge and term of service of each eligible member applying for the award. Any member of a subordinate Lodge eligible for a fifty-year emblem, but unable to attend the Grand Lodge through illness, infirmities incident to age, financial disability or other good cause may also receive the emblem by the following procedure:

The Secretary of the Lodge of which applicant is a member shall mail to, or file with, the Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Lodge, a certificate setting forth the membership record of the applicant. Said certificate shall be filed and preserved in the archives of the Grand Secretary’s office. The Grand Secretary shall transmit to the Grand Master the emblem accompanied by a certificate of the Grand Secretary certifying that the member has fully complied with the law and is legally eligible to receive said emblem. Said certificate, in addition to the foregoing, shall set forth the complete Masonic record upon which the award is based, including his name, residence, name of Lodge and length of membership. The Grand Master, upon finding the record sufficient, may in person, or by a duly authorized representative, present such emblem to the member as a gift of this Grand Lodge. Such presentation may be made anytime during the Masonic year in which the Brother becomes eligible for the award. The Grand Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all such awards. (Revised 1994)

When a Brother has been dimitted or has been suspended for non-payment of dues in a Texas Lodge (or Lodges) prior to December 3, 1941, and prior to that date has been reinstated upon payment or remission of such dues, such period (or periods, if more than one) of suspension or demission shall be included in the fifty year period. (See Article 316.) Being suspended for non-payment of dues while a prisoner of war or within a combat theater of operations at the time of suspension shall be considered as time in good standing upon the return of the Brother to said Lodge. (Revised 2002)

Should a Brother who is entitled to a “Fifty-Year Masonic Service Award” under this Article die before receiving it, the Grand

Master may direct presentation thereto to such member or members of his family as he may deem proper.

2. Additional Service Awards. A member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, who has been in good standing in a Lodge in this jurisdiction, who has been in good standing in a Lodge or Lodges for a total of sixty, sixty-five, seventy years or more, may be presented with the appropriate award anytime during the Masonic year the Brother become eligible for the award. The awards will be like the "Fifty-Year Masonic Service Award" as follows: (Revised 1994)

- a. Sixty Years: A lapel pin with the word "Sixty" where "Fifty" now appears with the addition of one diamond chip.
- b. Sixty-Five Years: A lapel pin with the word "Sixty-Five" where "Fifty" now appears with two diamond chips.
- c. Seventy Years: A lapel pin with the word "Seventy" where "Fifty" now appears with three diamond chips.
- d. Seventy-Five Years: A lapel pin with the word "Seventy-Five" where "Fifty" now appears with six diamond chips. (Revised 1992)
- e.--Eighty Years: A lapel pin with the word "Eighty" where "Fifty" now appears with six diamond chips. (Revised 1992)

An appropriate certificate shall be presented with each of the above awards.

Art. 14a. **The Sam Houston Medal.** Grand Lodge hereby establishes the Sam Houston Medal to be awarded to such distinguished Masons as may be selected periodically by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master as worthy of such Masonic recognition; provided, however, that the awarding of the Medal by the Grand Master shall be subject to the prior approval of the Grand Lodge Trustees.

The initial Sam Houston Medal shall be awarded and presented during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on the occasion of the Sesquicentennial Celebration of Grand Lodge in December, 1987.

Art. 14b. **The W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award.** Grand Lodge hereby establishes the W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award to be presented to distinguished and worthy non-Masons in recognition of their humanitarian and benevolent contributions to society which are consistent with the principles and teachings of Freemasonry. Nominations for the award shall be made by vote of any Texas Lodge, and shall be submitted to the Committee on Communication for its evaluation and recommendation to the Grand Lodge Trustees for their approval prior to awarding of same by the Grand Master or his designated representative. Provided further that no more than one such Award shall be approved during any one Grand Lodge year. (Revised 2003)

Art. 14c. The Golden Trowel Award. Grand Lodge hereby establishes the Golden Trowel Award to be presented to any living member of a Texas Lodge who has consistently demonstrated outstanding and exemplary service to his respective Lodge through any one or combinations of Masonic and community service. The Committee on Masonic Education and Service is authorized and directed to prepare and distribute, to the Lodges, the guidelines by which this award can be made. Such guidelines shall be binding on the Lodges and may be amended by the Committee on Masonic Education and Service from time to time. (Adopted 1995)

Art. 14d. Community Builder Award. This award is designed to enable the Lodge to formally recognize outstanding Non-Masons who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community, to the local state and national governments, to their Church or Synagogue, or to humanity. They may be found in service clubs, in the public schools systems, in religious activities, in public office, in military or patriotic organizations, in all sorts of volunteer work; everywhere we look but often do not see. A Lodge may select one recipient each Masonic year for the Community Builders Award in any manner acceptable to the membership, approved by simple majority vote of the members present, and entered into the minutes of the Lodge. When selected, the Secretary of the Lodge shall submit a complete order form with the appropriate fee to the Grand Secretary. The Award may be presented in an open meeting of the Lodge or in a non-Masonic setting, such as a City Council meeting, a Rotary Club meeting, a PTA meeting, etc. The Award shall be presented in a brief ceremony that is carefully planned and formally and smoothly performed with great dignity. The Award shall be presented by a Mason and all participating Masons shall wear aprons. The Lodge shall, as far as practical, publicize the presentation event. The resulting photographs and stories of the event should be forwarded to the *Texas Mason Magazine* for possible publication. (Adopted 2001)

Art. 14e. Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award. Grand Lodge hereby establishes the recognition of service of Texas Masons to the Boy Scouts of America in the following manner:

1. Subordinate Lodges may formally recognize Masons who have distinguished themselves through their service in the Boy Scouts of America to the youth of our communities by nominating them to receive the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award.

2. Action by Lodges will be premised upon an application to receive the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award by the Mason so applying with such application to be approved by majority vote of

the members present at the stated meeting in which such action is taken and with such action entered into the minutes of the Lodge so acting.

3. The Secretary of the Lodge shall submit the approved application to the appropriate parties for verification of the applicant's registration as a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

4. The verified application shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas with the appropriate fees, who will process such application for issuance of the Award.

5. The Award will be presented in an open meeting in the Lodge or in a non-Masonic setting, preferably a local Boy Scout meeting, with emphasis on attendance by local Boy Scouts and adults associated therewith, the ceremony to be carefully planned and presented with great dignity, the presentation being made by a Mason and all Masons wearing aprons.

6. Appropriate publicity will be given to the event with report and photographs sent to the *Texas Mason Magazine* for publication.

(Adopted 2003)

Art. 15. Clandestine Lodges. This Grand Lodge does not recognize as legal or Masonic any group or body of persons working under any character of charter in the United States granted by any Grand Jurisdiction which has not theretofore applied for and been given recognition by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, and this Grand Lodge regards as clandestine and un-Masonic, any and all such groups or bodies of persons, not affiliated and authorized to work by this Grand Lodge or by such recognized Grand Jurisdiction.

Art. 16. Side Degrees. "Side degrees" are prohibited by this Grand Lodge.

Art. 17. General Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge is opposed to the formation or establishment of a General or Supreme Grand Lodge for the United States of America, and forbids its officers and Grand Representatives to participate in any meeting where any such movement shall be ever considered.

Art. 18. Recognition Criteria of Other Grand Lodges. Fraternal recognition may be extended to a Grand Lodge when it appears to the satisfaction of this Grand Lodge, a Committee having first considered and reported thereon:

1. That such a Grand Body has been formed lawfully by at least three just and duly constituted Lodges, or that it has been legalized by a valid act issuing from the Grand Lodge of Texas, or from a Grand Body in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge.

2. That it is an independent, self-governing, responsible organization with entire, undisputed and exclusive dogmatic and administrative authority over the Symbolic Lodges within its

jurisdiction, and not in any sense whatever subject to, or dividing such authority with, a Supreme Council, or other Body claiming ritualistic or other supervision or control.

3. That it makes Masons of men only.

4. That it requires conformity to the following, which the Grand Lodge of Texas considers necessary in a Masonic Body:

- A. Acknowledgement of a belief in God the Father of all men.
- B. Secrecy.
- C. The Symbolism of Operative Masonry.
- D. The division of Symbolic Masonry into the three degrees in Texas.
- E. The legend of the Third Degree.
- F. That its dominant purposes are charitable, benevolent, educational and religious; and that it excludes controversial politics and sectarian religion from all activities under its auspices.
- G. The Sacred Book of the Divine Law, Chief among the Three Great Lights of Masonry, indispensably present in the Lodges while at work.

5. That it occupies exclusively its territorial jurisdiction or else shares the same with another by mutual consent; and that it does not presume to extend its authority, or presume to establish Lodges in, a territory occupied by a lawful Grand Lodge, without the expressed assent of such supreme governing Masonic Body.

Art. 19. **Masonic Relief Association.** This Grand Lodge, until otherwise ordered, shall maintain a membership with the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, but shall not become liable for annual dues therein in excess of one-fourth of one cent, per capita, of the membership of this Grand Lodge. Such dues shall be paid by warrants of the Grand Secretary.

Art. 20. **New Ballot Prohibited.** The Grand Lodge shall not order a new ballot for degrees after the rejection of a candidate in a Subordinate Lodge.

Art. 20a. **Trustees.** The Charter of the Grand Lodge provides that the six elective Grand Lodge Officers, namely, The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall constitute the Trustees or Directors having charge of the business affairs of the Grand Lodge under its Laws and Regulations, during its vacation. Such Trustees shall meet at least four times annually and at such other times as circumstances may require.

Art. 20b. **Annual Audit.** The Grand Lodge Trustees shall employ an independent Certified Public Accountant or a competent accounting firm to audit the books and accounts of the Grand

Lodge at least once annually and more often if it deems advisable. The independent Certified Public Accountant or accounting firm will not be associated with any individual or firm that provides accounting services to the Grand Lodge or with any member of the Finance Committee. The accountant or accounting firm retained by said Trustees to conduct such audit shall make a written report which shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary, and a copy provided to each member of the Finance Committee. The independent audit shall be included in the Grand Secretary's annual report as required in Art. 53. (Revised 2003)

Art. 20c. Duty to Appoint Trustee's Audit Committee. At the first meeting of the Grand Lodge Trustees following each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden and the Grand Junior Warden shall each appoint one member of a Committee to be known as "Trustee's Audit Committee." Each Brother so appointed shall serve until the close of the Annual Grand Communication following his appointment, and shall be eligible for reappointment by any of the above listed Grand Lodge Trustees. The appointee shall be a Master Mason in good standing of a Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction, well versed in corporate finance and audit procedures.

The Trustee's Audit Committee shall be a permanent independent committee of the Grand Lodge Trustees (i) to coordinate the activities of the outside auditor employed by them; (ii) to provide guidance as to the operations of Grand Lodge; and (iii) to provide access to documentation required for a proper audit of the books and records of the Grand Lodge.

Additional duties of the Audit Committee shall include, but not be limited to, meetings with the Finance Committee and the Trustees in connection with the preparation of the annual budget (i) to assist in the coordination of available funding for proposed budgetary items; (ii) to offer, review and approve recommendations concerning the scope of the annual audit and review the completed audit report with the Grand Lodge Trustees, the Finance Committee and the auditor or audit firm engaged by the Trustees; (iii) to review with them any areas of concern as to internal control or procedures; and (iv) to ensure conformity of the audit to generally accepted accounting principles and practices based upon the application of generally accepted auditing principles as promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and as generally accepted in the United States of America, more particularly those accounting rules and regulations incorporated in the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States as applicable to nonprofit organizations. (Adopted 2003)

CHAPTER 6—TITLE I OFFICERS

For “Rank and Titles” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1;

For “Elective Grand Officers” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2;

For “Appointive Grand Officers” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 3;

For “Election and Installation” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec’s. 4 and 10;

For “Failure to Elect and Install” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 5;

For “Eligibility to Office” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 6;

For “Mode of Election” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 7;

For “Manner of Voting” see Constitution, Art. VII, Sec’s. 1 to 3.

Art. 21. (21). Hold Only One Office. No member shall hold two offices, elective or appointive, in the Grand Lodge at the same time.

CHAPTER 7—TITLE I THE GRAND MASTER: DUTIES AND POWERS

For “Rank and Title” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1;

For “Elective” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2;

For “Mode of Nomination” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 7, Sub-div. (a);

For “Installation” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec’s. 4 and 10;

For “Duties and Powers” see Constitution, Art. V, Sec’s. 1 and 2;

For “Must Preside” see Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 2, sub-div. (a);

For “Order of Succession” see Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 2, Sub-div. (b);

For “May Grant Dispensation” see Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 2; Art. VIII, Sec. 3;

For “Shall Cast Deciding Vote” see Constitution, Art. VIII, Sec. 3;

For “All Questions of Order Decided by” see Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 4;

For “In Case of Death, Absence, Who to Act” see Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 2, Sub-div. (b).

Art. 22. (22). General Powers. The Grand Master may exercise all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of his office according to the Ancient Customs and Usages of Freemasonry, except as they be modified or restricted by the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of this Grand Lodge.

Notes on Decisions:

The Grand Master has no power:

- (a) To set aside a Law of the Grand Lodge.
- (b) To inquire into or set aside a ballot after it is declared.
- (c) To grant dispensation to confer degrees on one who has not been domiciled 6 months in the State and 6 months in the jurisdiction of a Lodge. (Revised 1989)
- (d) To grant dispensation authorizing one not eligible under Art. 276 to serve as Master.
- (e) To authorize dimit to an Elected Officer during his term of office.
- (f) To grant waiver of a candidate's examination. (Except Art. 433).
- (g) To receive or act upon a protest; but may direct proper procedure.
- (h) To fill vacancy on Committee on Work.
- (i) To grant permission for Lodge to move from location fixed by Grand Lodge. (Except Art. 241).
- (j) To control disposition of charity funds of a Lodge.
- (k) To remit Grand Lodge dues.
- (l) To postpone Lodge trial.
- (m) To authorize Lodge to open on Sunday and members attend Church in a body as a Lodge.
- (n) To elect an officer at any other time than as provided in Art. 292; nor to order a new election out of time; nor to hold a special meeting for election of officers; nor to install an officer after July 31.
- (o) To authorize anyone to install officers except those designated in Art. 295.
- (p) To authorize withdrawal of a petition for degrees or advancement after it has been lawfully received by a Lodge, Art. 405.
- (q) To confer a degree on more than one candidate at the same time. Art. 431.
- (r) To relieve a Brother from compliance with the provisions of Art. 439.

Art. 23. (22a). **When Grand Treasurer or Secretary Incapacitated.**

In the event of any vacancies in office of Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, the Grand Master shall appoint an Acting Grand Treasurer or Acting Grand Secretary to fill the unexpired term. In the event the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary shall become incapacitated to perform the duties of his office, the Grand Master shall appoint an Acting Grand Treasurer or Acting Grand Secretary to fill such office during the period of such incapacity.

Art. 24. (23). **Appoint and Remove District Deputies.** The Grand Master shall appoint and may remove District Deputy Grand Masters, sign their warrants of appointment, and approve

their accounts. In any case of vacancy or inability to act, the Grand Master shall appoint another qualified Brother to supply his place.

Art. 25. (24). Unsafe Lodge. Whenever a District Deputy Grand Master reports that the Lodge room of any Lodge is unsafe or improper for the use of such Lodge, the Grand Master shall issue such instructions as he may deem the interest of Masonry requires. If such Lodge room cannot be made safe, and no other room is provided, the Grand Master may suspend such Lodge.

Art. 26 (25). Investigate Finances. The Grand Master may direct the Finance Committee at anytime to investigate the financial affairs of the Offices of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, or others handling money belonging to this Grand Lodge, and to review and analyze the Minimum Audit Form No. 71 of the constituent Lodges, and make report to him. (Revised 1989)

Art. 27. (26). Physical Defects. The Grand Master shall pass upon the qualifications of all Petitioners for the three degrees of Masonry having a physical maim or defect. If the Grand Master determines that the Petitioner is capable of earning his own living, and is capable of receiving and conforming, Masonically, to the work of the several degrees so that he might become an active and productive Mason, the Grand Master is empowered to grant permission for the Lodge to ballot upon such Petitioner to receive the degrees. The Grand Master cannot delegate this authority.

The Committee on Work may make recommendations as how to best impart Masonic knowledge to such candidates.

Art. 28. (28). Mortgaging Lodge Property. For the purpose of constructing, improving, or aiding in the construction of a larger or more commodious building for the joint use of any Lodge or Lodges and other regular Body or Bodies composed exclusively of Masons the Grand Lodge, or during its recess, the Grand Master, may, upon application of any such Lodge or Lodges, consent to the sale, contribution, or mortgaging of any real property owned by it or them; provided, that neither the Grand Lodge nor the Grand Master shall in any case assume or incur any liability by reason of granting such consent. (Revised 1989)

The value of said property sold, contributed, or mortgaged for the purpose of constructing any such Masonic Temple shall be evidenced by a certificate of stock in the corporation or association holding the legal title to such new building, or, in case such title is held by trustees, they shall issue to each of said Lodges certificates evidencing the amount or value of the equity owned in such building by each such Lodge contributing thereto. In the event of the demise of any Subordinate Lodge owning an equity in such a Masonic Temple, said equity shall revert to The Grand Lodge of Texas, and the certificates representing such equity shall be delivered to the Grand Master and deposited with the Grand Treasurer.

When the Grand Lodge is not in session, the Grand Master is fully authorized to give the consent of the Grand Lodge to the sale, contribution, or mortgaging of the real property of Subordinate Lodges if, in his judgment, such sale, contribution, or mortgage is deemed advisable and not detrimental to the interests of the Grand Lodge.

It shall not be lawful for any Lodge or Lodges, acting alone, to create any building or other private corporation, except upon a showing of substantial advantage therefrom to the Lodge or Lodges in financing a Lodge building or improvement program. Any such corporation shall be created without capital stock and not for profit. Its governing board shall be elected by the Lodge or Lodges, shall be subject at all times to their direction, and shall make full report of its operations to the Lodge or Lodges periodically and whenever otherwise directed by the Lodge or Lodges. Its property and obligations shall be subject to the provisions of Articles 340, 341 and 342; and its books and records shall at all times be subject to examination by the Lodge or Lodges and by the Grand Master respectively through their duly appointed representatives. Before any such corporation is created the Lodge or Lodges shall make application to the Grand Master for approval, including therein a copy of the proposed charter and full statement of the financing plan and the reasons why it is advantageous to the Lodge or Lodges to create a separate corporation.

Except in particular cases specifically approved as provided for above, when a Lodge acquires real estate, or any interest in real estate, the deed should be to, and title should be vested in, the Lodge itself; for example, "HOLLAND LODGE No. 1, A. F. & A. M., located at Houston, Texas, and chartered under THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS, a corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Texas." Likewise, title to real estate now owned by our various Lodges should be placed, in each case, in the name of the Lodge itself unless it is already there. Articles 1399 to 1402 of the present Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas read:

"Art. 1399 (1214) Lodges

"The grand lodge of Texas, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Texas (Masonic); the grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Texas, and other like institutions and orders organized for charitable or benevolent purposes may, by the consent of their respective bodies expressed by a resolution or otherwise, become bodies corporate under this title (Acts 26th Legislature approved May 23, 1899).

"Art. 1400 (1215-18) Lodges: charter

"The incorporation of any such grand lodge shall include all of its subordinate lodges, or bodies holding warrant or charter under such grand body, and each of such subordinate bodies shall have all the rights of other corporations under and by the name given **it** in such warrant or charter issued by the grand body to which **it** is attached, such rights being provided for in the charter of the grand body. Such subordinate bodies shall, at all times, be subject to the jurisdiction and control of their respective grand bodies, and subject to have their warrants or charters revoked by such grand body. Id.

"Art. 1401. (1216) Lodges: trustees

"Such grand bodies and their subordinates may elect their own trustee or directors, or name certain of their officers as such, and perform such other acts as are directed or provided by law in the case of other corporations, and shall have power to make constitutions and bylaws for the government of their affairs. Id.

"Art. 1402. (1217) Lodges: property

"Such orders, grand and subordinate, shall have the right to acquire and hold such lands and personality as may be necessary or convenient for sites upon which to erect buildings for their use and occupancy, and for homes and schools for their widows, orphans or aged or decrepit or indigent members, and to sell or mortgage the same, such conveyances to be executed by the presiding officer, attested by the secretary with the seal. The power and authority of such subordinate bodies to sell or to mortgage shall be subject

to such conditions as may be from time to time prescribed or established by the grand body to which the subordinate is attached. Id."

Pursuant to the Laws of Texas quoted above, our Grand Lodge was incorporated in 1900 under, and with, the corporate name, "THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS." In its corporate charter it is provided:

"All subordinate Lodges of Masons in Texas now working under and holding charter from and by said The Grand Lodge of Texas, or that may hereafter be instituted under such charter, are hereby incorporated, and do by virtue hereof become bodies corporate under and in the name given them respectively in the charters heretofore issued to them, or that may hereafter be so issued."

Art. 29. (29). **Sell Demised Lodge's Property.** During the recess of this Grand Lodge, upon the written recommendation of the Grand Treasurer and the Committee on Finance, the Grand Master shall have authority to sell any property, real or personal, that has reverted to this Grand Lodge by the demise of a Subordinate Lodge.

The Grand Master is authorized, empowered and directed to sign, acknowledge and deliver to the purchaser such deed or deeds, of conveyance or other instrument in the name and as the act of the Grand Lodge of Texas, as may be necessary or appropriate to convey legal title thereto and complete the transaction. Each such conveyance shall be as binding upon the said Grand Lodge as if it was specifically authorized in a separate resolution adopted in each such case; provided, such deeds or conveyances shall contain no clause binding in any manner this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master to warrant the title to any such lands so sold and conveyed, except as to persons claiming by, through or under it.

The Grand Master shall report annually to this Grand Lodge all such sales, and promptly turn over the proceeds thereof to the Grand Treasurer.

Art. 30 (30). **Appoint Grand Representatives.** The Grand Master is authorized to appoint Grand Representatives of this Grand Lodge to other Grand Lodges recognized by it, who shall hold their appointments subject to the will and pleasure of the Grand Master. The Grand Master shall report all appointments of Grand Representatives to other Grand Lodges and the names of all Grand Representatives of such Grand Lodges before this Grand Lodge to the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master shall notify the Grand Master of another Grand Jurisdiction when a vacancy occurs in the rank of Grand Representative of such Grand Lodge before the Grand Lodge of Texas, and may suggest the name of a worthy brother for appointment to such vacancy.

Art. 31. (31). **Waiver of Jurisdiction.** Except as modified by Arts. 466 through 470, the Grand Master may grant a waiver of

territorial jurisdiction over a candidate for the degrees of Masonry in favor of a Lodge in another jurisdiction upon request therefor by the Grand Master of such jurisdiction.

Art. 32. Restore Charter: Demised Lodges. In case of restoration of charter of a Lodge long demised, or when constituting a new Lodge under dispensation or charter, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master, before setting such Lodge to work, to ascertain that the three principal officers are proficient in their respective duties and are collectively, capable of conferring the three degrees; and that the Lodge is supplied with adequate equipment and a safe and secure lodgeroom and anterooms. (Revised 2006)

Art. 32(a). Restored Charter: Name Change. In the case of restoration of charter of a Lodge where all of the members of such Lodge are deceased, the Grand Master shall be prohibited from changing the name of the Lodge; and if the charter is restored, the name of the Lodge shall remain the same as the name of the Lodge on the original charter. (Adopted 2006)

Art. 32(b). Restored Charter: Amending Name. Upon complying with the provision of Article 190, 218 and 219, a restored Lodge may amend its name, provided that the originally chartered name is preserved by hyphenation. i.e. {Poetry-Prairieville Lodge no. 253} (Adopted 2013)

Art. 33. (33). Visit and Inspect Lodges. The right to visit and inspect Lodges belongs to no one but the Grand Master and his representatives. Whenever the Grand Master, or his representatives, shall visit a Lodge it shall be made known to the Master of the Lodge that the Grand Master, or his representative, is in waiting, so that he may make the necessary preparations for receiving him with the honors and consideration due to his exalted station.

Art. 34. (34). Formalities: Receiving Grand Master or His Representatives. The private grand honors shall be given only upon an official visitation to the Lodge by the Grand Master, the Acting Grand Master, the duly commissioned Representatives of the Grand Master or Acting Grand Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master. The procedure upon such official visitation shall be as follows: When the Grand Master (or other such official, as the case may be) shall arrive in the anteroom the Tiler shall give the alarm and announce that the Grand Master (or his representative) is in waiting. The Master shall then place the Deacons inside of the door with their rods crossed. The Brethren shall be arranged on each side of the door and extending toward the altar, with sufficient space between the lines for the Grand Master and his escort to pass. The Master shall then deputize two Past Masters (if available, otherwise two other

Brethren) to escort and introduce the Grand Master. The escorting Brethren will open the door and announce to the Grand Master that the Lodge (giving its name and number) is ready to receive him. The Grand Master, with a member of the reception committee on each side and the Deacons on the extreme right and left, with their rods crossed above the head of the Grand Master, shall advance between the lines toward the East and stop at the altar. The Master Mason sign shall be given at the altar by the Grand Master and the two escorting Brethren and it shall be returned by the Worshipful Master. The Brother on the Grand Master's left shall introduce him in substantially the following language: "Worshipful Master, it is my privilege to present to you and through you to the Brethren here assembled Most Worshipful _____, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas." The Grand Master shall be recognized by the Worshipful Master, who shall instruct the Brethren to join him in extending to the Grand Master private grand honors, which shall then be accorded. The Grand Master shall then be escorted to the East by the Brother on his left (all other Brethren shall return to their usual places) and the Master will surrender the gavel to the Grand Master. If other Grand Officers are present, the corresponding officers of the Lodge shall surrender their seats to them. The Grand Master, if he desires, may appoint pro tem Grand Officers to assist him in the visitation and inspection. In such cases such pro tem Grand Officers shall enter the Lodge room immediately following him. All being seated, the Master shall deliver to the Grand Master such books and records or other things as he may desire to inspect. Representatives of the Grand Master or other Grand Lodge Officers, when being received shall be addressed as set out in Section 1, Article IV of the Constitution.

Art. 35. (35). Mason at Sight Prohibited. The Grand Master has no power or authority to make Masons at sight. This Grand Lodge will not recognize any mode of making Masons in this Jurisdiction other than in a regular Lodge and after previous investigation, regular election and due inquiry into the character of the candidate.

Art. 36. (36). Suspension from Office. The Grand Master may be suspended from office by the Grand Lodge, for sufficient cause, after due notice and hearing.

Art. 37. (37). Lodge Meetings in Other Halls. When one or more Lodges desire to hold Masonic meetings for the purpose of exemplifying the esoteric work, or for other proper Masonic purposes, the Grand Master may grant dispensations to such Lodge or Lodges to meet in the Lodgerooms or halls of other Masonic Lodge

or Bodies, or other buildings, due care being taken to designate such rooms as may be Masonically secure.

Art. 38. (38). **Lodges Appearing in Public.** The Grand Master may grant dispensations to Lodges to appear in public for any proper Masonic purpose including, but not limited to fund-raising activities, which funds are to be used exclusively for any purpose consistent with the principles and purposes of Masonry, or the Laws of this Grand Lodge; but no dispensation shall be granted to Lodges to appear in public at any function except one of noncontroversial, nonpartisan, nonsectarian, patriot and/or community character. (Revised 1989)

Art. 39. (39). **Shortening Time for Degrees.** In cases of extreme emergency the Grand Master is authorized to grant dispensation to postpone the examination for proficiency in such cases to such time as he may direct, and to ballot on such a candidate at a special meeting if the emergency requires it. (Revised 1997)

Art. 40. (40). **Appoint Special Committees.** During the recess of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Master may appoint Special Committees to deal with emergencies which may arise, or on any important matter which he is advised may come before this Grand Lodge for consideration.

Art. 41. (41). **Delegation of Powers.** Whatever the Grand Master, as such, is authorized to do in person he may do by duly authorized representative, unless forbidden by the Constitution or Laws of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 42. (43). **Expenses.** The Grand Master shall be allowed all necessary expenses, personal or otherwise, incurred in the discharge of his official duties as provided by the annual budget. Said expenses as provided by budget shall be paid by warrants of the Grand Secretary upon the requisition of the Grand Master. The Grand Master shall, quarterly, file with the Grand Secretary and the Finance Committee an itemized statement of expenses incurred by him and account for all money paid to him for such purposes.

Art. 43. (44). **Annual Reports: Copies to Committees.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to furnish to the Grand Secretary and to the Committees on Grand Officers' Reports and on Masonic Jurisprudence, not later than October 15th of each year, copies of his proposed annual address, covering insofar as is practicable such of his official acts as he may contemplate reporting to this Grand Lodge and such other subjects or matters as he may desire to submit. The Grand Secretary shall forward a copy of such proposed annual address to the Secretary of each constituent Lodge.

Note: In 1933 Grand Lodge adopted the following: "Resolved, that hereafter the Grand Master be required to have prepared a copy of his official correspondence and forward same to the Grand Secretary's office to be preserved in the files of this Grand Lodge." (P. 1933, p. 236.)

Art. 44. (45). Annual Reports: Contents. The Grand Master shall report to this Grand Lodge in his annual report the name and number of any Lodge which has consolidated with another Lodge during the year with his approval, together with the name and number of each Lodge with which any such Lodge has so consolidated.

CHAPTER 8 – TITLE I DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

For "Rank and Title" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1;

For "Elective" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2;

*For "Mode of Nomination" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 7,
Sub-div. (b);*

For "Duties and Powers" see Constitution, Arts. V and VI;

*For "Succeeds to Duties of Grand Master, When" see
Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 2, Sub-div. (b).*

CHAPTER 9 – TITLE I GRAND SENIOR AND JUNIOR WARDENS

For "Rank and Title" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1;

For "Elective" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2;

*For "Mode of Nomination" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 7,
Sub-div. (c);*

For "Duties and Powers" see Constitution, Arts. IV, V and VI.

CHAPTER 10 – TITLE I GRAND TREASURER

For "Rank and Title" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1;

For "Elective" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2;

*For "Mode of Nomination" see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 7,
Sub-div. (c);*

For "Duties and Powers" see Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 3.

Art. 45. Duties. The Grand Treasurer shall receive from the Grand Secretary all monies, notes, bonds, and other securities belonging to the Grand Lodge, give his receipt therefore and immediately upon receipt of said monies, notes, bonds and other securities shall deposit the same to the credit of the Grand Lodge

in a bank or other financial institution in the State of Texas as approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. The depository account or accounts in said bank or financial institution shall be maintained by him on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and payment there from shall require receipt of satisfactory proof of obligation, and shall be executed by those authorized by the Grand Lodge Trustees.

He shall attend each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge and shall report the financial condition of the Grand Lodge of Texas with a detailed statement of all funds and any other assets of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The Grand Treasurer and all others authorized to handle or disburse funds shall be each bonded in amount, not less than Fifty Thousand dollars, as determined from time to time by the Grand Lodge Trustees. (Revised 2003)

CHAPTER 11 – TITLE I GRAND SECRETARY

For “Rank and Title” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1;

For “Elective” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2;

*For “Mode of Nomination” see Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 7,
Sub-div. (c);*

For “Duties and Powers” see Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 3;

*For “Returns and Contributions of Lodges” see Constitution,
Art. IX;*

*For “Laws, Rules, Resolutions, etc., Published by” see
Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 4.*

Art. 46. **Bond.** Before assuming the duties of his office, the Grand Secretary shall give bond in the sum of at least fifty thousand dollars payable to the order of The Grand Lodge of Texas; conditioned that he will faithfully perform his duties as Grand Secretary and that he will well and truly account to said Grand Lodge for all money, property and other things of value coming into his possession, or under his control, which may belong to this Grand Lodge. Such bond shall be duly executed by him and a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and the fee therefore shall be paid by the Grand Lodge. Said bond shall be approved by the Grand Trustees. (Revised 2003)

Art 46a. **Salary and Expenses.** For his services the Grand Secretary shall receive as salary during his term of office an amount determined and listed as a budget item by the Grand Lodge Trustees and approved by the Grand Lodge, and such other employee benefits as might be established by the Grand Lodge Trustees from time to time. (Adopted 2003)

Art. 47 (59). **Record Proceedings.** All proceedings of this Grand Lodge shall be drawn up in proper form and recorded by the Grand Secretary.

Art. 47a. **Supervision of the Grand Lodge Temple.** The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for the management of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Temple, and shall make such reports as may be required by the Trustees and shall make a report to each Annual Grand Communication.

Art. 47b. **Smoking in Grand Lodge. Repealed, 2008.**
Note: City of Waco ordinances are enforced.

Art. 47c. **Communications With Subordinate Lodges:** The Grand Secretary shall send any and all documents, reports, and/or other communications to subordinate lodges through the United States Postal Service in lieu of e-mail when such communication is requested by the subordinate lodge. (Revised 2013)

Art. 48. (60). **Receive and Account for Money.** The Grand Secretary shall receive all monty due this Grand Lodge, not otherwise provided for, and keep correct account, and make annual report thereof to this Grand Lodge, and to the Grand Master or the Finance Committee at such other times as may be required.

Art. 49. (61). **Deposit Money.** At the end of each calendar month the Grand Secretary shall deposit all funds received by him in the depository designated, specifying each particular fund to be credited and the amount thereof, and the Grand Secretary shall take a deposit receipt therefor from such depository, which shall be retained by him as his receipt for funds so deposited.

Art. 50. **Printing.** The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for publishing and distributing on the morning of the first day of the annual communication, the address of the Grand Master, the report of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Masonic Home and School of Texas, and reports of committees as appropriate. (Revised 2008)

Art. 51. (64). **Home and School Funds.** At the end of each calendar month the Grand Secretary shall issue warrants in favor of the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School for all sums of money credited to accounts the funds of which belong to said Home and School. A separate warrant shall be issued against each such account and must show on its face the account on which it is drawn, whether it be on the special per capita tax; or otherwise. (Revised 1989)

Art. 52. (64a). **Loans to Special Funds.** Whenever any special fund of this Grand Lodge, supported by a per capita tax,

becomes depleted by reason of expenditures pursuant to the purposes of its creation, the Grand Master may authorize loans without interest, not to exceed at any time fifty per cent of the anticipated income of said special fund for any current year. Said loan to be made from the General Fund or any other available fund, of the Grand Lodge, on checks drawn by the Grand Secretary, upon the order of the Grand Master.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to deduct annually from the collections of per capita tax in favor of any such special fund so borrowing; an amount sufficient to repay any such loans, and deposit same to the credit of the loaning fund, and likewise, credit the account of the borrowing fund with the amount so deducted.

Art. 53. (65). **Annual Report.** The Grand Secretary shall close his books for the Masonic year on the first day of November each year, and shall include in his annual report all the receipts and disbursements from the date of his last annual report to said date. The report shall also include the independent audit as required in Art. 20b. (Revised 2003)

Art. 54. (66). **Instructions to Lodge Officers.** The Grand Secretary shall prepare a synopsis, embodying all the instructions requisite to enable the officers of Lodges to make accurate returns to this Grand Lodge; said synopsis shall be printed on each blank form for returns sent out by him.

Art. 55. (67). **Forms for Lodge Returns.** The Grand Secretary shall prepare and send to the Secretaries of Subordinate Lodges the necessary forms for such Lodge returns and statistics as may be required, with instructions to fill out and return them within the time specified by law.

Art. 56. (68). **Inspect Lodge Returns.** The Grand Secretary shall inspect the annual reports from Lodges and, if he finds errors therein, he shall return such reports to the respective Secretaries with instructions to correct same at once and return to him.

Art. 57. (69). **Notice to Lodges Not Reporting.** Immediately after August fifteenth each year the Grand Secretary shall notify each Lodge which has failed to send in its returns or to pay its annual dues and contributions on or before said date, that a failure to make such returns or to pay its annual dues and contributions by the time of the Annual Communication thereafter will deprive such Lodge of the right to be represented in such Communication of this Grand Lodge; and that if such Lodge fails to make such returns and payments by June first following such notice, said

(Revised 1999)

Lodge will stand automatically suspended unless further time is granted by the Grand Master.

Art. 58. (70). District Deputy to Help Collect Lodge Ar-rears. The Grand Secretary shall send to each District Deputy Grand Master a list of the amounts of dues and contributions owed by the Lodges of his district promptly after the close of each annual communication, and he may request such District Deputy Grand Master to assist in the collection of arrears due by any such Lodge.

Art. 59. (71). Notice to Suspended Lodges. On June first the Grand Secretary shall notify the several Lodges that have failed to send up their returns at the last Annual Communication, and are still in default, of their suspension and the cause thereof. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the Grand Master and the District Deputy Grand Master of the proper district.

Art. 60. (72). Uniform Dues Receipt: Certificates to E.A.s and F.C.s. The Grand Secretary is authorized to prepare a standard uniform receipt for Lodge dues, which Lodges must use. There shall be printed on the back of such receipt a certificate of the standing of the Lodge to which it is issued with the imprint of the seal of this Grand Lodge and of the signature of the Grand Secretary. Expiration date to which dues are paid by Master Masons shall be filled in by the Grand Secretary when the dues cards are prepared. Local Lodges are authorized to issue certificates to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts as such, which certificates shall be upon standard uniform cards prepared by the Grand Secretary, and the expiration date to which dues are paid shall be filled in by the Lodge Secretary. (Revised 1993)

Art. 61. (73). Receive and Distribute Petitions, etc. All petitions, reports, appeals, returns and other communications to this Grand Lodge are to be delivered to the Grand Secretary, and he shall endorse thereon the date of the receipt thereof, and he shall present same to this Grand Lodge; or distribute same to the appropriate committees when so directed by Masonic law, by The Grand Lodge, or by the Grand Master.

Art. 62. (74). Deliver Documents and Notices of Appointment. The Grand Secretary shall distribute the documents referred

to committees or other officers according to the order of this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, and shall notify said committees, or officers, of their appointment to any duty in relation thereto.

Art. 63. (75). Keep Grievance Committee Reports for Inspection. The reports of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be kept by the Grand Secretary in such manner that they can be readily inspected by the Brethren. (Revised 2000)

Art. 64. (76). Diplomas: Past Grand Officers. The Grand Secretary shall procure diplomas, on parchment, one of which shall be presented to each Past Grand Master, certifying his rank, and such diploma shall be signed by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Wardens, and attested by the Grand Secretary.

Art. 65. (77). Diplomas: Master Masons. The Grand Secretary shall furnish a diploma to any Master Mason, in good standing, who has been raised in, or has affiliated with, a Lodge under this jurisdiction, certifying such facts, upon presentation of the proper certificate from his Lodge and the payment of a fee of \$5.00 therefor.

Art. 66. (78). Attest and Seal Documents. No charter, diploma, or other instrument of writing (except dispensations) is authentic without the attestation of the Grand Secretary and the impress of the seal of this Grand Lodge thereon.

Art. 67. Rosters. The Grand Secretary shall prepare for publication annually in a Grand Lodge Directory the name and number of each Lodge, its location, date of charter, time of meetings, and the names of its Worshipful Master, Wardens and Secretary, together with their mailing addresses where known, and that such be published as a separate document from the regular published proceedings of the Grand Lodge, as soon as the Grand Lodge shall have received the necessary information from the returns of the subordinate Lodges. (Revised 2008)

Art. 68. Publishing Rosters. All correct Lodge Returns received by the Grand Secretary by the fifteenth day of August shall be promptly placed in the hands of the publisher in order to facilitate the early publishing of the Roster. Returns received by him after that date shall not appear in the Roster or Proceedings of that year. He shall make all arrangements for, and supervise the publication of, the Roster and the published proceedings of the Grand Lodge. He shall have direct control of the printing of all stationery used by the Grand Lodge, or any of its committees, including the form, quality and style thereof. (Revised 2008)

Art. 69. Portraits in Proceedings. The Grand Secretary shall have included in the Published Proceedings a well-executed “half tone” portrait of the outgoing Grand Master, together with one or more like portraits of such of the Past Grand Masters as have not been heretofore published. (Revised 2008)

Art. 70. (89). Masonic Offenders. The Grand Secretary shall not include in the Printed Proceedings that part of his statistical report which gives the names or number of those who have been found guilty of Masonic Disciplinary Violations.

Art. 71. (90). Memorials in. The Grand Secretary shall devote a page of the Printed Proceedings on which to record a memorial to the deceased members of this Grand Lodge who have departed during the current year, with such ornamentation and wording as he may deem most appropriate.

Art. 72. (93). Register of Grand Lodges and Representatives. A register of the appointments and removals of Grand Representatives of this Grand Lodge before other Grand Lodges shall be kept by the Grand Secretary. He shall also cause to be printed as a part of the Appendix in the Annual Proceedings a list of the Grand Lodges or other Grand Bodies with which The Grand Lodge of Texas is in fraternal relations; also a list of the Grand Lodges or Grand Bodies from which recognition has been withdrawn, or to which recognition has been denied.

Art. 73. Distribute Proceedings. After each Annual Communication the Grand Secretary shall send to each Lodge, to each Grand and Past Grand Officer, and to such others as may be ordered, the Published Proceedings of this Grand Lodge. (Revised 2008)

Art. 74. (92). Keep Record of Grand Representatives. The Grand Secretary shall keep a record of the names of the Grand Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions who are duly authorized to represent such Grand Jurisdictions before the Grand Lodge of Texas.

CHAPTER 12—TITLE I

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

*For "Appointive Grand Officers" see Constitution Art 114 Sec. 3,
Sub-div. (a);*

For "Qualifications" see Constitution Art 114 Sec. 8;

For "Vacancies, How Filled" see Constitution) Art. 114 Sec. 8;

For "Powers and Duties" see Constitution, Art 14 Sec. 3;

For "Creation of New Districts" see Constitution, Art 114 Sec. 8;

For "Duties and Powers Relating to Masonic Discipline" see Title V Chapter 23; Article 647-653;

For "Assisting in Collecting Lodge Dues in Arrears" see Art. 58.

Art. 75. (96). **Masonic Districts.** All Masonic Districts created by this Grand Lodge shall be numbered and printed in the Appendix of the Annual Proceedings. New Districts created from time to time by the Grand Lodge shall be added thereto in lieu of publication in the Code of Laws. (Revised 1990)

Art. 76. (97). **Warrant of Appointment.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall be given a warrant of appointment, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary and the Seal of this Grand Lodge; if any appointee removes from his District or for any reason is unable or falls to act his warrant shall be void, and his office may be declared vacant.

Art. 77. (98). **Powers.** The District Deputy Grand Masters possess the powers conferred by the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Lodge, and as such as may be delegated by the Grand Master, and none other.

Art. 78. (99). **Visitation.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall visit the Lodges in his district at least once during the year, after due notice thereof has been given, and he may preside therein after the Lodge has been opened. He cannot appoint a proxy.

Art. 79. (100). **Examine Records.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall examine the records of Lodges in his district and see if they are properly kept. He shall inform himself whether the members are punctual in attendance and harmonious in their work; and shall inquire generally into the condition of the Lodge. He may point out and correct errors and recommend a careful observance of Masonic precepts.

Art. 80. (101). **Inspect Lodge Room for Masonic Security.** A District Deputy Grand Master shall, in visiting the Lodges, examine

the Masonic security of the buildings in which such Lodges meet, and should he deem any of them unsafe or improper for Masonic use he shall report such matter to the Grand Master. This includes the examination of buildings and halls to be used by newly formed Lodges seeking Dispensations or Charters. (See also Art. 25.)
(Revised 1992)

Art. 81. (102). **Other Duties.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall see that all local Lodge roadside signs and other signs and names of such Lodges shall be properly maintained by such Lodges in attractive condition. He shall also perform such other duties in reference to any of the Lodges as may be directed by the Grand Master.

Art. 82. (103). **Not Collect Lodge Dues.** A District Deputy Grand Master, as such, has no right or authority to collect Lodge dues from members of active Lodges, and any receipt given by him therefor is void.

Art. 83. (104). **Report.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall make a report of the state of the Lodges in his District and of all the official acts to the Grand Master on or before the fifteenth day of September in each year. Said Reports shall not be published in the Printed Proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 84. (105). **Expenses.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall be paid by the Grand Lodge his necessary expenses in performing duties imposed upon him by the Grand Master and then only when such expenses have been authorized and approved by the Grand Master. He shall not be paid for his ordinary official duties.

Art. 85. (106). **Cannot Grant Dispensations.** District Deputy Grand Masters have no authority to grant dispensations for any purpose. But should request be made to him therefor, he may transmit the same to the Grand Master with such recommendation as he may deem proper.

CHAPTER 13—TITLE I

APPOINTIVE GRAND OFFICERS

For "Rank and Title" see Constitution Art I~ Sec. 1;

For "List of" see Constitution Art. IV Sec. 3. Sub-div. (a);

For "By Whom Appointed" see Constitution, Art. IV Sec. 3, Sub-div. (a), (b) and (c);

For "Installation" see Constitutions, Art. IV Secs, 4 and 10;

For "Duties see Constitution, Art. 14 Sec. 3.

Art. 86. (107). **Grand Chaplain.** The Grand Chaplain shall attend the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge and offer

prayers when requested by the Grand Master. He shall receive an honorarium of one hundred dollars at the end of his term of office.

Art. 87. (108). **Grand Orator.** The Grand Orator shall attend all communications of this Grand Lodge and shall deliver appropriate addresses suitable to any Masonic occasion when requested by the Grand Master.

Art. 88. (109). **Grand Marshal.** The Grand Marshal shall arrange and conduct all public processions where the Grand Master presides, and assist the Grand Master in arranging the Grand Festivals. He may appoint one or more assistants.

Art. 89. (110). **Grand Deacons.** The Grand Deacons shall assist in conducting the business of this Grand Lodge as directed by the Grand Master and the Grand Wardens.

Art. 90. (111). **Grand Stewards.** The Grand Stewards are under the direction of the Grand Junior Warden.

Art. 91. (112). **Grand Pursuivant.** The Grand Pursuivant shall attend to the inside of the door of this Grand Lodge and shall, when requested, report from the Grand Tiler the names of the Brethren applying for admission. He shall carry the messages and perform such other services as may be required while this Grand Lodge is open.

Art. 91a. **Grand Musician.** The Grand Musician shall provide appropriate music for all open and closed sessions of the Grand Lodge of Texas during the Annual Communication, and at other times when requested by the Grand Master, or this Grand Lodge. (Revised 2013)

Art. 91b. **Grand Photographer.** The Grand Photographer shall record all proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas, proper to be recorded, during the Annual Communication, and at other times when requested by the Grand Master or this Grand Lodge.

(Adopted 1990)

Art. 92. **Grand Tiler.** The Grand Tiler shall attend to the outside of the door of this Grand Lodge and take care that none shall enter but members or duly authorized visitors; and not then without receiving permission from the Grand Master. He shall summon the members when directed to do so by order of the Grand Master. He shall receive an honorarium of one hundred dollars at the end of his term of office.

CHAPTER 14 – TITLE I GRAND LODGE TEMPORARY COMMITTEE

For “Certain Resolutions Must First Be Referred To:” see Constitution Art. XII, Sec. 2;

For “Amendments to Constitution Must Be Referred To” see Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 1.

Art. 93. **Enumeration.** On or before the first day of each Annual Communication, the Grand Master shall appoint the following committee, consisting of five members to serve during that Communication; provided, that the Grand Master may increase the number of members of such committee so as not to exceed seven members in any year:

1. Deleted 2002.
2. On Petitions and Returns of Lodges Under Dispensation.
3. Deleted 2001.
4. Deleted 1975.
5. Deleted 1967.

(Revised 2002)

Art. 94. Repealed in 2002.

Art. 95. **Petitions and Returns of Lodges Under Dispensation.** The Committee on Petitions and Returns of Lodges Under Dispensation shall examine, consider, and report on all petitions for charters. It shall examine the records, work and returns of Lodges under dispensation and report to this Grand Lodge the character and merits of each Lodge, with such recommendations as the Committee may deem best. It shall examine such other matters as may be referred to them by this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (Revised 2001)

Art. 96. Deleted 2001.

Art. 97. **By-Laws.** See Article 126d.

Art. 98. See Article 126b.

Art. 99. **Other Temporary Committees.** Such other committees as may be necessary may be appointed by direction of this Grand Lodge. (See also Art. 40).

CHAPTER 15 – TITLE I GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES SERVING ONE YEAR

Art. 100. **Enumeration.** During each Annual Communication the Grand Master shall appoint the following Committees to serve one year, consisting of five members each, unless otherwise indicated, or increased by the Grand Master, provided, no such Committee shall exceed in number more than seven members:

1. On Memorials.
2. On Special Assignments.

(Revised 2007)

Art. 101. **Memorials.** It shall be the duty of the Committee on Memorials to prepare and submit to this Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication an appropriate eulogy upon the Masonic history and services of deceased members of this Grand Lodge and other Grand Jurisdictions, and suitable resolutions concerning deceased members of Subordinate Lodges. Said Committee shall also examine and report to this Grand Lodge upon such other questions as may be submitted to it by this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

Art. 102. Repealed 2000.

Art. 103. **Committee on Special Assignments.** The Committee on Special Assignments shall pursue objective studies and projects as assigned by the Grand Lodge of Texas, or the Grand Master. Reports, including recommendations, shall be made as directed by the Grand Master.

Art. 104. Deleted 2001.

Art. 104a. Deleted 2007.

CHAPTER 16 – TITLE I

GRAND LODGE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Art. 105. **Enumeration and Tenure.** The following Committees of the Grand Lodge, each consisting of seven members, except the Committee on Civil Law and the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence which shall consist of 14 members each, shall be Permanent:

1. On Fraternal Relations.
2. On Masonic Jurisprudence.
3. On Grievances and Appeals.
4. On Masonic Education and Service.
5. On Purposes and Policies.
6. On Credentials.
7. Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee.
8. On Finance.
9. On Grand Lodge Assistance Fund.
10. On Public Education.
11. On Civil Law.
12. On Youth Activities.
13. On By-Laws.
14. On Membership Maintenance.
15. On Communication.
16. On Investments.
17. On Mediation No. 1 (West Zone).
18. On Mediation No. 2 (East Zone).
19. On the Internet.
20. On Texas Masonic History.
21. On Gift of Life.

The term of office of each member of each of these Committees is seven years, including, without limitation, the Committee on Civil Law and the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence; present members shall serve for the remainder of their respective terms. Thereafter, on the last day of each Annual Communication, the incoming Grand Master shall appoint a successor to the member(s) of each Committee whose term(s) expire at that Communication, but no member shall be eligible for reappointment to succeed himself on said Committee who shall have served for a full term of seven years on said Committee, and no member shall be eligible to serve on more than one Permanent Term Committee concurrently. The Grand Master shall annually appoint two members of the Committee on Civil Law and the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence to serve for a seven (7) year term, and shall initially appoint members to serve staggered terms of six (6), five (5), four (4), three (3), two (2), and one (1) year. The Grand Master shall fill any vacancy that may occur on any of these Committees by appointment for the un-expired term. (Revised 2008).

Art. 105a. **Qualifications.** Each member of the following Committees: Civil Law, Communications, Finance, and Investments shall be a Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, and the majority of the members and the Chairman shall at all times be a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (New 2005)

Art. 105b. **Committee Member Removal.** For just cause found, or upon recommendation of the Chairman, any member of any Permanent Committee may be removed from service on said Committee by an affirmative vote of at least four (4) of the Trustees. Balloting on such an issue shall be controlled by the rules of the Trustees as established by the Trustees from time to time. (Renumbered 2005)

Art. 106. **Fraternal Relations.** The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall examine and report on all matters submitted to it by the Grand Master or this Grand Lodge; on all applications from Grand Jurisdictions to establish fraternal relations; on all charges against other Grand Jurisdictions for the violation of any Masonic principles and landmarks; and shall examine, review and report on all proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions with which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal relations.

Art. 107. **Masonic Jurisprudence.** All Amendments to the Constitution; all Masonic Forms; all resolutions proposing Amendments to the laws of this Grand Lodge; and all matters pertaining to Masonic Jurisprudence, and such other matters as this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may decide, shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for examination, consideration and report thereon, before same shall be acted upon by this Grand Lodge. In reviewing the decisions of the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, every ruling of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence thereon, if approved by this Grand Lodge, shall have the force and effect of an Edict until it is modified, amended, repealed or suspended by subsequent action of the Grand Lodge. Provided that no such Edict shall be printed in the volume of Masonic Laws until it has been so designated and formulated by said Committee. (See Art. 177; see Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 2; and see Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 1.)

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, to review the most recent actions of the Grand Lodge and compare the same with all extant Laws of this Grand Lodge, and modify where necessary all existing Laws to conform to the most recent actions of this Grand Lodge, prior to the dissemination of the Law Changes. (Revised 1993)

Art. 108. Deleted 2001.

Art. 109. Grievances and Appeals: Duties. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to receive transcripts of appeals, and to examine and report upon same to this Grand Lodge. All reports of such Committee shall be governed by the regulations provided in Articles 110 and 616. The Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall also advise the Grand Master regarding his selection of venue for Masonic trials.

(Revised 2000)

Art. 110. Grievances and Appeals: Reports. The Committee on Grievances and Appeals, in reporting on Lodge trials, shall embody in its reports only the name of the Lodge, the initials of the accused, the charges preferred, the action of the Lodge, and the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee, in making its reports on the floor of this Grand Lodge, may accompany it with such written statements of the details of the case as may be necessary for the information of the members. The full reports of the Committee shall be filed with the Grand Secretary and there shall be printed in the Proceedings only the style of the case, the initials of the accused, the result of the trial, and the action of this Grand Lodge thereon.

In the consideration of any case appealed to this Grand Lodge nothing that does not appear in the transcript shall be considered by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

(Revised 2000)

Art. 111. Masonic Education and Service. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service to formulate and promulgate a system of instruction in the fundamental principles, symbolism, teachings and practical application of Masonry; to aid the Grand Master in extending aid and relief in case of public disaster arising from cyclones, earthquakes, floods or other catastrophes. In case of any public calamity, the activities of said Committee shall be subject to the personal supervision and direction of the Grand Master.

The Committee shall be responsible to formulate and to submit to this Grand Lodge after approval by Grand Lodge Trustees, for its approval and publication, such uniform material as is required to properly instruct the Worshipful Masters and Wardens of the Lodges in the duties of their office, and to assist the Grand Master

(Revised 1991)

in the selection and instruction of well qualified Brethren to represent him and this Grand Lodge as District Education Officers, to coordinate the instruction of Lodge Officers for their certification as such in accordance with those requirements of Article No. 276-a of the Laws of this Grand Lodge.

(Revised 1990)

In matters pertaining to the formulation, promulgation and dissemination of Masonic instruction and education, said Committee shall be guided by a strict observance of the Landmarks, Ancient Customs and Usages of Freemasonry, and by such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Committee or prescribed by this Grand Lodge. In matters pertaining to further development and promotion of the Workshop Program, the Committee shall be charged to assist the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens in the development of suitable Grand Lodge programs for uniform presentation through a state-wide system of Workshops or Conferences as might be designated by the Grand Master each year, and to assist the Grand Master in the selection and instruction of well qualified Brethren, who shall be a member of this Grand Lodge, if such a one is available and willing to serve, otherwise to a qualified Brother who is a member in good standing of a Lodge in the district may serve as such, to represent him and this Grand Lodge and to coordinate such Workshops or Conferences; to encourage Lodge participation in the Vanguard Lodge Program, and to establish the rules suitable for recognition of Lodge achievement in the program; to assist the Lodges and encourage participation in the Golden Trowel Award Program, and to encourage the recognition of suitably qualified members of the Lodge by presentation of the Golden Trowel Award according to the rules as prepared by the Committee.

(Revised 1993)

The activities of said Committee shall be under the general supervision of the Grand Master, and no new material or literature shall be promulgated until it has been approved by the Committee and the Grand Master. This Committee shall be required to meet as necessary during the recess of Grand Lodge.

(Revised 1991)

Art. 112. Masonic Education and Service: Rules. The Committee on Masonic Education and Service shall adopt such

rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the administration of its duties, subject to and in conformity with the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Lodge. It may designate one of its members to act as Treasurer and may require him to give a bond for the safekeeping of all funds entrusted to his care.

Art. 113. Masonic Education and Service: Annual Report. The Committee on Masonic Education and Service shall make an annual report to this Grand Lodge of its educational activities, welfare work, and the condition of all property committed to its care; including a tabulated statement of all receipts and disbursements of its funds.

Art. 114. Repealed in 1971.

Art. 115. Masonic Education and Service: Obligations. The Committee on Masonic Education and Service shall never create any obligation, or make any contract involving the expenditure of funds, in excess of those actually provided for said Committee by this Grand Lodge.

Art. 116. Purposes and Policies. To the Committee on Purposes and Policies shall be referred all resolutions or matters presented to this Grand Lodge affecting or changing the established policies of this Grand Lodge, or in any way modifying or restricting the Ancient Customs and Usages of Freemasonry; provided, that this regulation shall not apply to resolutions involving changes in the Laws referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. The Committee on Purposes and Policies shall examine and consider all matters referred to it by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge and make report thereon with its recommendation. (Revised 1990)

Art. 117. Credentials. The Committee on Credentials shall meet at the Grand Lodge Temple the day preceding the Annual Communication, receive and examine such credentials as may be presented by the brethren, and report thereon at the opening of this Grand Lodge. (Revised 2002)

Art. 118. Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee. The Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee shall work in cooperation with the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School and under its direction, to assist the graduates of said Home and School in securing employment and to become established in the business and social life of the State.

Art. 119. Finance: Meetings and Duties. The Committee on Finance shall meet in the Grand Lodge Temple at Waco on call by its Chairman or by the Grand Master at such times and as often as circumstances demand. It shall examine the report on special matters referred to it by the Grand Master and by this Grand Lodge, including but not limited to, the review and analysis of the Minimum Audit Form No. 71 of the constituent Lodges. It shall

examine, and if satisfactory, approve and keep in its custody the fidelity bonds of all Officers and employees of this Grand Lodge. The Finance Committee report and action thereon shall be the first business considered by Grand Lodge on the last day of the Grand Annual Communication. (Revised 2012)

Art. 120. Repealed 2002.

Art. 121. **Finance: Annual Report and Budget.** It shall be the duty of the Committee on Finance to prepare and submit for the approval of the Grand Lodge as a part of its Annual Report, a proposed itemized budget showing estimated expenditures of every kind for the operation of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Offices in Waco for the ensuing fiscal year of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Upon registration, a printed copy of the proposed budget shall be made available to each member of the Grand Lodge of Texas and to the duly elected representative(s) of each subordinate Lodge at the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas before it is presented for discussion and final approval. No resolution, motion, report, amendment or new business of any kind whatever involving the appropriation or expenditure of money, excepting such fund or funds as have been allocated by our Constitution Laws or by a resolution adopted prior to this Grand Communication, be acted upon until it is first referred to, thoroughly investigated by and reported upon to the Grand Lodge by the Finance Committee. (Revised 2003).

The Grand Lodge Finance Committee shall be responsible to see that all contracts for services involving Grand Lodge officers or committee members are clearly and properly reported in its final report to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication. This law shall not include or pertain to any incidental meals, expense reimbursements for travel or out-of-pocket expenses, or nominal gifts received by any such committee or board member. (Adopted 2009).

Art. 122. **Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Consists of Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee of this Grand Lodge shall constitute the Committee on Grand Lodge Assistance Fund.

Art. 123. **Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Duties.** The Committee on Grand Lodge Assistance Fund shall exercise control, supervision and disbursement of the funds of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund under such rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time by such Committee, or by this Grand Lodge.

Contributions from the fund shall be limited to those individuals whose sponsoring Lodge also contributes to the recipient, and shall be an amount up to ten times that contributed by the Lodge. Provided, that such limitation shall not apply when the Lodge submits satisfactory evidence of its inability to contribute to such assistance. Provided further that the total contribution of the plan to any recipient shall not exceed an amount as established from time to time by the Committee. (Revised 1990)

Art. 124. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund. Receipts and Disbursements. The Grand Secretary shall deposit all contributions to and collections of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund in the designated depository and shall keep an account of the same separate from all other funds. All disbursements from said fund shall be made upon the warrant of the Grand Secretary, after any such disbursement has been authorized by said Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. (Revised 2008)

Art. 125. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Purposes of Fund. The purposes for which said fund may be used shall be the relief of Brethren in good standing and members of their families suffering with incapacitating disabilities or disease, as the Committee may determine. (Revised 2011)

Art. 126. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Annual Report. The Committee on Grand Lodge Assistance Fund shall make an annual report to this Grand Lodge of its activities in relief work, including a tabulated statement of all receipts, disbursements, and balances on hand of such fund. The names of the beneficiaries thereof shall not be published in the printed Proceedings.

Art. 126a. Public Education. The Committee on Public Education shall be charged with the duty of carrying on the Texas Public School Program of this Grand Lodge, and other appropriate activities having to do with Public Education in Texas, as may be authorized by the Grand Lodge from time to time.

In matters pertaining to the Lamar Medal Program, the Committee shall be responsible to develop, promote and assist the Lodges with suitable Grand Lodge programs and material for uniform presentation of the Lamar Medal; to establish suitable guidelines for the qualifications of proposed recipients of the medal, and for presentation of same in such manner as to properly recognize outstanding achievement while honoring the commitment of this Grand Lodge to the principle of Public Education. This Committee shall be required to meet as necessary during the recess of Grand Lodge.

Art. 126b. Civil Law. To the Committee on Civil Law shall be referred all questions of title to property owned or claimed by this Grand Lodge or by any one or more of its Constituent Lodges and, also, all titles, deeds, mortgages, and other documents relating to real estate owned or claimed by this Grand Lodge or by any one or more of its Constituent Lodges; provided that this Article shall not apply to any property, real or personal, owned or claimed by, or held for the use and benefit of, the Masonic Home and School.

It shall also be the duty of this Committee and of its Chairman and several members, upon the request of the Grand Master, to counsel and advise him, upon any civil law legal matter arising in the course of his administration and the advisability of employing legal counsel in regard thereto.

And in addition, when this Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, refers to said Committee any question relating to the sale or other disposition of Lodge buildings, the creation of debts by Subordinate Lodges, or of establishing liens on Lodge property, it shall be the duty of said Committee to examine the matter and made prompt report thereon, with its recommendation, and a majority of its members shall at all times be well versed in matters of civil law, and be members in good standing of the State Bar of Texas. (Revised 2002)

126c. Youth Activities. The Committee on Youth Activities shall be charged with the duty of encouraging all Master Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction to advance, promote, and support the youth organizations approved for Masonic sponsorship under the Laws of this Grand Lodge and for the amplification and coordination of worthy activities of the Grand Lodge and its Constituent Lodges in support of same.

In an effort to secure only those of the highest moral character and reputation to serve as advisors to said Youth Organizations, the following procedure applies to any Master Mason wishing to serve as such.

1. The Master Mason wishing to serve as an advisor to an approved Youth Organization shall submit Form No. 79.

2. The form shall authorize investigations into the applicant's reputation and character, including requests for credit checks, criminal records and any charges of child abuse filed with the Texas Department of Human Services.

3. The Lodge of a Master Mason so applying, must attest in writing, to his good standing.

4. The completed form shall be submitted annually to the Youth Organization and its Chief Executive Officer in Texas, the Youth Organization's sponsoring body and the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge where they shall remain on file. (Revised 1990)

Art. 126d. By-Laws. The Committee on By-Laws shall examine, consider and report its conclusions on all by-laws and amendments to by-laws of Subordinate Lodges which may be referred to it by this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

Art. 126e. Membership. The Committee on Membership shall consist of seven members who shall be responsible to the Trustees of this Grand Lodge for implementing and coordinating membership activities of this Grand Lodge including, without being limited to (i) the maintenance of membership; (ii) the promoting of growth in membership; (iii) the assistance to Lodges in membership matters, including that of non-payment of dues (NPD); and (iv) the preparation and general oversight of all forms pertaining to membership, all as directed by the Trustees. (Revised 2004)

Art. 126f. Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation Nos. 1 and 2.

1. Mediation defined. (a) Mediation is a forum in which an

impartial person, the mediator, facilitates communication between parties to promote reconciliation, settlement, or understanding among them; (b) A mediator may not impose his own judgment on the issues for that of the parties.

2. Committee No. 1 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all cases pending in Lodges physically located west of Interstate Highway 45 and US Highway 75 North. Committee No. 2 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all cases pending in Lodges physically located east of Interstate Highway 45 and US Highway 75 North.

3. Any Lodge in which Masonic Charges are filed shall refer such pending charges within 10 days of receipt of the same through their District Deputy Grand Master, to the Grand Master, who may refer it to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation having jurisdiction over its location for binding mediation. The Committee shall proceed to attempt to resolve the charges, if possible, within 30 days of the referral, and report the result to the Grand Master and Worshipful Master of the Lodge in which such charges have been filed. The Committee may not act in a manner calculated to abridge or curtail rights granted or protected by the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, or in matters involving prosecutions for alleged civil/criminal violations, the laws of the State of Texas or any other State, or of the United States of America. Mediation is binding when signed by the parties thereto. A breach of the terms of the mediation agreement shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation that is subject to Masonic discipline pursuant to the provision of Title 5 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Adopted 2000)

Art. 126g. **Committee on Communication.** It shall be the duty of the Committee on Communication to formulate and promulgate policies, programs and projects regarding internal and external communications to increase member and public awareness and understanding of Masonry using various communications tools and techniques; to make recommendations pertaining to such matters to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge and to employ such professional assistance to accomplish its purposes as is authorized by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 2003)

In addition, the Committee shall be responsible to assist the Grand Master in the selection and instruction of well-qualified Brethren to represent him and this Grand Lodge as District Communications Officers. These members shall be members of the Grand Lodge of Texas, if such a one is available and willing to serve, otherwise a qualified Brother who is a member in good standing of a Lodge in the district may serve as such. (Revised 2003)

In matters pertaining to the Community Builder Award, the Committee shall be responsible to develop, promote and assist the Lodges with suitable Grand Lodge programs and materials for uniform presentation of the Community Builder Award; to establish

suitable guidelines for qualifications as to properly recognize outstanding community achievement while honoring the commitment of this Grand Lodge to a more effective relationship between the Lodges and the communities they seek to serve. This Committee shall be required to meet as necessary during the recess of Grand Lodge. (Revised 1991)

In matters pertaining to the W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award, the Committee shall be responsible to evaluate all nominations for the Award, and to make its recommendations as provided in Article 14b of these Laws. (Revised 1992)

Art. 126h. Committee on Investments. The Committee on Investments shall be a Permanent Committee which shall meet the criteria of Article 105 hereof except such Committee will have a membership of seven (7) Master Masons who are each a member and a Past Master, if available, in good standing of a Lodge in this grand jurisdiction and the Chairman shall at all times be a member of the Grand Lodge. The term of office of each member shall be seven (7) years, and each member may succeed himself. Each of the members of the Committee will be experienced in financial investments as a result of substantial time (not less than five [5] years) spent as a professional in that arena, and each member may succeed himself. The Committee will prepare for presentation to a joint session with the Grand Lodge Trustees, as required herein below, its recommendations as to how the funds in the General Fund and how each special fund of the Grand Lodge should be invested for the next ensuing calendar quarter to generate a prudent income from the funds so invested.

The Committee on Investments and the Grand Lodge Trustees shall meet once each calendar quarter in joint session for the purpose of considering the recommendations of the Committee on Investments as to the appropriate investments for the monies in the General Fund and each special fund of this Grand Lodge, including without limitation, the Endowed Membership Fund, the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund, the William M. Beck Memorial Fund and the Grand Lodge Employees Retirement Fund. A decision to follow a recommendation of the Committee on Investments must be approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. The Committee shall make its annual report to this Grand Lodge concerning its activities. Additionally, the Committee shall make unaudited reports as to the current value, income and expense of each fund listed in this Article following fiscal quarter ends of March, June, and September. (Revised 2011)

Art. 126i. Committee on Internet. The Committee on Internet shall be a Permanent Committee which shall meet the criteria of Art. 105 hereof except that the Committee shall be composed of Master Masons who are each a member and a Past Master, if available, in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction; the Chairman shall at all times be a member of this

Grand Lodge. In matters pertaining to the formulation, promulgation and dissemination of Masonic information, said Committee shall be guided by a strict observance of the Landmarks, Ancient Customs and Usages of Freemasonry and such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Grand Trustees or prescribed by this Grand Lodge. The activities of the Committee shall be under the general supervision of the Grand Master and no new material or literature shall be promulgated until it has been approved by the Grand Trustees. (Revised 2002)

Art. 126j. **Texas Masonic History.** The Committee on Texas Masonic History shall be responsible for (i) the promotion of Texas Masonic Historical activities; (ii) the improvement of the Masonic image in historical activities and celebrations; (iii) the investigation and reporting of significant historical events to be celebrated; and, (iv) advising the constituent Lodges as to the conservation and preservation of historically significant artifacts, documents and records in the care of said Lodges. (Revised 2007)

Art. 126k. **Gift of Life Committee.** The Gift of Life Committee shall be a Permanent Committee which shall meet the criteria of Article 105 hereof except such Committee will have a membership of seven (7) Master Masons who are each a member and a Past Master, if available, in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. The Chairman shall at all times be a member of this Grand Lodge. It shall be the duty of the Gift of Life Committee to formulate and promulgate policies, programs and projects to encourage Texas Masonic Lodges to sponsor blood drives to benefit Scottish Rite and Shrine hospitals and other community hospitals throughout the State of Texas. (Adopted 2008)

CHAPTER 17 – TITLE I COMMITTEE ON WORK

For “Election and Term of Office” see Constitution, Art. XI.

Art. 127. **Ritual.** No ritual other than that promulgated by this Grand Lodge shall be taught or used in this Jurisdiction, nor shall paraphernalia except as listed in Article 223 be used, nor shall preparation of Candidates include other than that provided in the Monitor of the Lodge or otherwise required by any provision of the laws of this Grand Lodge, provided however by special dispensation of the Grand Master, a degree team from another Grand Jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge may confer a degree on one of their own candidates using ritual as approved in the degree team’s home jurisdiction, provided said ritual is in English. (Revised 2013)

Art. 128. **Proficiency of Members.** It shall be the duty of each member of the Committee on Work to make himself proficient in the esoteric work and lectures of the first three degrees of Masonry and to attend each Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 129. Duties of Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Work to compare the work and lectures of the first three degrees in Masonry and to harmonize differences therein; to adopt a uniform system of esoteric work and lectures under the supervision of this Grand Lodge; to exemplify the same before the Grand Lodge when required; and to instruct the Grand Officers, and such other officers, representatives and Brethren as may desire the same, in such work and lectures.

In addition to the foregoing the Committee shall have the following duties:

a. Prior to the Grand Annual Communication, the incoming Grand Master may request the Committee on Work to recommend qualified members of Grand Lodge who may be appointed by him to serve as District Instructors for the ensuing Grand Lodge year.

b. The Committee shall conduct such schools of instruction for District Instructors as they deem appropriate or required.

c. A suitable Certificate of Appointment and Identification Card shall be issued by this Grand Lodge to the District Instructor upon his appointment each year.

Art 130. The “Word.” The “Word” must not be given in a Lodge of Instruction or elsewhere except as received.

Art. 131. Examinations. The Committee on Work is authorized to conduct examinations during the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge and may continue in session two days more, or so long as may be necessary to complete the signing of certificates, to examine applicants touching their qualifications to teach the esoteric work and lectures. No examinations shall be conducted on Sunday.

In the event of the resignation or death of a member of the Committee on Work, or in the event a member of the Committee on Work is rendered unable to perform his duties through a disabling illness during the recess of the Grand Lodge, the remaining members of the Committee on Work may designate a brother who has previously served on the Committee on Work to conduct certificate examinations and grade degree teams. Such designation shall be made only when the remaining members are unable to provide the required service and shall be effective only until the incapacitated member is capable of fulfilling his duties or until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, whichever is earlier. The Grand Master and Grand Secretary shall be notified of any such designation.

Provided further that should a brother who has previously served on the Committee on Work be unavailable for such service the remaining members of the Committee on Work may, by unanimous agreement, select an otherwise qualified brother to provide such services for a term not to exceed the duration of incapacity or absence of an elected member, or until the next meeting of this Grand Lodge, whichever is earlier.

Art. 132. Certificates. To such Brethren as the Committee on Work may deem qualified, a certificate shall be issued authorizing the one holding the same to give instructions in the esoteric work

and lectures to any lodge until the expiration of the time specified in the certificate. (Revised 1992)

Art. 132a. **Certificates: Classifications.** Certificates of Proficiency shall be classified as follows: Class C: Certifies proficiency in the questions and answers of the three degrees, and in opening and closing a Lodge in each degree and a Master Mason's Lodge of Sorrow, plus the Tiler's Oath. (Class "C" Certificates shall be approximately 8½ by 11 inches according to the design adopted by the Committee on Work.) (Revised 1999)

Class B: Certifies proficiency as defined in Class "C" plus proficiency in the conferral of the three degrees. (Class "B" Certificates shall be approximately 8½ by 11 inches according to the design adopted by the Committee on Work.)

Class A: Certifies proficiency as defined in Classes "C" and "B" plus the lectures of the three degrees. (Class "A" Certificates shall be approximately 12 by 16 inches according to the design adopted by the Committee on Work.) (Revised 1999)

Art. 133. (167). **Certificates: For One, Two and Three Years.** A Brother who has held certificates of proficiency from the Committee on Work in any classification listed in Article 132a for two successive years preceding the date of his application for re-examination, may be granted a certificate for one, two or three years at the discretion of the Committee, according to the proficiency shown by his examination therein. (Revised 1991)

Art. 134. (164). **Certificates: Renewal.** The Committee on Work may renew the certificate of the classification held by a Brother on or before its expiration after satisfactory examination of his proficiency therein. (Revised 1991)

Art. 135. (176). **Certificates: Life.** When a Brother has been awarded certificates to teach the esoteric work covering twenty-five years in any one of the classifications listed in Article 132a, the Committee on Work may, in its discretion, issue to him a life certificate to teach the esoteric work applicable thereto. (Revised 1991)

Art. 136. (177). **Certificates: Life to Ex-Chairman.** The Committee on Work is authorized to issue to each ex-Chairman of the Committee on Work a life certificate to teach the esoteric work and lectures.

Art. 137. (165). **Certificates: Authentication.** The certificate issued by the Committee on Work shall have the genuine or facsimile signature of all members of the Committee, be counter-signed by the Grand Secretary, and the Seal of this Grand Lodge affixed thereto; and each certificate shall state the time when it expires.

Art. 138. (168). **Certificates: Forfeiture.** Any Brother holding a certificate, or any member of the Committee on Work, who shall solicit or request a Lodge or Masons to employ or accept his services to teach or exemplify the work and lectures shall thereby

forfeit his certificate, and the Grand Master shall revoke the certificate of such Brother.

Art. 139. (166). **Esoteric Work: Who May Exemplify.** No one shall exemplify the work and lectures in any Lodge of this jurisdiction and receive compensation therefor who shall not first have obtained from the Committee on Work certificate of proficiency, after due examination therefor as provided by the laws of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 140. (170). **Esoteric Work: Employing Instructor.** A Lodge or body of Masons in this jurisdiction may employ any member of the Committee on Work or any Brother holding a certificate from said committee, to instruct them in the work and lectures.

Art. 141. (178). **Esoteric Work: Examination for Certificates.** Any Lodge or body of Masons under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge may employ said Committee on Work, or any member thereof, to conduct examinations for certificates to teach the work, at such times and places as they may desire. The expenses of such examinations shall be paid by the Lodge or brethren desiring the same. Whoever conducts the examinations shall keep a report of all Brethren who pass satisfactory examinations, but a certificate thereof shall not be issued until the next communication of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 142. (171). **Esoteric Work: Schools of Instruction.** Masonic Schools of Instruction can be held only in a Masonic Lodge room, or within the rooms in the Grand Lodge Temple set apart for Masonic purposes, but any number of Masons may meet in such places for the purpose of instruction without formal sanction of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge. No compensation shall be paid therefor unless it is imparted under authority of a Lodge, in its Lodge room, and paid for by the Lodge.

Art. 142a. **Degree Team Recognition.** The Committee on Work may issue a certificate of merit to a degree team in recognition of excellence in the presentation of any one or more of the three degrees.

Art. 143. (174). **Committeemen: Compensation.** Each Member of the Committee on Work shall receive ten dollars per day for each day, Sunday excepted, that the Committee may be engaged in examinations, during the term as provided in Article 131. The Grand Secretary is authorized to approve such accounts and draw warrants for the amounts due.

Art. 144. (175). **Committeemen: Expenses.** Each member of the Committee on Work shall be allowed his actual expenses in coming from and returning to his home, and his actual expenses while in attendance on his duties in teaching the esoteric work and lectures, and in examinations during and following the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge.

CHAPTER 18—TITLE I MASONIC HOME AND SCHOOL

For “Resources Pledged To” see Constitution, Art.), Sec. 1;

For “Funds for Support Of see Constitution, Art 2 Sec. 3;

*For “Board of Directors, Powers, etc., “see Constitution, Art. X,
Sec. 4;*

For “Administration of Funds” see Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 5

Art. 145. (179). Annual Audit and Report. The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School shall annually audit or cause to be audited the accounts of its Treasurer, and make an annual report to this Grand Lodge of the condition of said Home and its finances, including a tabulated statement of receipts and disbursements in relation thereto, and balances on hand to the credit of the several accounts.

Art. 146. (180). Use of Funds. Except as otherwise provided, any and all funds coming into the hands of the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School from the revenues of this Grand Lodge, and from all other sources, including interest arising from the endowment fund, may be used by said Board of Directors for the maintenance and operation of said Home and School; for the support of widows of Master Masons cared for under arrangements made with the Texas Masonic Retirement Center maintained by the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, and for the erection of new buildings, improvements on existing structures, improvements on the grounds of said Home and School and for other necessary expenses.

Art. 147. (181). Endowment Fund. All stocks, bonds, and other securities, including loans on real estate or personal property, now in the hands of the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School shall be kept in a separate account and be known as the “Endowment Fund.” All revenue arising from the degree fee of twenty-five dollars assessed by this Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of said Home and School shall, upon receipt thereof by the Treasurer of said Home and School be promptly credited to the account of said Endowment Fund. Likewise any and all bequests, devises, and donations made specifically to said fund; and all appropriations made by the Board of Directors to said fund out of the current

revenues or surplus funds in the hands of its Treasurer, shall be so credited.

Art. 148. (182). **Endowment Fund.** Fifty percent (50%) of the gain over basis only of the Endowment Fund as determined at the end of the preceding calendar quarter, not to exceed an accumulated total of \$500,000.00, may be used for improvements and operations at Masonic Home and School when authorized by the Board of Directors of said Home and School. Otherwise, no part of the Endowment Fund except interest arising from investments thereof, shall be used for any purpose whatsoever, unless specifically authorized by this Grand Lodge. The Endowment Fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the direct control and supervision of the Board of Directors of said Home and School.

(Revised 2000)

Art. 149. (183). **Withdrawals from General Fund.** No funds shall be withdrawn from the General Fund of the Masonic Home and School unless previously appropriated for the purpose by the Board of Directors of said Masonic Home and School, or by a resolution of this Grand Lodge. All withdrawals must bear the signatures of at least two bonded officials designated for the purpose by the Board of Directors.

Art. 150. (184). **Release of Loans.** In all cases where loans are made in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas, and such loans have been secured by liens, mortgages, trust deeds, or other instruments, in favor of said Grand Lodge, and when any of said loans, including interest and other legal charges, have been fully paid, the President of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is authorized and empowered, and upon request shall execute and deliver to the person entitled to receive it, a release or legal acquittance therefor, in the usual legal form, and in the name of, and as the act of The Grand Lodge of Texas.

All such releases or acquittances shall be as effective and as binding upon this Grand Lodge as if specifically authorized by special resolution in each particular case.

Art. 151. (184a). **Mutation of Securities.** In all cases where bonds, securities, notes and other evidences of indebtedness are held in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home and School, whether acquired by gift, devise, or purchase, or in any other manner, and whether belonging to the Endowment Fund or any other fund of said Home, if in the judgment of a majority of the Board of Directors of said Home it is to the best interest of the Home to sell, assign, exchange or

compromise same, said Board may authorize its President and the Treasurer of said Masonic Home and School, or either of them, to sell, assign, exchange, or compromise, compound and settle same for such consideration and on such terms as the said Board may determine, and to execute in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas such instruments as may be reasonably necessary to consummate transactions, all without recourse and without warranty except as against those holding by, through or under The Grand Lodge of Texas. Any corporate stocks or other personal property owned or that may hereafter be acquired in any manner by The Grand Lodge of Texas for the use and benefit of said Home may be sold, assigned, exchanged, or compromised, compounded, and settled in like manner. All such transactions, referred to herein, heretofore, or hereafter so consummated shall be as effective and as binding upon this Grand Lodge as if specifically authorized by special resolution of The Grand Lodge of Texas in each particular case.

Art. 152. (185). **Sale of Lands.** In case any lands shall be acquired by The Grand Lodge of Texas under any foreclosure proceedings, or sales, or by voluntary conveyances, under or by virtue of any mortgage lien, deed of trust, or other instrument, or by gift, donation, deed, or bequest, the said lands may be sold by the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School for such price, and on such terms as it may determine, and the Grand Master is authorized, empowered and directed to sign, acknowledge and deliver to the purchaser such deed or deeds of the conveyance in the name and as the act of The Grand Lodge of Texas, as may be necessary to convey legal title thereto, and complete the agreement. Each such conveyance shall be as binding upon the said Grand Lodge as if it were specifically authorized in a separate resolution adopted in each such case; provided, such deeds or conveyances shall not be construed to bind in any manner the said Grand Lodge to warrant the title to any of such lands so sold and conveyed, except as to persons claiming by, through or under it.

Art. 153. **Sale of Site Authorized.** The Grand Lodge Trustees (and the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School (the MHS), to the extent legally necessary,) are authorized to develop, lease, sell, transfer and/or convey all, or part of the land (the "Land") on which the MHS is located, and any improvements thereon, and any equipment, inventory, or any other personal property (the "Personalty") located on the Land and which may be owned by the Grand Lodge of Texas, without limitation, including possible long-term use by a tenant and possible transfer of the mineral rights, if determined to be prudent in the opinion of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (New 2005)

Art. 154. (187). **Leases.** The Grand Master, or the President of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School, is empowered to sign any lease contract for any purpose, approved by said Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School, on land or buildings owned by The Grand Lodge of Texas for the use and benefit of said Masonic Home and School.

Art. 155. (188). **Donations and Bequests.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is authorized to receive donations, devises or bequests from Lodges, other Masonic bodies, individuals, and from other sources, and to hold the title to such property, real, personal or mixed, in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas, for the use and benefit of said Masonic Home and School.

Art. 156. (189). **Erection of Buildings.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is hereby authorized to erect such buildings as may be needed from time to time, and to make such improvements on the property under its control as may be necessary to equip it for the purposes indicated by this Section, and to pay for same out of available current funds under its control, under such regulations as this Grand Lodge has prescribed or may hereafter prescribe.

Art. 157. **Rules.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School (“MHS”) is authorized to make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations, not in conflict with Masonic Law, for the management of the business affairs of the MHS, for the government of the MHS, for referrals to children’s services, and for the funding of children’s services for qualified applicants thereto. The Priority for the applications of needy and qualified children for the funding of children’s services shall be as follows:

- (1) All needy and qualified children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas shall receive first consideration for the funding of children’s services.
- (2) All needy and qualified great-grandchildren, step-children, nieces and nephews of Master Masons in Texas shall receive consideration for the funding of children’s services provided adequate funds are available and their funding of children’s services would not be cause to deny the funding of children’s services to needy and qualified children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas.
- (3) Any needy and qualified child who is a resident of the State of Texas and who is recommended by a Texas Mason shall receive consideration for the funding of children’s services, provided that adequate funds are available and such funding of children’s services would not be cause to deny the funding of children’s services to a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, step-child, niece or nephew of a Master Mason in Texas.

Provided further that at no time shall a needy and qualified child or grandchild of a Master Mason be denied funding of children's services unless and except all available funds have been expended for children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas. Provided further that at no time shall a needy and qualified great-grandchild, step-child, niece or nephew of a Master Mason in Texas be denied funding of children's services unless and except all available funds have been expended for children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-children, nieces or nephews of Master Masons in Texas.

All applicants for the funding of children's services shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School in accordance with its authority to make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations as heretofore granted under the provisions of this Article. (Revised 2008)

Art. 158. Employees: Appointment; Duties; Salaries. The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School shall appoint a superintendent and all other employees of said Home and School, define their duties, fix their salaries, and may remove such officer or employees, or any of them, whenever it may deem that the interest of said Home and School may require it.

Art. 159. Treasurer: Board to Nominate. At the annual election of officers of this Grand Lodge, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School shall submit, for the approval of this Grand Lodge, the name of the treasurer elected by it for said Home and School, who shall be a Master Mason and a member, in good standing, of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and may be a member of said Board. He shall serve until his successor is elected and qualifies.

Art. 160. Treasurer: Bond. Before assuming the duties of his office, the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School shall give bond for such amount as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors thereof, payable to the order of The Grand Lodge of Texas; conditioned that he will well and truly account to this Grand Lodge for all money, property or other things of value coming into his possession or under his control which may belong to the Grand Lodge of Texas, or to said Home and School. Such bond shall be duly executed by him and a surety company duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas, or by two or more good and sufficient sureties, whose combined assets, above exemptions, must be at least double the amount of said bond. Said bond shall be subject to the approval of the said Board of Directors. Such Treasurer shall be subject to the direction of said Board of Directors, and shall receive such compensation as said Board may determine, not exceeding \$500.00 per annum.

Art. 161. Widows Supported at Texas Masonic Retirement Center. The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, having established a home for the care of aged Masons, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is hereby authorized to enter into such arrangements with the Board of Directors of said Texas Masonic Retirement Center for the care and maintenance of the widows supported by said Home and School, as will best serve the purposes for which both Homes are established.

Art. 162. Students Visit Annual Communication. The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is authorized to bring such portion of the students of the Home and School to any Annual or other Communication of this Grand Lodge which said Board may deem expedient. All expenses of such students shall be paid by this Grand Lodge.

CHAPTER 19 – TITLE I GRAND LODGE REVENUES

For “Additional Contributions” see Constitution, Arts. IX and X.

Art. 163. Fees, Dues and Contributions. Each subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Secretary fees, dues, and contributions as follows:

1. For each duplicate Charter the sum of	\$ 2.50
2. For each Dispensation for conferring degrees the sum of	2.00
3. For each diploma (except to Past Grand Masters) the sum of	2.00
4. For each degree conferred in the Grand Lodge the sum of	30.00
5. For the use of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, for each Master Mason’s Degree conferred, which the Lodge shall collect from each applicant for said degree, in addition to the regular fee charged by the Lodge, and which sum, when collected, shall be remitted by the Lodge to the Grand Secretary with the annual returns, as provided in Article 318, the sum of.....	25.00
(Revised 2006)	
6. For the Grand Lodge General Fund, to be remitted by the Lodge with its annual returns, for each degree conferred as required by Section 2 of Article IX of the Constitution the sum of	1.00
7. For the use of the Masonic Home and School for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be remitted annually with its returns, the sum of \$1.25 required by Section 2 Article IX of the Constitution, plus the sum of \$3.75 for the use of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc., the total sum of	5.00
(Revised 2006)	
8. For the “Grand Lodge Assistance Fund,” for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be paid annually with its return, the sum of25

9. For the use in financing the Grand Lodge Employees Retirement Fund Program, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be remitted annually with its returns, the sum of10
10. For the Grand Lodge General fund to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of \$.50 required by Section 2 of Article IX plus \$17.15, the total sum of (Revised 2010).....	\$17.65
11. For the Grand Lodge Library and Museum to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of	1.00
12. For the use of the George Washington Masonic Memorial for each Entered Apprentice degree conferred, the Lodge shall collect from each applicant for said degree in addition to the regular fees charged by the Lodge, the sum of	5.00
13. For the Masonic Youth Foundation, to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of (Revised 2012).....	.10
14. Such other fees, dues and contributions, if any, now or hereafter required by the Constitution or Laws of this Grand Lodge	

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of Article 488 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge, the increase would become effective on June 24, 2012 and due with Lodge returns no later than August 15, 2012. (Revised 2010)

The vote on fees, dues and contributions shall be by Lodges and members on written ballot.

Art. 163a. Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund. The sum of \$1.00 per year for each member on the rolls of all the Subordinate Lodges, shall be transferred from the Grand Lodge General Fund, to a Reserve Fund held IN TRUST, and used solely and exclusively for structural maintenance, renovation, remodeling and repair of the MEMORIAL MASONIC GRAND LODGE BUILDING.

Expenditures from the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund shall be made *only* upon authorization of the Directors of the Grand Lodge Masonic Library and Museum of Texas. (Revised 2012)

Art. 163b. The Endowed Membership Fund. The Endowed Membership Fund shall consist of all monies received by the Grand Lodge for the purpose of purchasing Endowed Memberships in Texas Lodges as provided in Article 318-a of these Laws, and all such funds, along with the income therefrom, shall be kept in a special and separate account entitled the "Endowed Membership Fund."

Unless specifically authorized by a 2/3 majority vote of this Grand Lodge, no part of the principal amount of the Endowed Membership Fund shall be used for any purpose except invest-

ment and reinvestment, and only then after due notice shall have been given to the Lodges and Members by Resolution as provided in Article 172 of these Laws.

All income earned from investment of the Fund, less any administrative fee provided by these Laws, shall be annually distributed to the Lodges in accordance with the provisions of Article 318-a of these Laws, and such administration fee shall be placed at least annually in the General Fund for the operation of this Grand Lodge and its programs through the regular budgetary procedures as recommended by the Grand Lodge Trustees and the Finance Committee for the approval of this Grand Lodge. (Adopted 1993)

Art. 163c. The Grand Lodge Endowment Fund. The Grand Lodge Endowment Fund shall consist of all monies contributed to the "Penny-A-Day" Program as instituted in 1992, and any other funds, stocks, bonds and/or securities thereafter designated and received therefor and shall be kept in a special and separate account to be entitled "The Grand Lodge Endowment Fund."

No part of the principal of the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund, except the income earned from the investment thereof, shall be used for any purpose, unless specifically authorized by a 2/3 vote of those present at an Annual Grand Communication of this Grand Lodge, and then only after due notice shall have been given to the Lodges and Members by Resolution as provided in Article 172 of these Laws.

All income earned from the Fund only, less any administration fee that might be provided, may be annually deposited in the General Fund for the operation of this Grand Lodge and its programs through its regular budgetary procedures as recommended by the Grand Lodge Trustees and the Finance Committee for the approval of the Grand Lodge. (Adopted 1993)

Art. 163d. Deleted. (2011).

Article 163e. Ownership and Management of the Endowed Membership Fund. The Endowed Membership Fund is owned by the subordinate Lodges by whom contributions have been made, under the provisions of Article 318a of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The percentage ownership of such a subordinate Lodge is based upon the dollar amount of its contributions to the Endowed Membership Fund.

The Grand Lodge of Texas, in Annual Communication, has authorized and directed the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas, on behalf of its subordinate Lodges, to create one or more trusts, and related entities, to hold legal title to the assets of the

Endowed Membership Fund, in order to protect those assets from the claims of future creditors of the Lodges (“EMF Trust.”)

The EMF Trust shall be created by the Grand Lodge of Texas Trustees under and in accordance with the trust laws (as they exist from time to time) of Delaware or other states where their laws allow the Grand Lodge of Texas, on behalf of its subordinate Lodges, to keep significant control over the management of the EMF assets. Texas has no comparable laws for this purpose.

Under the EMF Trust and its related entities, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas will retain, on behalf of the subordinate Lodges, all investment power over EMF assets. Distributions to subordinate Lodges from the EMF Trust are fixed under Grand Lodge law. The Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas will have the power to change in its sole discretion the corporate trustee of the EMF Trust.

Although the subordinate Lodges will no longer directly own the EMF assets after the EMF Trust is funded, the subordinate Lodges for whom EMF contributions have been made will be the sole beneficiaries of the EMF Trust, and no other person or entity may benefit from the EMF Trust at any time.

Except as required by applicable state law, upon the creation of the EMF Trust, there will be no other change in the administration of the Endowed Membership Fund, as provided by Article 318a and 163b of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 2014)

CHAPTER 20 – TITLE I RULES OF PROCEDURE – THE GRAND LODGE

For “Questions of Order Decided by the Presiding Officer Without Debate or Appeal” see Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 4;

For “When a Question is Decided Cannot Be Acted Upon Again, Unless” see Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 3;

For “Resolution to Be Referred to Appropriate Committee” see Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 2;

For “Amendments to Be Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and to the Lodges” see Constitution, Art. XIII.

Art. 164. (197). Decorum at Opening. At the sound of the Grand Master’s gavel there shall be silence in the room, and every Brother shall take his seat. Any Brother who disobeys the gavel may be reprimanded by the Grand Master, and may be sent from the room.

Art. 165. (198). Order of Business: First Day. On the first day of each Annual Communication, after this Grand Lodge is opened, the order shall be:

1. The roll of officers, Past Grand Officers, and members shall be called by the Grand Secretary, and if a quorum of the representatives of Lodges be present, then
2. Distinguished Visitors and the Grand Representative of other Grand Jurisdictions shall be received.
3. The Grand Master shall report his official acts done during recess.
4. The Grand Master shall appoint the committees.
5. Reports of other Grand Officers shall be received.
6. Reports of Committees may be received.
7. The Address of the Grand Orator may be heard.
8. Unfinished business.

Art. 166. (199). **Order of Business: Second Day.** On the second day the order shall be:

1. Report of Committee on Credentials, which is in order at any time.
2. Reports of Committees.
3. Unfinished business.
4. New Business.
5. Installation of officers, provided, that if the Communication is extended beyond two days, the installation may be deferred until all other business is completed. (Revised 1993)

Art. 167. **Suspension of Order of Business.** The Order of Business Rules set forth in Article 165 and Article 166 are not exclusive, and the Grand Lodge may, by a majority vote of the members present and voting, suspend the Order of Business rules and proceed to the consideration of such other business as it may direct. (New 2005)

Art. 167a. **Suspension of Procedural Rules.** The Grand Lodge may suspend any of the rules of procedure set forth in Chapter 20, by a vote of four-fifths of the members present and voting. (New 2005)

Art. 168. (201). **All Properly Clothed.** No officer or member shall appear in this Grand Lodge without the jewel and regalia proper for his station, unless for good reason to be allowed by this Grand Lodge.

Art. 169. (202). **Avoid Moving About.** Every member shall avoid moving about, except the Grand Deacons and other officers whose duties may call them to different parts of the room.

Art. 170. (203, 204, 205, 206). **Rules Governing Speakers.**

A. Every member who speaks shall rise and address the Grand Master; and when two or more rise at the same time the Grand Master shall name the one who shall speak first.

B. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject on the same day unless to explain, or when granted permission to speak by the Grand Master.

C. While a member is speaking no member shall interrupt him unless he is willing to yield for a question. But if he wanders from the subject under consideration, or is personal in his remarks, the Grand Master may call him to order, and he shall not proceed in his remarks without permission.

D. If any member shall be twice called to order for a violation of the rules, the Grand Master may order him from the room.

Art. 171. (207). Repealed 1989.

Art. 172. Resolutions; Law Changes; Charter Petitions.

All Resolutions proposing any change in the Laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than April 15 of each year. (Revised 2014)

All Grand Masters Recommendations proposing any change in the Laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than May 15 of each year. Unless approved by a two-thirds majority of Lodges and members present, any resolution proposing any change in this Grand Lodge or its Laws or affecting jurisprudence in any way that has been rejected by a vote of this Grand Lodge, the subject matter of such proposal shall not again be considered for a period of three (3) years subsequent to the Grand Annual Communication at which the proposal was considered. (Revised 2014)

The Grand Secretary shall, forthwith thereafter, deliver to each member of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence all Resolutions and Grand Master's Recommendations which have been filed with the Grand Secretary by April 15 or June 15 as the case may be. The Grand Secretary shall be provided, by the proposer of a Resolution or a Recommendation, with the proposer's mailing address, telephone number, FAX number and E-Mail address, if applicable. (Revised 2014)

Upon receipt of Resolutions and Recommendations from the Grand Secretary, the members of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence will coordinate among themselves the examination of such Resolutions and Recommendations to determine whether any are not in proper and legal form or are generic in nature or are not specific as to substance or are inconsistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and/or the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas or the Laws or Regulations of the State of Texas or of the United States of America. (Revised 1998)

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, or designated member thereof, will personally contact the proposer(s) of any Resolution, and/or the Grand Master as to any Recommendation, which does not meet the aforesaid criteria and shall use its best efforts to labor

with each such proposer or the Grand Master to attempt to put such Resolution and/or Recommendation in proper and legal form and meet the other criteria stated aforesaid. (Revised 1998)

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence will be responsible to ensure that all Resolutions and Recommendations are in the hands of the Grand Secretary by August 15 following the filing of such Resolution and Recommendations on or before the preceding April 15 or June 15 as the case may be. All such Resolutions and all Grand Master's Recommendations are subject to amendment by the Grand Lodge in the Annual Communication. The proposer(s) of such Resolutions and/or the Grand Master furnishing any Recommendations will be notified personally that delivery to the Grand Secretary by August 15 has been effected. (Revised 2014)

All original petitions for Charters for Lodges not under dispensation, with necessary accompanying papers, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than September 15 of each year, same, however, to be subject to amendment or correction. (Revised 1998)

Failure to observe the provisions of this Article 172 shall result in forfeiture of the right of any Resolution or petition to be referred to a Grand Lodge Committee or to be considered at the then-forthcoming Annual Communication. These rules shall not apply to the report of any Committee acting on matters properly submitted to it. (Revised 1998)

The Grand Secretary shall forward to the Secretary of each Constituent Lodge five (5) copies of such proposed Resolutions to be distributed by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. (Revised 1998)

All Resolutions proposing any change in this Grand Lodge or in its Laws shall be submitted in writing and in the manner herein prescribed either by a Lodge of its obedience or by a member of this Grand Lodge or as defined in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution. If submitted by a Lodge, the Secretary of same shall attest to it having been read and approved by a majority of its members present at a regular stated meeting of the Lodge held prior to April 15 of the year submitted to Grand Lodge. And, if submitted by one or more members of this Grand Lodge, it shall be signed by each such member(s) with the name of each member printed below his signature together with the name and number of the Lodge of which each signer is a Past Master and a member in good standing. All Resolutions submitted shall be passed to the Grand Master by the Grand Secretary for referral by the Grand Master to the Committee assigned by him to review and report on same at the next Annual Grand Communication of this Grand Lodge, and such referral, together with the name of proposer signing first, shall be noted on the printed copy sent to the Lodges. (Revised 2014)

Art. 172a. Order for Consideration of Proposals. All Resolutions and other new business intended for the action of the Grand Lodge amending the laws, or affecting Jurisprudence shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which shall concurrently consider it and first report thereon to the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence may recommend modifications to a proposal to place the proposal in proper and legal form and to insure it is not inconsistent with any other provision of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas before the same is placed before the Grand Lodge for its action thereon. The pending proposals, resolutions and recommendations will be considered in this order:

First, the report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence as to whether the matter is in proper and legal form and not inconsistent with any other provision of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas;

Second, the recognition of the sponsor or proposer for his motion to adopt and any explanation that he believes necessary for that proposal; and Third, the report of any committee to which the matter has been referred for that committee's recommendation. A committee may not make a motion that a proposal, Resolution or Recommendation be not adopted. Notwithstanding the above, any member of Grand Lodge of any Representative of a Chartered Lodge, or the Committee to which the matter was referred, as well as the proposer, may move for the adoption of a Resolution as written. (Revised 2001)

Art. 173. (209). Resolutions and Motions: Withdrawal. After a resolution has been submitted or motion has been put by the Grand Master, it shall not be withdrawn without leave from this Grand Lodge, if objection is made to the withdrawal.

Art. 174. (210). Resolutions: Procedure. When a resolution or proposition is ready for consideration no motion shall be in order but to lay on the table; to postpone; to refer to a committee; to amend; to divide; or refer to the Lodges; to adopt; which motions shall have precedence in the order here stated. The motion to lay on the table is not debatable.

Art. 175. (211). Motion Not Divided: When. A motion to amend by striking out and inserting shall not be divided unless the motion is negated; then a motion to strike out may be made.

Art. 176. (212). **Reconsideration of Matters.** When any question is decided the same matter shall not be again acted on during that communication unless on a motion to reconsider, which can only be made on the same or next day, and by a member who voted with the majority. (Const. Art. XII, Sec. 3.)

CHAPTER 21 – TITLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THE GRAND LODGE

Art. 177. (213). **Adopted Resolutions and Decisions.** Each resolution adopted by this Grand Lodge and each decision of the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, construing the Constitution or Laws of this Grand Lodge which, after having been reported to this Grand Lodge and referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for examination and report thereon, isapproved by this Grand Lodge, shall have the force and effect thereafter of an Edict of The Grand Lodge until it is modified, amended, or set aside by subsequent action of this Grand Lodge, in which case the Resolution or Decision as modified or amended shall be given the force and effect of an Edict, as provided in Art. 107. The effective date of any and all changes in Grand Lodge law adopted at the Grand Communications of the Grand Lodge of Texas shall be upon the close of that Grand Communication or at such date as specifically stated in such adopted Resolution or Recommendation. This Article does not affect Resolutions amending the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas that are governed by Article XIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 2005)

Art. 178 (214). **Laying of Cornerstones, Monuments, Plaques, and Markers.** The Grand Lodge will not officiate in the Consecration, Dedication, or laying the cornerstones, monuments, plaques, or markers of any building unless it is of undoubted Masonic, public or sacred character. The laying of such cornerstones, monuments, plaques, or markers may be either attached to the building in a manner that it is in public view, or in case of monuments, plaques, or markers, be prominently displayed in an area clearly visible to the public. If it is an actual cornerstone, it should be an actual stone, cubical in form, if practicable, upon the face of which should be carved the words "Leveled (or Laid) by The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.," with the emblem and the year carved thereon. If desired, and the building is devoted to Masonic

purposes, the name of the Grand Master may be carved thereon. The Grand Master's name shall not be carved on the cornerstone of non-Masonic buildings. The other face of the stone may bear such inscription as may be necessary to describe the name of the institution erecting the building, its board of trustees, or other offices, but, under no circumstances shall the name of the architect, engineer, contractor, or builder, as such, be shown on the stone. Provided that in case such cornerstone shall be for a building devoted to other than Masonic purposes, the Grand Master shall have full power and discretion to determine whether said cornerstone shall be laid with Masonic ceremonies. Inscriptions on cornerstones of Government buildings, required by its regulations, are permissible. Cornerstones shall not be laid after the building is entirely completed. Similar rules and conditions shall apply in the case of Monuments, Plaques, and Markers, with the exception that they may be constructed of other appropriate material and either permanently affixed to the structure or be mounted in a public area, in a manner befitting the dignity of Masonry. (Revised 2014)

Notes on Decisions

- (a) Rule that cornerstone be laid on north east corner of building is not obligatory; but Masonic buildings should conform thereto if at all practicable.
- (b) Not proper for Lodge to donate cornerstone to a church.
- (c) See Monitor of the Lodge for "Ceremonies at Laying Cornerstone." (Revised 1993)

Art. 179. (219). Effective Date and Force of This Revision. This Revision of Masonic Laws shall supercede all prior revisions and amendments and shall become effective on December 3, 1959.

All former laws and parts of laws, rules, regulations and edicts not included in this Revision are hereby repealed.

All annotations to these laws set forth herein shall be given the force and effect of Edicts of this Grand Lodge when not inconsistent, or in conflict, with any of the provisions of the Constitution or of this Revision. Provided, that the repealing clause herein shall not be construed as releasing any Mason from any duty, obligation or penalty incurred under former laws hereby repealed; or from liability to trial and punishment for any Masonic disciplinary violation committed prior to the adoption of this Revision. In all such cases a Masonic trial shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title V of these Statutes.

TITLE II SUBORDINATE LODGES

For “Shall Make Returns and Contributions to the Grand Lodge” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec’s. 1 and 2;

For “Amount of Contributions” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 2;

For “Dispensations and Charters” see Constitution, Art. VIII.

CHAPTER 1 – TITLE II LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION

For “Grand Master Alone Has Power to Grant and Revoke Dispensations” see Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 2; Art. VIII, Sec. 3;

For “No Set of Masons Can Form Lodge Without It” see Constitution, Art. VIII, Sec. 1;

For “No Dispensation Can Be Granted in Other States” see Constitution, Art. VIII, Sec. 2;

For “Fees for Dispensations” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 4;

For “Returns and Contributions” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec’s. 1, 2 and 3.

Art. 180. (220). **Petition to Grand Master.** The petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge shall be addressed to the Grand Master. He alone has the power to grant same, and may revoke it at his pleasure.

Art. 181. (221). **In County Without a Lodge.** A petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge to be located in a County in which there is no Lodge must be signed by not less than seven (7) known Master Masons, who reside in said County.

Art. 182. (222). **In County Having Lodge.** A petition for dispensation for a new Lodge to be located in a county within which one or more Lodges have been organized and still exist, shall only be granted upon the petition of not less than twenty Master Masons, if said Lodge is to be located in a town or city of less than ten thousand inhabitants, or in the rural districts. In cities of ten thousand inhabitants or more the petition for dispensation must be signed by not less than fifty Master Masons.

Art. 183. (223). **Approval of Other Lodges Required.** Approval of petition for dispensation for a new Lodge must be obtained under the procedure provided in Art. 185 from other Lodge or Lodges located with reference to the new Lodge, as follows:

If the location of the new Lodge is:

1. Not within the concurrent jurisdiction of another Lodge, the approval must be by the Lodge located nearest thereto by airline distance.
2. Within the concurrent jurisdiction of one or two Lodges, the approval must be by each of such Lodges.
3. Within the concurrent jurisdiction of three or more Lodges, the approval must be by a majority of such Lodges.

Art. 184. (224). **Petitioners and Their Credentials.** All petitions for dispensations for new Lodges shall be actually signed by each of the petitioners in person, and his certificate of dimission, or of good standing, must be attached thereto except in cases otherwise provided. Should a dispensation be issued all the signers become members of the new Lodge.

Art. 185. (225). **Approval of Other Lodges: How Obtained.**

The petition for dispensation for a new Lodge must be submitted to the Lodge or Lodges required under Art. 183 at a stated meeting for its consideration, and must be voted on at a subsequent stated meeting. A favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present is necessary for its approval, and the number of the votes for and against the motion to approve must be set forth in the certificate of recommendation, and recorded in the minutes of the Lodge.

Art. 186. (226). **Petitioners Cannot Vote.** In voting upon a request for a recommendation of a petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge, those who signed the petition shall not vote thereon.

Art. 187. (227). **Proficiency of Officers.** In recommending a petition for a new Lodge by dispensation, the Lodge shall submit to the Grand Secretary a properly executed Form 16 as its avouchment that the Brethren named for Master and Wardens are qualified collectively to confer the first three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, in due and ancient form; and that the Dimits and Certificates of Good Standing of all petitioners are attached to the petition; or that the absence of the same has been satisfactorily accounted for. Officers of the new Lodge must be petitioners.

Art. 188. (228). **Grand Master Receives Fee and Issues Dispensation.** Every dispensation for a new Lodge shall be signed and sealed by the Grand Master, but before doing so he shall receive a fee of twenty-five dollars therefor, which shall immediately be transmitted to the Grand Secretary.

Art. 189. (229). **Conditions Pertaining to Dispensation.** The dispensation for a new Lodge shall be issued subject to the condition that such Lodge shall make its returns of work, contributions and dues; and shall petition for a Charter at the next Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge; and if a Charter be refused by this Grand Lodge, the dispensation shall terminate and the Lodge be immediately dissolved unless the Lodge be continued under dispensation by action of the Grand Lodge. If charter is granted, the Lodge cannot operate until it is constituted, but its territorial and personal jurisdiction, as it existed under dispensation is preserved pending its constitution.

Art. 190. (230). **Name: No Living Person.** No dispensation or charter for a new Lodge shall be granted bearing the name of any living person or of any existing Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

(Revised 1959)

NOTE: A Chartered Lodge may not change its name without first amending its By-laws, and submitting a resolution to the Grand Lodge, through the Committee on By-laws, proposing such name change. See Art. 219 for date of submission. (Revised 2000)

Art. 191. (231). **Cannot Operate Until Organized.** A new Lodge under Dispensation cannot transact any business or receive petitions for degrees or affiliation until it is regularly organized and set to work by the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative.

Art. 192. (232). **Cannot Elect Officers.** Lodges under dispensation cannot elect officers, but may recommend brethren for such officers to the Grand Lodge when petitioning for a Charter. The Grand Lodge shall name all elective officers of a newly chartered Lodge.

Art. 193. (233). **Officers Not Installed: Cannot Vote in Grand Lodge.** The officers of Lodges under dispensation shall not be installed; and such Lodges are not entitled to representation nor to vote in the Grand Lodge.

Art. 194. (234). **By-Laws.** Every Lodge under dispensation shall use the by-laws approved by this Grand Lodge and printed in Form No. 23 of these laws until its own by-laws are approved.

Art. 195. (235). **Rights, Duties, Privileges.** In all respects except as otherwise provided, the rights, duties and privileges of Lodges under dispensation are the same as chartered Lodges: they can make Masons, receive members by affiliation, grant dimits, certificates of good standing; dismissals; and waivers of jurisdiction; and may try members charged with offenses and administer punishment therefor; and have like jurisdiction over Masons, material and candidates, as exercised by chartered Lodges, so long as the dispensation is in force.

Art. 196. (236). **Monitor and Laws Furnished.** Upon notice by the Grand Master the Grand Secretary shall furnish, without expense, to each Lodge Under Dispensation one copy of the Monitor and one copy of the Laws.

Art. 197. (237). **Fees.** Lodges under dispensation are required to report all fees for degrees conferred up to the Annual Communication to this Grand Lodge. When they are set to work after the twenty-fourth day of June they pay no dues for members received from that time to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Art. 198. (238). **Affiliates and Initiates are Members.** Brethren who affiliate with a Lodge under dispensation, and those who receive the third degree therein, are members in the full sense of the term, entitled to ballot and assist in the transaction of the business of the Lodge, in common with those named in the dispensation.

Art. 199. (239). **Records Sent to Grand Lodge.** Lodges under dispensation are required to send up their original record books to this Grand Lodge when they petition for a charter.

Art. 200. (249). **Examination of Records.** Whenever a petition for a charter is made by a Lodge under dispensation, the Grand Lodge shall cause its records to be examined, and also ascertain whether the skill of the m e m b e r s as Masons, and their good conduct as men, will justify the granting of a charter.

CHAPTER 2—TITLE II RESEARCH LODGE

Art. 201. (240a). **Creation; Membership; Government.** A Research Lodge for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, con-

ducting and fostering Masonic research and study may be created by dispensation of the Grand Master and by Charter of the Grand Lodge, with the following powers and duties and subject to the following regulations and restrictions.

1. The Research Lodge shall at all times be under the supervision of the Grand Master, acting when practical, in consultation with the Committee on Masonic Education and Service. It shall be subject to all provisions of the Constitution and the Statutes of the Grand Lodge, except only as modified by this Article; shall have the same Officers as Subordinate Lodges of Texas, elected annually but such Lodge shall not be subject to the fees, dues, and assessments chargeable to or assessed against regular Lodges by the Grand Lodge, and shall make such annual returns as shall be prescribed by the Grand Secretary. The Worshipful Master of the Research Lodge shall report annually a resume of Research Lodge activities, and file, at least sixty days before the Annual Grand Communication, one copy thereof, with the Grand Master and one copy with the Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service.

Any proposed amendment to the By-Laws must be in writing and signed by the proposer. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 50 days before the next meeting of the Lodge. Each member shall be notified in writing of the sense of the proposed changes at least 30 days before the next meeting of the Lodge. At the next meeting of the Lodge it shall be considered, amended if necessary and voted upon and if approved by a majority vote of the members present shall become a part of the By-Laws upon compliance with the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The adopted By-Laws shall require approval of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service and shall become effective after compliance with Article 219 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge.

2. Any Master Mason who is a member or plural member in good standing of a regular Lodge in this jurisdiction or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge may become a member of the Research Lodge, upon being proposed by a member of the Research Lodge and elected by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the Research Lodge. Membership shall continue only so long as such member is in good standing in a regular Lodge of this jurisdiction or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge. A member of the Research Lodge, upon submission of evidence of Masonic research satisfactory to the Research Lodge or in recognition of distinguished service to the Lodge or accomplishments in any field

within the purposes for which the Research Lodge was created as defined by this article, may be elected a Full Member of the Lodge by majority vote of the Full Members present at a meeting of the Research Lodge. Full Membership shall continue only so long as such member is in good standing in a regular Lodge of this jurisdiction or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this, Grand Lodge. (Revised 1989)

3. Any Master Mason who is a member or plural member in good standing of a regular Lodge in this jurisdiction or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, Masonic Lodges, other bodies of Masons recognized by this Grand Lodge, and Masonic libraries shall be eligible to become Associates of the Research Lodge, upon filing an application with the Lodge. Other individuals and organizations, upon approval of the three principal officers of the Research Lodge, shall be eligible to become Associates of the Research Lodge, upon filing an application with the Lodge. Associates shall not be members of the Research Lodge and shall have no rights therein, except to receive the published proceedings of the Research Lodge and such other publications as the Lodge may direct from time to time. (Revised 1989)

4. Membership cards, upon forms prescribed by the Grand Secretary, may be issued by the Research Lodge to its members.

5. The Research Lodge may, with the approval of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service, elect any Full Member, but only one in any given year, to the honorary title of "Fellow in Masonic Research" in recognition of distinguished service and accomplishments in researching, writing and publishing the history, symbolism, and philosophy of Freemasonry. Election shall require a majority vote of the Full Members present at a meeting of the Research Lodge. (Revised 2013)

6. The Research Lodge shall have territorial jurisdiction coextensive with that of this Grand Lodge. It shall hold stated meetings at least four times per year at such places and at such times as the Worshipful Master (or in his absence or inability to serve by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both Master and Senior Warden by the Junior Warden) may think necessary or to the interest of the craft. The election and installation of officers shall be held at such time and place as provided in the Lodge bylaws. Called meetings may be held at such times and places as its Worshipful Master or other such officers may determine as authorized in the By-Laws. (Revised 1989)

7. The Worshipful Master of the Research Lodge shall have the authority to provide for the information of local study Committees. (Revised 1989)

8. The Research Lodge shall not have the power to receive a petition for or confer any degrees in Masonry, shall have no jurisdiction over any candidate for any Masonic Degree, and shall have no authority to receive charges for un-Masonic conduct, conduct any Masonic trial, or conduct any Masonic funeral.

9. Each member of the Research Lodge (unless herein exempted) shall pay dues from the time of his affiliation an amount set by the Lodge from time to time without regard to the minimum prescribed in Article 311 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge. (Revised 1989)

10. The Research Lodge may adopt and use a distinctive form of apron or jewels approved by the Grand Lodge; which may be worn by Full Members on all proper occasions. (Revised 1989)

11. The Research Lodge shall not have the authority to grant dimits or certificates of good standing, membership shall automatically terminate upon suspension or expulsion by a regular Lodge or at the end of the period for which dues are paid and such expiration shall not be reported as Suspension for Nonpayment of Dues. Reinstatement of membership may be accomplished by payment of current year's dues, provided the petitioner meets the requirements for membership contained in Section 2 of this Article.

TRANQUILITY LODGE NO. 2000

Art. 201a. Creation; Membership; Government. Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, whose see is in the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon of the planet Earth, now setting in Waco, Texas, is hereby established for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting and fostering the principles of Freemasonry, and to assist in promoting the health, welfare, education and patriotism of children, subject to the following regulations and restrictions.

1. Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 shall at all times be under control of the Grand Master and the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. It shall be subject to all provisions of the Constitution and the Statutes of the Grand Lodge, and operate under the same provisions as specified for the operation of the Research Lodge, in Article 201, which pertain only to officers, dues, dues cards, fees, and assessments of Grand Lodge, jurisdiction over degrees, Masonic charges, trials, funerals, aprons and granting of dimits, certificates of good standing, suspension for non-payment of dues and reinstatement, except as modified by this Article.

2. Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 may adopt By-Laws and may change same from time to time, provided such By-Laws are consistent with the purposes for which the Lodge was established, as stated above. By-Laws and amendments to By-Laws must be submitted in writing, as prescribed by Article 218, and if adopted, must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Trustees for final approval.

3. Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing in any regular Lodge in this jurisdiction, or in any jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, may become a member of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, by payment of a one time fee of \$100.00, and such annual dues as adopted by the Lodge. Membership shall continue only so long as such member is in good standing in a regular Lodge in this Jurisdiction, or one in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge.

4. Membership cards, upon forms prescribed by the Grand Secretary, may be issued by Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 to its members, but such cards shall not serve as an avouchment of good standing for the purposes of visitation or membership in a regular Lodge.

5. Funds of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 may be used only for its own operation, and for those purposes for which it was established.

6. Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 shall hold stated meetings at least four times a year, in such places and at such times as the Worshipful Master (or in his absence or inability to serve by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both Master and Senior Warden, by the Junior Warden) may deem necessary or to the interest of the Craft. At least one stated meeting should be held in the city of Waco, Texas, which does not coincide with or in anyway conflict with the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. (Revised 2004)

The Annual Stated meeting to elect and install officers of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, shall be held as close as practical, to July 20 and no later than September 1.

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 shall operate under the provisions of this Article, and as modified from time to time by this Grand Lodge, until such time as it can relocate to its rightful place in or near the Sea of Tranquility, on the Moon of the planet Earth; and upon relocation, it shall apply to this Grand Lodge for charter as a Regular Lodge, and when such charter is granted, this Article shall become null and void. (Adopted 1999)

CHAPTER 3 – TITLE II CHARTERS FOR NEW LODGES

*For “Grand Lodge has Exclusive Right to Grant and Revoke;
see Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 1; Art. VIII;*

*For “Powers of Grand Master” see Constitution, Art. V, Sec.
2; Art. VIII, Sec. 3;*

*For “Masons cannot form Lodge without Charter” see
Constitution, Art. VIII, Sec. 1.*

Art. 202. (241). **Who May Apply.** A Lodge operating under dispensation, or members of a chartered Lodge whose membership has become too numerous for work with convenience; or a group of dimitted or non-affiliated Masons, may petition this Grand Lodge for a Warrant or Charter to form a new Lodge. Every member of a Lodge so petitioning must first pay all accrued dues to his Lodge and notify it in writing of his intention to petition for a Charter. If Charter is granted, the Lodge cannot operate until

(Revised 1989)

it is constituted, but its territorial and personal jurisdiction, as it existed under dispensation is preserved pending its constitution.

Art. 203. (242). Petition For Charter of New Lodge: By Members of Existing Lodge. When the members of an existing Lodge petition for a charter for a new Lodge, such petition must be signed by each petitioner himself and must state the causes which make it expedient for a new Lodge to be formed, and must contain the names of the proposed Worshipful Master and Wardens. It must be presented to the Lodge of which they are members at a stated meeting and be considered at a subsequent stated meeting. If said Lodge approves the petition it must vouch for the causes stated and for the qualifications of the brethren named for Worshipful Master and Wardens. If said Lodge does not approve the petition, it must state clearly and specifically its reasons for its disapproval. The action of the Lodge must be certified by the Secretary under the seal of the Lodge and be attached to the petition.

NOTE: Every Lodge Chartered by the Grand Lodge is a Corporation (body politic) under the laws of the State, having the right to own property, contract, sue and be sued and all other rights of corporations created under the enabling statutes which are set forth in Division I. No Lodge has the power to obtain a separate charter, and any attempt to do so is illegal and void. A Lodge Under Dispensation is not a corporation and can not incorporate. See also Art. 28.

Art. 204. (243). Petition for Charter of New Lodge: Who Else May Sign Petition. A petition for a new Lodge may be signed by members of an existing Lodge and may be signed also by any dimitted or nonaffiliated Mason who may be invited to join in such petition, under the same rules and regulations as provided for petitions for a charter by dimitted or nonaffiliated Masons.

Art. 205. (244). Petition for Charter of New Lodge: By Dimitted and Non-Affiliated Masons. Dimitted or nonaffiliated Masons, domiciled in this jurisdiction may petition the Grand Lodge for a charter for a new Lodge, without having first worked under a dispensation. Such petition shall be personally signed by each applicant, and his dimit attached thereto, or its absence accounted for to the satisfaction of the Grand Lodge. The petition must be referred to the nearest Lodge by air line, for approval and recommendation. The said petition shall contain the provisions, and be

subject to the procedure, in so far as same may be applicable, provided in Articles 203, 204, 206 and 207. Such petition shall be governed by the provisions of Arts. 181 and 182 as regards the number of Master Masons whose signature are required.

Art. 206. (245). Petition Sent to Grand Secretary. A petition for a charter for a new Lodge, together with a properly executed Form No. 16 attesting to the action thereon of Lodges which approve same, must be sent to the Grand Secretary not later than September 15 in order to be submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication. (Revised 1992)

Art. 207. (246). Approval of Other Lodges. A petition for Charter must be submitted to other Lodge or Lodges for approval as provided in Arts. 183 and 185 for dispensation petitions.

Art. 208. (247). Disapproved Petition: Sent to Grand Lodge. When the Lodge or Lodges, whose duty it is to act, disapproves the petition for a Charter, the petition may be presented to the Grand Lodge, notwithstanding, for its consideration and action thereon.

Art. 209. (248). Charters: Signed by Grand Officers: Attested by Grand Secretary. Each Charter for a new Lodge shall be signed by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, and the Grand Treasurer, and attested by the Grand Secretary with the Seal of the Grand Lodge thereon. It shall be directed to the three Brethren named therein as Worshipful Master and Wardens, authorizing them and their successors to exercise the powers set forth therein according to the ancient customs and the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Lodge. Said Charter shall be delivered to the Worshipful Master when the officers are duly installed and the Lodge is constituted.

Art. 210. (249). Charter Members. A member of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may join in a petition for a new Lodge by signing same in person and attaching thereto a Certificate of Good Standing from a Lodge of which he is a member. When the new Lodge is set to work under a dispensation, or is constituted under a Charter, as the case may be, said petitioner automatically becomes a member of said new Lodge and his membership in his former Lodge terminates, unless he is asking for plural membership in the new Lodge under Article 347. He shall be liable for dues to his former Lodge to the date he becomes a member of the new Lodge. All members in good standing of a Lodge under dispensation at the time of petitioning for charter are eligible to sign the

petition and become members of the new chartered Lodge. An officer, elective or appointive, of another Lodge, during the term of his office, may sign a petition for or become a member of a new Lodge, and when the new Lodge is set to work or constituted, as the case may be, said officer shall become a plural member of the new Lodge, but shall hold no office in the same except as provided under Article 266. He shall continue in his office in his original Lodge.

Art. 211. (250). **Duplicate Charters:** When Issued. When the charter of a Lodge has been lost or destroyed the Grand Master may direct the Grand Secretary to issue a duplicate charter upon the payment of two dollars and fifty cents. Prior to the delivery of such duplicate charter such Lodge can not lawfully meet; any action attempted by it is void; and candidates upon whom degrees have been conferred require healing.

Art. 212. (251). **Duplicate Charters:** After Fifty Years. After the charter of a Lodge has reached the age of fifty years a copy thereof may be made by the Grand Secretary at the request of the Lodge holding such charter, and he shall attach thereto his certificate, with the seal of the Grand Lodge affixed, that it is a correct copy of the original charter. Such copy may be used instead of the original charter in order that such original charter may be the better preserved as an ancient document or relic.

CHAPTER 4—TITLE II CONSTITUTING NEW LODGES

For “Grand Lodge, Exclusive Power to Constitute” see Constitution, Art III, Sec. 1;

For “Grand Master’s Powers” see Constitution, Art 1~ Sec. 2;

For “Must Hold Charter” see Constitution Art Viii, Secs. I and 4.

For “Duty of Grand Master Regarding Proficiency of Officers, Adequacy of Equipment and Safety of Lodge Room, “see Art .92 ante.

Art. 213. (252). **Set to Work: Necessary and by Whom.** A new Lodge, whether created by dispensation or charter, must be set to work by the Grand Master, or his duly authorized Representative specially appointed for such purpose. Such Representative may be any officer of this Grand Lodge, a District Deputy Grand Master, or a Past Master of a Lodge.

Art. 214. (253). Set to Work: Lodges Under Dispensation:

Procedure. When a Lodge under dispensation is to be set to work the designated Worshipful Master shall order a called meeting for that purpose. The Grand Master, or his duly authorized Representative, shall preside and open the Lodge. The Master's Lodge shall then be called from labor to refreshment, and the Grand Master, or his Representative, shall open a representation of the Grand Lodge. The dispensation shall be read and ordered recorded in the minutes, and the Lodge instructed in regard to its powers and duties. The officers appointed shall not be installed but shall be placed in charge of the Lodge, and the dispensation, a copy of The Grand Lodge Laws and a copy of the Monitor shall be delivered to the Worshipful Master. The representation of the Grand Lodge shall then be closed, and the Lodge shall resume labor; such business as is authorized at a Called Meeting, and none other, may be transacted. The Lodge shall then be closed.

Art. 215. Set to Work: Suspended and Demised Lodges.

When a suspended or demised Lodge is set to work the procedure shall be the same as that under Art. 214 with these exceptions:

1. The Charter (not the dispensation) shall be read and ordered recorded in the minutes; and 2. the officers shall be installed with the ceremonies prescribed in the Monitor.

Art. 216. (255, 257). Constituting New Chartered Lodge.

When a new Lodge is constituted under a charter the procedure shall be as follows:

1. The designated Worshipful Master shall order a Called Meeting for that purpose which shall be opened in the Master's Degree and presided over by the Grand Master or his Representative. The Lodge shall then be called from labor to refreshment and a representation of the Grand Lodge opened.

2. The Lodge shall then be constituted and the officers installed in accordance with the ceremonies prescribed in the Monitor. At the appropriate place in the installation ceremonies the installing officer shall deliver to the Worshipful Master the Charter, a copy of the Grand Lodge Laws and a copy of the Monitor.

3. The Grand Master or his Representative may instruct the Lodge concerning its powers and duties, and appropriate addresses may be delivered.

4. The representation of the Grand Lodge shall then be closed and the new Lodge shall resume labor, after which Form 23 by-laws may be adopted, and other business may be transacted which is permissible at a Called Meeting; but no business which is permissible only at a Stated Meeting shall be transacted. The Lodge shall then be closed.

Art. 217. (258). Lodge Bears Expenses of Constitution. The expenses of officers constituting a new Lodge under orders of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, shall be paid by such Lodge.

CHAPTER 5 – TITLE II BY-LAWS AND SEAL OF LODGE

Art. 218. By-Laws: Presentation and Adoption. All by-laws of every lodge and every amendment thereof must be presented at a Stated Meeting and adopted at a subsequent Stated Meeting or at a Special Meeting regularly called for that purpose, if in accordance with the by-laws. A majority vote of the members present shall be necessary to adopt by-laws or amendments thereto except that in amendments pertaining to an endowment fund the by-laws of a Lodge may provide for greater than a majority vote.

Art. 219. By-Laws: Approval by Grand Lodge. Except as provided in Art. 221, all by-laws of every Lodge, and amendments thereto, must be approved by this Grand Lodge before they are valid. All by-laws and amendments thereof requiring approval by this Grand Lodge shall be filed with the Grand Secretary's Office no later than September 1st, at which time by-laws will be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee. If changes/corrections are to be made, by-laws will be returned to the Lodges no later than October 1st. Lodges will then make needed changes and return them to the Grand Secretary's Office no later than November 10th, noting that changes/corrections have been incorporated into the Lodge's by-laws. No by-laws will be approved until the Grand Secretary receives a corrected copy of the by-laws and the By-Laws Committee has verified the changes/corrections were made. (Revised 2007)

Art. 220. (260). By-Laws: Void if Conflicting with Constitution or Laws. All by-laws or regulations of a Subordinate Lodge contravening, or in conflict with, the Constitution or Laws of the Grand Lodge, shall be null and void and such is the case even though the Grand Lodge may have approved such by-laws or regulations.

Art. 221. (261). By-Laws: Changes Not Requiring Approval.

1. The form of Lodge By-Laws set forth in Form 23, appended to the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, is only a guideline to be used by existing Lodges and Lodges working U.D., in preparing or

amending its By-Laws and the use of Form 23 by existing Lodges is not required. However, if Form 23 is adopted for use by an existing Lodge, it shall not be necessary that they be submitted to this Grand Lodge for approval. But, in every such instance, a true copy thereof shall be forwarded, immediately upon approval by the Lodge, to the Grand Secretary and filed in the archives of his office. The form of Lodge By-Laws set forth in Form No. 23, appended to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, shall be adopted by Lodges Under Dispensation and newly Chartered Lodges. Such form of Lodge By-Laws need not be submitted for approval by the Grand Lodge but a true copy thereof shall be forwarded, immediately upon approval by the Lodge, to the Grand Secretary and filed in the archives of his office. (Revised 1999)

2. Any Lodge has the privilege of making the following changes or additions to its by-laws without reference thereof to the Grand Lodge for approval:

- A. Fixing, raising or lowering the fee for each degreee, or the annual dues, within the minimum limitations fixed by the Laws of the Grand Lodge, except as provided in Art. 309.
- B. Adopting its own regulation as to the payment of its Treasurer, Secretary and Tiler.
- C. The day and hour of meeting, or the number of stated meetings per month may be changed to suit its convenience. Whenever a change in the number of meetings per month, or the day of meeting, is made, the Grand Secretary must be notified at once.
- D. Adopting its own regulations to perform charitable work or public service which enables the Lodge to qualify for tax exemption as permitted by the Texas Property Tax Code.

(Adopted 2001)

3. No proposed amendment to existing previously approved Lodge By-Laws, when such amendment is not approved, shall invalidate the By-Laws for which the amendment is so submitted, and utilization of Form 23 shall not be imposed. (Revised 1999)

4. The form of Lodge By-Laws set forth in Form No. 23, appended to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, shall be adopted by Lodges under dispensation. Such form of Lodge By-Laws need not be submitted for approval. (Revised 1999)

Art. 222. (262). Lodge Seal: Approval of Grand Lodge.
Every chartered Lodge shall provide itself with a seal, to be approved by the Grand Lodge, for authentication of all official documents issued by it, and no documents issued by it shall be entitled to credit unless so authenticated; this requirement shall apply to the Standard Uniform Dues Receipt as set forth in Form 56 on pages 291-A, 291-B, and 291-C, which Standard Uniform Dues Receipt shall require the imprint of the Lodge's seal.

CHAPTER 6 – TITLE II LODGE ROOMS AND ANTEROOMS

Art. 223. (263). Security and Furnishings: Approval by Grand Master. No Lodge shall be set to work or constituted unless it has a secure Lodgeroom and anteroom, well adapted to the purposes, and the necessary furniture, lights, paraphernalia, and equipment, to include:

NECESSARY PARAPHERNALIA FOR LODGES IN TEXAS

1. Holy Bible, square and compasses (for Altar).
2. An Altar with kneeling pad.
3. Three burning tapers.
4. Pedestals - South, West, and East.
5. Three gavels. (Revised 1996)
6. Wardens Columns - South and West.
7. Deacons rods with emblems and stands for same.
8. Stewards rods with emblems and stands for same.
9. The Letter "G" in the East.
10. A ballot box. (Heavily padded inside.)
11. Ample supply of white balls and black cubes.
12. A Tiler's sword.
13. Officers jewels equipped for suspension from neck.
14. Fellowcraft Columns.
15. The Flag of the United States of American with stand.
16. Texas Flag with stand.
17. A small Bible for Examining Committee.

FOR THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

1. A hood wink.
2. A cable tow.
3. A sandal.
4. Suitable clothing.
5. A sharp instrument.
6. Twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel.
7. A Lambskin apron.
8. Lecture chart, slides, or film.

FOR THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

1. A reception square.
2. A plumb square and level.
3. A square for the Altar.
4. Winding stairs.
5. The lecture chart, slides or film.

FOR THE MASTER MASON DEGREE

1. Reception Compasses.
2. A twenty-four inch gauge in the South.
3. A square in the West.
4. The setting maul in the East.
5. The canvas in the East.
6. A sprig of acacia in the West.
7. A gong.
8. The Master's lecture chart, slides or film.
9. ALL THE IMPLEMENTS IN THE EAST.

FOR FUNERALS

1. A funeral Rosette with the Holy Writings.
2. A Charter drape.
3. An ample supply of arm bands.

This paraphernalia to be kept and preserved as the property of the Lodge. Such security, adaptation, furniture, lights, paraphernalia, and equipment must be approved by the Grand Master or his authorized Representative. The furniture, lights, paraphernalia, and equipment herein specified shall be the minimum requirement for all Lodges now in existence or hereafter constituted.

Art. 224. (264). **Use of Lodge and Anterooms.** Masonic Lodgerooms and anterooms opening directly into Lodgerooms (other than club rooms designated to be used for social purposes) shall not be used for other than Masonic purposes, except as hereinafter provided in this Article nor shall they be used by any group or organization, secular or religious, except as otherwise provided in the Laws and Edicts of Grand Lodge. Other than the Lodgerooms and immediate anterooms mentioned in the foregoing sentence the Lodge building and premises may be used by the other organizations enumerated in Article 225 of the Laws of Grand Lodge and by the families of the members of the Lodge. The use of said building and premises other than the Lodgerooms and immediate anterooms by such organizations and family members shall be encouraged to the end that Masonic Lodge buildings and premises will become the nucleus for family social activities. The organizations enumerated in Article 225 of the Laws may also, subject to the consent of the Masonic Lodge and subject to such rules and regulations as are from time to time announced by the Grand Master, use portions of the Lodge building, other than the Lodgerooms and immediate anterooms, to promote, encourage and accomplish such objectives, including, but not limited to, such specified fund-raising activities as are authorized by the Grand Master which funds are to be used exclusively for any purpose consistent with the principles and purposes of Masonry, or the Laws of the Grand Lodge, which said principles and purposes of Masonry are noncontroversial, nonsectarian, nonpartisan, patriotic and/or community character. The portions of the Lodge building hereinabove

authorized to be used in the preceding manner, may be open on Sundays for use by those authorized organizations, subject to the conditions set forth in Article 225 but shall not be used when the Lodge is open for business or for degree work or while funerals are being conducted by the Lodge or in any manner which would interfere with or detract from the security of, or the work being conducted by the Lodge. (Revised 1996)

The Lodgeroom and anteroom may be on the ground floor, in a rented building, or one owned jointly with another, or one in which portions, other than the Lodgeroom and anteroom, are occupied or used by others; provided that, in each such case, the requirements as to security and all other matters required herein are complied with. Food may be consumed or served in the Lodgeroom when the Lodge is not at labor. (Revised 1996)

Constituent Lodges may meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served. Constituent Lodges of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas may meet in buildings where other appendant Masonic organizations may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service is not in progress while the Lodge is open there; and further, be it enacted, that Constituent Lodges may let, lease, or rent portions of their buildings to other appendant Masonic organizations who may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service does not occur in the Lodgeroom of the building. (Adopted 2000)

Art. 224a. Smoking in Lodgerooms and Anterooms. Smoking shall be prohibited in Lodgerooms and anterooms. Lodges shall, where possible, designate controlled smoking areas in banquet halls, lobbies, or other places to assure that smoking is as inoffensive as possible to those who object. (Adopted 1989)

Art. 224b. Portraits and displays in Lodge rooms. Lodges may exhibit in their Lodge rooms portraits or displays honoring Master Masons who are or were at the time of their death in good standing. (New 2014)

Art. 225. Use of Lodge and Anterooms by Other Organizations: (a)Allied Masonic Degrees, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Council of Royal and Select Masters, Daughters of the Nile, DeMolay, Grotto, "High Noon Clubs," High Twelve International, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Knights Templar, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Ladies of the Oriental Shrine of North America, Order of Beauceant, Order of the Eastern Star, Order of the Amaranth, Order of Knight Masons, Order of Rainbow, Order of Red Cross of Constantine, Order of Saint Thomas of Acon, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Royal Arch Masons, Royal Order of Scotland, Scottish Rite Bodies, Sojourners, The Daughters of Mokanna,

The Masonic Rosicrucians (S.R.I.C.F.), York Rite College, The Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviors, Plasterers, and Bricklayers (otherwise known as "The Operatives") and any degrees, Honorary Degrees and authorized groups authorized, recognized, permitted or commonly used by any of the above named orders, with the approval of the Lodge, and in the event more than one Lodge regularly meets in the Lodgeroom, then with the approval of all such Lodges, may be permitted under such conditions as may be specified by resolution of the Lodge or Lodges, to meet in the Lodgeroom, to place its charter on the walls of the Lodgeroom, and to leave its fraternal paraphernalia in the Lodgeroom, so long as such organization is permitted by the Lodge or Lodges to use the Lodgeroom.

Members of the families of members of such organizations may be authorized by the Lodge to use portions of the Lodge building and premises other than the Lodgeroom and the immediate ante-rooms, for family social activities and for the other activities authorized in Article 224. (b) Such organizations may be permitted to hold open meetings in the Lodgeroom for the purposes and on the conditions stated hereinafter, and such open meetings may be held for any of the following purposes only; (i) Installation of Officers; (ii) Memorial Services; (iii) Observance Services of anniversaries of such Order and only under the following conditions: (1) The Lodge, by formal action, recorded in its minutes, has authorized the said Order to hold its closed meetings in the Lodgeroom; (2) That no meeting be held on Sunday or on June 24th or December 27th; except that with the permission of the Worshipful Master of the Blue Lodge, or if there be more than one Subordinate Blue Lodge which meets regularly in the Lodge Hall then with the permission from all Worshipful Masters of all subordinate Blue Lodges which meet in the Lodge Hall, such Lodge Halls may be used on Sunday afternoon between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., for the purpose of studying and practicing Masonic work; (3) That any such meeting held must comply with the usual Masonic customs and under the restrictions in Article 224 of our Laws and the decisions there under; (4) The Worshipful Master of the Lodge may authorize the meeting (unless there is more than one Lodge meeting in said Hall, then it will be necessary for the Master of each Lodge to approve), and report to the District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which the Lodge is situated, advising him of the purpose and time of such meeting. Permission may also be so granted by any Lodge for Easter Sunday Ceremonies, and Knights Templar Ascension Day and Christmas Ceremonies on December 25th and 27th even when these days fall on Sunday. (Revised 2007)

Art. 225a. Other Organizations, predicating membership on Masonic membership, recognized. In addition to those organizations recognized in Art. 225, next above, as being entitled to use Lodgerooms and Anterooms of Subordinate Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Texas may recognize and authorize other organizations which predicate membership on Masonic membership.

Recognition and authorization must take place by approval of the Grand Lodge in Grand Communication.

After an organization has been recognized and authorized by the Grand Lodge of Texas in Grand Communication, pursuant to this Art. 225a, Texas Masons may participate in, and be a part of, such organizations.

Organizations recognized and authorized by Article 225a are *not to use the Lodgeroom and/or Anteroom of a Subordinate Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.*

The organizations recognized and authorized pursuant to this Art. 225a will be published in the annual proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas and a listing will be maintained in the office of the Grand Secretary for reference thereto.

This Grand Lodge has always had and retained the right to withdraw, at its pleasure, approval of any organization heretofore approved by it, and this Grand Lodge continues to reserve that right. (New 2005)

Art 225b. North- American Interfraternity Conference. Use of the Lodgeroom and Anterooms for Fraternity Chapters belonging to the North-American Interfraternity Conference must meet the following conditions: (1) that the fraternity seeking permission to use such facilities can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Worshipful Master of the Blue Lodge, that its formal ritual of initiation was written or influenced by a Master Mason; (2) the ceremonies of initiation, of the requesting fraternity, are consistent with Masonic customs; (3) a Master Mason, in good standing with the Grand Lodge of Texas, who is also a member of the requested Lodge and the requesting fraternity, and who is approved by the Worshipful Master, must be present, at all times that the fraternity members are present in the Lodge or its Anterooms; and (4) that the requesting fraternity agrees to abide by and be governed by any and all rules set forth by the granting Lodge. In instances where the building is owned by the Blue Lodge and other York Rite Bodies, there being two (2) distinct Lodgerooms available and the

requesting fraternity desires to use the York Rite room, then permission must be granted also by the Most Excellent High Priest, the Thrice Illustrious Master, and the Eminent Commander with a York Rite Companion or Knight being a member of the fraternity and also present. (New 2005)

Article 225c. New and Existing Texas Organizations. Any organization located in Texas which predicates its membership on Masonic membership, having Masonic purposes, and one or more Texas Masons as part of its membership or governance (other than a Lodge and other than those Masonic organizations described in Article 225) ("affiliates") shall adhere to the Masonic principles as set out in the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Any new Texas Masonic organization which desires acceptance and recognition by the Grand Lodge of Texas under Article 225a ("new affiliate") shall submit the information about its Masonic purposes, governance, expected financial support and structure on forms provided by the Grand Secretary. This information must be provided by the new affiliate to the Grand Secretary by June 30 of the year of its submission to the vote of the Grand Lodge of Texas in Grand Communication.

Any existing Texas organization which is accepted and recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas under Article 225a ("affiliate") shall submit an annual report about its purposes, governance, structure and financial position on forms provided by the Grand Secretary. This report shall be due in the Grand Secretary's office by June 30 of each year. Failure to submit the report shall subject the affiliate to revocation of its recognition and by the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Adopted 2012)

Art. 226. (266). Weapons. Weapons, either offensive or defensive, must not be carried into the Lodgeroom.

Art. 227. (266a). Repealed 1990.

CHAPTER 7- TITLE II MEETINGS OF THE LODGE

Art. 228. (267). Meetings: Frequency. Every Lodge shall meet at least once in three months, and a Lodge failing to do so shall forfeit all its rights and privileges. It shall stand suspended, and its charter may be ordered returned; provided, the Grand Master, in his judgment, may grant such Lodge a dispensation to continue its work until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, at which time its charter shall be forfeited, unless the Grand Lodge otherwise directs.

Art. 229. (267a). Quorum for Each of the Three Degrees. To open a subordinate Lodge chartered by this Grand Lodge on the Masters Degree, and a quorum for a Lodge on said degree, requires the presence of not less than three Master Masons who are members of such Lodge, and one of said three must be the Worshipful

Master, a Warden or a Past Master of such Lodge; to open on the Fellowcraft Degree, and a quorum for a Lodge on said degree, requires the presence of not less than five Masons of at least that degree, at least two of whom must be Master Masons and members of such Lodge and one of said two must be the Worshipful Master, a Warden or a Past Master of such Lodge; to open on the Entered Apprentice Degree, and a quorum for a Lodge on said degree, requires the presence of not less than seven Masons, at least one of whom must be the Worshipful Master, a Warden or a Past Master of such Lodge.

Art. 230. (268). **Month: Defined.** The term "month," as applied to the meetings and work of Lodges means the time from one monthly stated meeting to another as fixed by its by-laws, but in no event to be less than a lunar month of 28 days.

Art. 231. (269). **Dispensation Required to Meet Elsewhere.** Lodges are forbidden to hold meetings in places other than their Lodgerooms, except as otherwise provided in the Laws, without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Art. 232. (270). **Request for Dispensation to Meet Elsewhere.** If, from any cause, the Lodge cannot meet at the place named in its charter, or where it is accustomed to meet, the Worshipful Master, or Warden when acting as Worshipful Master, may report the case to the Grand Master, who may grant a dispensation to meet at some other appropriate place, either within the chartered limits of the Lodge, or as near thereto as may be reasonably practicable. Provided, further, that a Lodge after being opened in its regular meeting room may be moved into a larger and more commodious room, equally as Masonically safe, in the same Temple building, for the purpose of holding educational, inspirational or social meetings, or to confer degrees, without special dispensation: but in no case shall a stated meeting or a called meeting at which regular business of the Lodge is to be transacted, be held in other than the regular and accustomed meeting room of the lodge without first securing a special dispensation.

Art. 232a. **Certain Open Meetings Permitted.** Lodges may hold certain open meetings, either in their Lodgerooms or at any convenient and reputable place within their Territorial Jurisdiction for any of those purposes, and subject to those conditions listed herein, as they apply to the Laws of this Grand Lodge, except as provided in Article 302 of these Laws, when a duly authorized Called Meeting is held at which non-Masons are to be admitted into the Lodgeroom or other permitted meeting place, the Worshipful Master is authorized to simply declare the meeting opened and closed, with the audience present, using his own language as appropriate to the occasion, and always with prayer on opening and closing. The minutes of such meeting shall state that the meeting was declared opened and closed, along with the appropriate record of the events of the meeting. (Revised 1995)

1. Public Installations of Lodge Officers, including joint public installations as authorized under and subject to the provisions of Articles 298 through 303 of the Laws of this Grand Lodge.

2. Public Installations of other organizations authorized to meet in Lodgerooms, subject to the Laws of such organizations,
3. Any Anniversary Observance of a Masonic nature,
4. Honoring any Officer, Officers, Past Masters, Charter Member or Members, or any Mason or Masons whose achievements merit special recognition,
5. Memorial Services for deceased members,
6. Presentation of any official award,
7. Commemoration of the birthday of George Washington,
8. Honoring wives, widows, mothers and families of members,
9. Father and Son nights,
10. And, for those organizations listed in Article 225, the observance of special occasions which are obligatory under the laws and regulations governing those organizations.

And, those open meetings authorized herein are subject to the following conditions:

1. That no meeting shall be held on Sunday, except as authorized under Articles 225 and 237 of the Laws of this Grand Lodge, and
2. That the entire proceedings of any such open meeting herein authorized shall be conducted in strict accordance with recognized Masonic tradition, custom and dignity.

Art. 233. (271). Stated and Called Meetings Defined. A Stated Meeting of the Lodge is defined to mean a regular meeting of the Lodge as provided in its By-Laws.

A Called Meeting of the Lodge is defined to mean any meeting other than a stated meeting as fixed in the By-Laws of the Lodge.

Art. 234. Stated Meetings: Business Required At. The following matters shall be attended to only at Stated Meetings: Receiving and balloting upon petitions for degrees, advancement and affiliation; receiving and voting on applications for demits, certificates of good standing; removal of Lodge to another location; receiving charges and complaints of Masonic disciplinary violations; election of Officers, surrender of charters; presentation of proposed by-laws and all amendments thereof (except as authorized in Subdivision 4 of Art. 216);

reinstatement of membership and restoration of Masonic rights; granting of life memberships; consolidation of Lodges; and approval of accounts and other fiscal transactions, unless dispensation to the contrary is granted; and all other matters required elsewhere in these Laws to be transacted at Stated Meetings. When, at a Stated Meeting, a Lodge has been closed, it cannot be reopened as a Stated Meeting, although no one may have left the room.

(Revised 2007)

Art. 235. (273). Called Meetings: Business Permitted. Called Meetings may be ordered by the Master of the Lodge, or by the Senior Warden in his absence, or by the Junior Warden in the absence of both, at any time not prohibited by law for any one or more of the following purposes: to receive the Grand Master or his Representative or other distinguished Mason; to confer degrees on candidates previously elected; to examine and vote on the proficiency of candidates; to install officers; to conduct funerals, to receive and vote on adoption of by-laws under Subdivision 4 of Art. 216; to adopt by-laws and amendments thereto when duly called for that purpose after reasonable notice given; to transact any other business not required by law to be acted on at a Stated Meeting. The Secretary may be ordered to issue summons for such meetings when the circumstances are deemed such as to warrant it; such summons must be in writing and under the seal of the Lodge.

Art. 236. (274). Who May Preside While Conferring Degree. No one but a Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, or of a Lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge, shall preside over a Lodge while a degree is being conferred.

Art. 237. (274). Meetings on Sundays. No Lodge in this jurisdiction shall meet on Sunday, except for the purpose of conducting the funeral ceremony of a Brother as provided in Article 359 of the Laws of this Grand Lodge, or with the approval of the Grand Master, or to lay the cornerstone of a church building or house of worship. (See Article 225 for use of Lodgerooms on Sunday.)

Art. 238. (276). Meetings on Saints John Days. June 24 is Saint John the Baptist Day, and December 27 is Saint John the Divine Day. These are feast days on which no Stated Meeting shall be held. Called Meetings may be held on June 24 for the installation of officers, and on either of such days to confer degrees or conduct funerals. No other business shall be attended to on either of such

days. Should a Stated Meeting fall on either of such days it shall be held on the next following day which is not Sunday.

Art. 239. (277). When Anniversary Falls on Sunday. When the anniversaries of the Saints John fall on Sunday, Lodges may publicly celebrate the following day without obtaining dispensation therefor.

Art. 240. (278) Appear in Public. No Lodge shall appear in a public procession or make any public display as a Masonic body except to bury a Brother or to celebrate the anniversaries of Saints John, unless by dispensation from the Grand Master as provided and limited by Title 1, Chapter 7, Article 38 in which latter event the proceedings must be reported to the Grand Master as soon as possible thereafter. The Grand Master may designate the presiding officer in such dispensation. The Grand Master may grant a dispensation for a Lodge to have a float in a parade, or to participate in special historical occasions if the Grand Master shall determine that such occasion is of proper historical significance and that Lodge participation will result in a definite enhancement of the public image of Freemasonry.

Notes on Decisions:

Dispensations have been refused to Lodges or Masons as such, either individually or in groups to appear at or participate in the following gatherings:

- (a) Divine Services.
- (b) March in Loyalty Parade.
- (c) Act as escort in Commandery Easter Services.
- (d) Attend Odd Fellows Anniversary.
- (e) Funeral not conducted by a Lodge.
- (f) Attend a Fair.

Art. 241. (279). Removal to Another Location. When a Lodge desires to remove to another location, a petition in writing, signed by not less than three members thereof, shall be presented at a stated meeting of the Lodge, the Master shall cause same to be read in open Lodge, entered in the minutes thereof, and to lie over until the next stated meeting for action. When any such petition is presented it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify each member in writing of the proposal to remove the Lodge and of the date when action shall be taken thereon. No petition for removal shall be effective unless adopted by the requisite number of the votes of the members present and a dispensation therefor has been issued by the Grand Master. (Revised 1996)

Art. 242. (281). **Repealed 1996.**

Art. 243. (280). **Repealed 1996.**

Art. 244. (279, 280, 281, 282). **Requisite Vote.** In all cases of removal where the Worshipful Master objects, a vote of two-thirds of the members present is required; where the Worshipful Master does not object, a majority vote of those present is sufficient.

CHAPTER 8 – TITLE II

CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES

Art. 245. (283). **Proposal Presented at Stated Meeting.** Whenever the majority of members of any Lodge shall sign a written declaration that they deem it for the best interest of Masonry to consolidate such Lodge with another specified Lodge having concurrent or adjoining jurisdiction with it, and shall present the same at a stated meeting of their own Lodge, the Master shall thereupon cause the same to be read in open Lodge and entered on its minutes.

Art. 246. (284). **Adopted: When and by What Vote.** The declaration favoring such consolidation shall be read at each stated meeting after its presentation until disposed of; but the proposition to consolidate shall not be acted upon until the declaration shall have been read at not less than two successive stated meetings thereafter. At the time of its third reading, action shall be had on the proposition to consolidate, unless the matter be laid over by a majority vote of the Lodge to some particular stated meeting thereafter. The action on such proposition shall be by ballot, and it shall not be adopted by such Lodge unless at least two-thirds of the members present shall vote therefor.

Art. 247. (285) **Proposal Sent to Petitioned Lodge.** If such proposition to consolidate is adopted as aforesaid, the Secretary of such Lodge shall at once transmit to the Lodge with which the consolidation is proposed the original declaration and a certified copy of proceedings in his lodge thereon, together with an invoice of all property and effects thereof, and a list of all members in good standing, and of all members who are in arrears for dues and the amount due by each such member. Such list shall also show the Entered Apprentice; and Fellow Crafts and the date initiated or passed, as the case may be.

Art. 248. (286). **Acted on by Petitioned Lodge.** The Worshipful Master of the Lodge with which such consolidation is proposed, upon receipt of such papers shall cause the same to be read in open Lodge at its next stated meeting and entered upon its minutes; a stated meeting of the Lodge shall thereupon be fixed, which shall not be earlier than the second stated meeting thereafter, at which time action upon such proposition shall be had by such Lodge, unless the matter be laid over by a majority vote of the Lodge to some particular stated meeting thereafter.

Art. 249. (287). **Acted on by Petitioned Lodge: Ballot, Two-Thirds Vote.** At the stated meeting on which the proposition to consolidate is voted on, action shall be taken by ballot, and the proposition to consolidate shall not be agreed to by the Lodge petitioned unless at least two-thirds of the members present shall vote therefor.

Art. 250. (288). **Approval by Grand Master.** If the proposition to consolidate is agreed to by the Lodge petitioned, the Secretary thereof shall forthwith forward to the Grand Master certified copies of the minutes of each of such Lodges relative to the proposed consolidation. If the Grand Master shall approve of such proposed consolidation, the Lodges desiring the same shall from and after such approval be deemed and held to be one Lodge existing under the charter and governed by the bylaws of the Lodge petitioned; the members of the petitioning Lodge shall thereupon become members of the Lodge petitioned; the books and records of the former shall be delivered to the latter Lodge for safe keeping and preservation thereof. The charter and seal of the petitioning Lodge shall be forthwith transmitted to the Grand Secretary. All unfinished work or business pending in the petitioning Lodge shall be taken up and completed in the petitioned Lodge, and all the property, money and effects of the petitioning Lodge shall pass to and become the property of the petitioned Lodge; provided, however, that the officers and bylaws of the Lodge petitioned shall not be affected by such consolidation. (Revised 2014)

Art. 250a. **Transfer of Property.** If the proposition to consolidate is approved by the Grand Master, all property (including both personal property and real property or any interest therein) shall thereupon become the property of the Lodge petitioned. In the event that it shall be necessary that real property or any interest therein be transferred, conveyed or assigned from the petitioning Lodge to the Lodge petitioned, such transfer, conveyance or assignment of real or personal property or any interest therein shall be written and in form and sufficient detail and description appropriate for a purchase, gift, bequest, or devise as considered by Art. 340. (Adopted 2014)

Art. 251. (289, 290). **Jurisdiction of Consolidated Lodge.** Upon completion of such consolidation, as provided herein, the consolidated Lodges shall have:

A. Personal jurisdiction over all candidates elected to receive degrees in the petitioning Lodge, under the same rules and conditions provided by Masonic law in other cases. All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who were members of the petitioning Lodge shall become such members of the consolidated Lodge, and be subject to the laws governing Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts as if they were originally members thereof.

B. Territorial jurisdiction adjusted to cover all territory and material therein, situated equidistant by air line to adjoining Lodges if they are located outside of incorporated towns or cities, otherwise, to the corporate limits of such towns or cities; provided, that if the consolidated Lodges are situated with concurrent jurisdiction with each other or with other Lodges, the territorial jurisdiction of the consolidated Lodges shall not be affected.

Art. 252. (291). Effective Upon Grand Master's Approval.

When the Grand Master approves such consolidation he shall issue a certificate to that effect, which shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the petitioned Lodge and same shall be spread upon the minutes thereof, whereupon such consolidation shall become effective, and the Grand Master shall transmit to the Grand Secretary all papers and documents in relation to such subject.

Art. 253. (292). **Grand Secretary's Duties.** Upon receipt of the papers and documents from the Grand Master, together with a copy of his certificate of approval of the consolidation of two or more Lodges, the Grand Secretary shall file same for preservation, and make such changes in the records of his office as may be necessary to conform them to the changed conditions brought about by such consolidation.

CHAPTER 9—TITLE II RETURNING AND REVOKING CHARTERS

Art. 254. (293). **Procedure for Returning Charter.** When a proposition is made at a stated meeting of a Lodge to return its charter to this Grand Lodge, the members shall be notified of such proposition in writing and summoned to attend the next stated meeting. If a majority of the members then present vote for the proposition the vote shall be entered of record and the

proposition lie over until the next stated meeting. If, at such meeting, two-thirds of the members present vote for the proposition, a brief statement of the reasons therefor shall be entered in the minutes; and the Lodge shall cease its labors. The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall immediately make out a complete list of the assets of the Lodge and of the members thereof in arrears for dues, and of the amount due by each, and shall cause same to be entered on the minutes thereof. A complete copy of these proceedings, duly certified, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary. If the Grand Lodge approves the action of the Lodge, all its effects including its charter, records and funds shall be delivered to the District Deputy Grand Master of that district, and be delivered by him to the Grand Secretary. If the Grand Lodge refuses to confirm the proceedings, the Lodge shall again open and proceed with its work.

Art. 255. (294). Records, Funds and Property of Dormant Lodges. When a Lodge becomes dormant, or for any reason ceases to function, all the books, charter, jewels, funds and other property of such Lodge shall be delivered to the District Deputy Grand Master of the district, or to any one whom the Grand Master may appoint to receive the same.

Art. 256. (295). Demise of Lodge by Grand Lodge. When a Lodge is suspended, or its Charter arrested by the Grand Master, or a Lodge ceases to function as required by the laws of the Grand Lodge, the matter shall be reported to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication, with full details of the facts. If the Grand Lodge does not restore the Charter, or authorize the Lodge to resume labor, any such Lodge shall stand as demised.

CHAPTER 10—TITLE 11 SUSPENDED AND DEMISED LODGES AND THEIR MEMBERS

For “Restoration of Charter of Suspended and Demised Lodges and Procedure Thereon” see Art. 215.

For “Sale of Property of Demised Lodges” see Art. 29.

For “Collection of Dues of Members and Assets of Demised Lodges and Discipline of Delinquent Members” see Art. 650.

Art. 257. (296, 297). Suspended and Demised Defined. A. The term “Suspended” shall apply to the status of Lodges whose charters have been arrested; and to those Lodges which fail to

meet once in three months; or which voluntarily surrender their charters; or fail to make returns within the time required by Masonic law; or to pay their dues to the Grand Lodge on or before the first day of June of the year following such default.

B. The term ‘Demised’ shall apply to Lodges whose charters have been revoked by final action of the Grand Lodge.

Art. 258. (298). **Members of Demised Lodges: Status.** When a Lodge has demised, those who were members thereof at the time of its demise occupy the position of nonaffiliated Masons, except those holding plural membership in some other Lodge.

Art. 259. (299). **Suspended Lodge: Territorial Jurisdiction.** No Lodge in adjoining territory or elsewhere shall exercise any jurisdiction whatsoever in the territory of a suspended Lodge, until the Lodge is demised by action of the Grand Lodge; the original personal and territorial jurisdiction of a suspended Lodge shall remain unappropriated until after final action by the Grand Lodge. Provided, however, the Grand Master may grant dispensation to the Lodge in good standing nearest such suspended Lodge to ballot upon the petition of, and confer the degrees upon, any candidate within the territorial jurisdiction of such suspended Lodge until final action is had thereon by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 260. (300). **Suspended Lodge: Status of Members.** The status of the members of a suspended Lodge shall remain unchanged until the charter is restored, or the Lodge demises. All unpaid dues of members accruing prior to the suspension of a Lodge, or subsequent thereto, may be paid to the Grand Secretary and his receipt taken therefor. Said receipt shall have the same force and effect as if the dues were paid to his Lodge, but shall not operate as a dimitt or certificate of good standing.

Art. 261. (301). **Members of Demised Lodges: Dues and Arrears.** A member in good standing at the time of the demise of his Lodge may, after payment of arrearage in dues, if any, obtain from the Grand Secretary a Certificate of Good Standing to apply for affiliation in some other Lodge; or (if he does not hold plural membership in some other Lodge) for a Certificate of Dimission as an unaffiliated Mason; or (if he holds plural membership in some other Lodge) for a Certificate of Withdrawal from the demised Lodge.

Art. 262. Members of Suspended and Demised Lodges; Status Upon Restoration. When the charter of a suspended or demised Lodge is restored it shall be restored to the entire membership of such Lodge, except to such as may have affiliated in the meantime with other Lodges. The restoration shall apply to all unaffiliated members of said demised Lodge, whether they sign the petition for restoration or not, unless otherwise directed by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 263. Demised Lodges: Territorial Jurisdiction. When a Lodge demises all parties within its jurisdiction, including rejected applicants and suspended or expelled Masons, become subject to the jurisdiction of the Lodge nearest their place of domicile; provided, that if said demised Lodge was situated in the territory of Lodges exercising concurrent jurisdiction, all such surviving Lodges will exercise concurrent jurisdiction over such parties.

CHAPTER 11 – TITLE II

LODGE OFFICERS

Art. 264. Officers Listed. The officers of the Lodge and their titles shall be as follows: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, and Tiler.

The Lodge may at its option provide in its Bylaws for either a Marshal, Master of Ceremonies or Musician or any or all, of the same. In line of seniority, the Marshal shall follow the Junior Steward, then the Master of Ceremonies, then the Musician, and finally the Tiler. (Revised 1996) Such amendment to the Bylaws shall not require the approval of Grand Lodge. The Committee on Work shall establish the place on the Lodge floor for such officers, prescribe the ritual for installation and define the jewel for such officers.

Art. 265. **All but Tiler Must Be Members.** All officers of a Lodge must be members thereof, except the Tiler. All must be in good standing and should be able and willing to perform the duties of the respective offices.

Art. 266. **Holding Two Offices Restricted.** A Brother may hold only one office during the Masonic year, either elective or appointive, in each of the subordinate Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction of which he is a member, subject to the following restrictions:

a. Shall not hold the office of Worshipful Master in more than one Lodge.

b. Shall not hold office simultaneously, either elective or appointive, in more than one Lodge whose stated meetings are held on the same date and overlapping time, the sole exception the office of Tiler. (Revised 2001)

Art. 267. **Resignation of Officer Prohibited: Exception.** An officer, after election or appointment and installation, cannot resign his office, except as hereinafter provided.

Art. 268. **Temporary Vacancies: How Filled.** The presiding officer alone has the right to fill vacancies pro tempore, provided that an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft shall not fill the vacancy caused by the absence of a Warden during any meeting in which a ballot is taken. (Revised 2013)

Art. 269. **Absence of Officers.** In the absence of the Worshipful Master and both Wardens, the last Past Master of the Lodge may preside, but in such a case, a Past Master of another Lodge cannot preside. When the Master, Wardens and all Past Masters of a Lodge are absent, it cannot be opened; and if already open, it is thereupon automatically closed. (Revised 2002)

Art. 270. **Presiding Past Master: Powers.** When a Past Master presides at the request of a Warden he has the same powers as the Master.

Art. 271. **Vacancies in Office: How Filled.** When an installed officer, other than the Worshipful Master, dies, removes from the jurisdiction of his Lodge or is unable to devote his services to the office, the office can only be filled pro tempore, at each meeting of the Lodge, except as hereinafter provided:

Any Secretary or Treasurer of any Lodge may resign his office with the consent of the Master of the Lodge, whenever

such officer moves from the jurisdiction of his Lodge or becomes seriously ill or disabled, or whenever, for any reason deemed sufficient by the Master, such officer is unable to fully perform the duties of his office. And any Secretary or Treasurer may be removed from the office for the unexpired term or any part thereof, or his office may be declared vacated for the unexpired term or any part thereof, by the Master of the Lodge with the consent of the Grand Master, whenever such Secretary or Treasurer removes from the jurisdiction of his Lodge or on account of illness, disability, or through gross neglect or malfeasance in office, is unable or fails to properly perform the duties of his office. And upon the death, or, as aforesaid, the resignation or removal of any Secretary or Treasurer, the Master of the Lodge may appoint an acting Secretary or Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of such Officer, or any part of such term, or until the return or recovery of such officer or the fulfillment of any condition or contingency prescribed and determined by the Master of the Lodge; but no such appointment shall be or become effective unless and until notice thereof is given by the Master making the appointment, over his signature and under the Seal of the Lodge, to the R.:W.:Grand Secretary of such appointment, giving name and address of such appointee and stating the office to which appointed, and has received acknowledgment of receipt thereof from the R.:W.:Grand Secretary, and the Master shall have the right to appoint any officer pro tempore, including Secretary or Treasurer, any specific meeting upon the absence of such officer from the particular meeting. (See Art. 277 for vacancy in office of Worshipful Master.) (Revised 1967)

Art. 272. (311). **Officers: Clothed and Jeweled.** No officer shall appear in a Lodge, while open, without the jewel and clothing appropriate for his office.

Art. 273. (312). **Officers: Regalia.** A Lodge may provide special collars and aprons to be worn by its officers, for the purpose of preserving their symbolic features; as a mark of distinction, and to enhance the dignity of the Lodge. Such regalia shall consist of a collar of blue velvet from which shall be suspended the jewel appropriate to the station of the officer. Said collar may

have embroidered thereon any of the symbols of Freemasonry appropriate to be so displayed.

The regulation apron shall be of white lambskin of the following dimensions: the apron shall be 16 inches square with a drop in the bib of 6 inches to the triangular point. It will be permissible to have embroidered upon the bib of the apron the appropriate jewel of the office and upon the body of the apron below the bib, the square and compasses circumscribing the letter "G." The outside edge of the apron shall be bordered with blue silk velvet or braid, one inch in width, and the bib with the same material one-half inch in width. The apron may be lined on the reverse side with blue satin or other material. In addition to using the Past Master's aprons now being worn, it shall be permissible for Past Masters to wear aprons with the same design and insignia as provided for the Worshipful Master, but the addition of the Arc (or Quadrant) under the points of the Compasses would be optional.

In conferring degrees, officers may wear appropriate robes or costumes; and appropriate scenery may be used. The insignia or regalia of other orders or organizations may not be worn.

Art. 274. (313). **Members: Apron.** The regulation apron for members of the Lodge shall be of the same dimensions provided for the aprons of officers of the Lodge and shall be made of white lambskin without border or decoration; provided, it shall not be mandatory upon any Lodge to provide regulation regalia and aprons until such time as it may be able to do so, and such aprons may be made of white cloth.

Art. 275. (314). **Records and Documents: Officers Duties.** It is the duty of each officer of the Lodge to preserve and turn over to his successor all books, documents and other papers which the Lodge furnished for his use.

CHAPTER 12 – TITLE II WORSHIPFUL MASTER

For “Is a Representative in the Grand Lodge” see Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 1(d);

For “Is Entitled to Cast a Vote” see Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 1(d);

For “Number of Votes Which May Be Cast,” see Constitution, Art. VII, Sec’s. 1 and 2;

For “Voting by Lodges and Members” see Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 1(b).

Art. 276. Qualifications. Any member of a Lodge in good standing, and against whom no charges are pending, and who has previously served as Worshipful Master of a regular Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, or as Worshipful Master or Warden of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, and who is qualified according to the provisions of Article 276a of these laws, is eligible to be elected Worshipful Master. Such previous service may be either: (1) under election; (2) under appointment by the Grand Master in a Lodge Under Dispensation; or (3) under designation by the Grand Lodge in a newly chartered Lodge. The above provisions regarding service do not apply when a Worshipful Master is appointed by the Grand Master or designated by the Grand Lodge under the above circumstances, but previous requirements as enumerated in the following Article 276a apply to all such circumstances. (Revised 2011)

Art. 276a. Additional Qualifications. Prior to his installation as Worshipful Master or Warden, a Brother shall in all circumstances first be qualified as follows:

1. To the satisfaction of the members of his Lodge, he shall be proficient to properly open and close an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason’s Lodge, and a Master Mason’s Lodge of Sorrow in the manner prescribed by the Committee on Work and approved by this Grand Lodge, and

2. To the satisfaction of the members of his Lodge, he shall have completed a Grand Lodge approved course in the administration of his duties or the Lodge Instruction for Effectiveness program (L.I.F.E.) under the supervision of the Masonic Education and Service Committee. The L.I.F.E. Program is to be administered by a Lodge Counselor appointed by the Worshipful Master, whose term expires upon the appointment of his successor in office. Any person who has previously served as Worshipful Master of a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas is exempt from the requirements of this article. (Revised 2012).

Art. 277. (315). **Office Vacant: When and How Filled.** His office becomes vacant whenever the Worshipful Master:

1. Is elected and installed as Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master; or

2. Dies after he is installed; or

3. Is found disqualified, or fails from any cause to be installed within the time prescribed by Law, and the person filling the office for the previous year has been installed in another office; or

4. If the Worshipful Master, against whom allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been filed, is suspended from his office by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall notify the Grand Secretary, and shall inform the affected subordinate Lodge of such action. Such action of suspension shall prohibit recognition of such individual as a Past Master and preclude such individual from the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, unless and until he is restored thereto by the Grand Lodge. (Revised 2012)

In any such case the Senior Warden (or the Junior Warden, if the office of Senior Warden is also vacant) shall succeed to all the duties of the office.

If a Worshipful Master, after being duly installed, dies during the term of his office, and if he is not suspended or under charges at the time of his death, he shall be classified and recorded as a Past Master of his Lodge.

Art. 278. **Master Presiding “Covered.”** The ancient custom of the Master presiding “covered” must be complied with, except that the Brother presiding at Masonic funerals, memorial services, graveside services, or during open meetings of the Lodge, may at his discretion, preside over such services and ceremonies uncovered. To be “covered” shall mean the wearing of a hat, and a hat is described as a head covering with a shaped crown and a full circle brim. No person other than the presiding Master shall wear any type of head covering, except for required religious head coverings, while in Lodge or at other Masonic ceremonies. (Revised 2010)

Art. 279. (317). **Custodian of Charter.** The Worshipful Master is the custodian of the Charter of the Lodge, is responsible for its safe keeping and shall see that it is displayed in the Lodgeroom when Lodge is at labor.

Art. 280. (318). **Correction of Minutes.** The Worshipful Master is responsible for and decides upon the correctness of the minutes. He shall order any error corrected at the first Stated Meeting after its discovery.

Art. 281. (319). **Can Require Every Member to Vote.** The Worshipful Master can require every member of his Lodge present to vote on any question pending.

Art. 282. (320). **Can Cast Deciding Vote.** The Worshipful Master may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie, unless he has already voted with the members, in which event the proposition shall be declared negated.

Art. 283. (321). No Appeal from Decision Except to Grand Lodge. No appeal may be taken from the decision of the Worshipful Master except to the Grand Lodge. Three members of a Lodge may join in an appeal therefrom, when in their opinion any principle of Masonic jurisprudence has been improperly decided, and is followed by action of the Lodge in any important matter. Any such action shall stand suspended until passed upon by the Grand Lodge. In any such appeal it shall be the duty of the Secretary to make a certificate setting forth the question decided and the action thereon and transmit same to the Grand Secretary.

Art. 284. (323d.). Duty to Require Audits. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master as soon after the 24th of June each year as convenient to appoint a committee of three qualified members, a certified public accountant, or a public accountant, whose duty it shall be to audit books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary and make prompt report thereof in writing to the Lodge, said report shall be read to the Lodge in open stated communication and be recorded in full in the minutes. The auditors' report shall fully show the total amounts of receipts and disbursements during the past year and any balance remaining on hand. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer and Secretary to make all their books and records available to the Committee or accountant appointed to audit same. A properly completed and signed copy of the Minimum Audit Form No. 71 shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary no later than September 15th each year. If the Lodge by resolution or by its bylaws requires a bond for any officer of the Lodge authorized to handle the funds of the Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to have all officers of the Lodge authorized to handle the Lodge funds covered by such bond. (Revised 2011)

Art. 284a. Duty to File IRS Forms. All subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas must file either IRS Form 990, 990 EZ or 990-N with the U. S. Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner.

It is the responsibility of the Worshipful Master to ensure that a completed IRS Form 990, 990-N or 990 EZ, or such other form as may be hereafter defined by the IRS in order to preserve the tax-exempt status of Lodges, must be filed every year on or before the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of the tax year. For example, if a Lodge tax year ends in June, its Form 990, 990-N or 990-EZ is due by November 15 of that tax year.

It is also the responsibility of the Worshipful Master to provide the Grand Secretary's office with a copy of the Form 990, 990-N or 990-EZ that is filed with the IRS, on or before November 15 of the tax year, and the Grand Lodge Finance Committee is directed to monitor the completion of the Forms required herein. (Revised 2011)

CHAPTER 13—TITLE II THE WARDENS

For ‘May be Represented in Grand Lodge’ see Const., Art. II, Sec. 1 (d);

For ‘Is Entitled to Vote see Const., Art. VII, Sec’s. 1 and 2,

For ‘Manner of Voting’ see Const., Art VII, Sec. 1 (d).

Art. 285. (322). **Duties of Wardens.** When the Worshipful Master is absent the Senior Warden succeeds to all his duties. When the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden are absent the Junior Warden succeeds to all their duties. In the absence of the Worshipful Master and the Wardens, the last Past Master of the Lodge present may preside.

Art. 286. (323). **Junior Warden: Not Affected:** When the Junior Warden is not affected by the Senior Warden having to act as Worshipful Master, nor by the absence of the Senior Warden from a meeting at which the Master is present, nor by vacancy in the office of Senior Warden, but retains his station and a pro tern-pore Senior Warden shall be appointed.

CHAPTER 14—TITLE II THE TREASURER

Art. 287. (323a). **Duties of Treasurer.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to perform such duties as devolve upon him by custom and usage or that shall be required by the laws of this Grand Lodge or the By-Laws of the Lodge.

CHAPTER 15—TITLE II THE SECRETARY

Art. 288. (324). **Duties of Secretary.** It is the duty of the Secretary to make a correct record of all things proper to be written pertaining to the business of the Lodge; to collect all revenues of the Lodge and pay them over to the Treasurer; to draw all warrants on the Treasurer; to issue all Summons; Certificates of Dimissions; Certificates of Good Standing; Waivers of Jurisdiction; and notices, as he may be directed; to make out and send up the returns to this Grand Lodge; and to make out and send to the Grand Secretary the transcripts on appeals and restorations, in all cases except where it is otherwise provided by law, and to perform such other duties as may be required by law, or directed by the Lodge.

He shall submit his books, records and accounts for annual audit as provided in Article 284. His records shall be kept open at proper times for inspection by members of the Lodge, and by such other Masons as have good cause therefor, but not by those who are not Masons.

Art. 289. (325). **Repealed 1988.**

CHAPTER 16 - TITLE II ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Art. 290. (326). **Method of Voting.** Officers must be elected in open Lodge. A separate vote must be taken for each elective office which shall be by written ballot where two or more Brethren are nominated. In the event no Brother has a majority, the ballot will be repeated until such result is attained. Blank votes shall not be considered in determining the results. Vote may be taken by show of hands when there is only one nomination for an office. Nominating speeches are prohibited.

Art. 291. **Qualifications for Office.** Any member in good standing of a Lodge against whom no charges are pending is eligible to hold any elective or appointive office in a Lodge, except as provided in Article 276 and Article 276-a which apply to the offices of Worshipful Master and both Wardens of the Lodge.

(Revised 1994)

Art. 292. **Time of Election.** All elective officers of the Lodge which include the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and such other officers as the by-laws may prescribe, shall be elected at the last stated meeting of the Lodge prior to midnight of June 23. Such election may be held in the Lodge opened in the Entered Apprentice Degree, provided that if no Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason is present, it shall be the option of the Worshipful Master to open said meeting on either the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Masters Degree, at or after the usual hour for opening provided in the by-laws. Election must be concluded at this meeting, and may not be postponed, and must be concluded by midnight if stated meeting is on Saturday or June 23. All other officers shall be appointed as soon thereafter as convenient. (Note: Appointments by Worshipful Master.) (Revised 2007).

Art. 293. (328). **Old Officers Hold Over: When.** When a Lodge fails to elect officers at the annual stated meeting as prescribed in Arts. 290 and 292, or opens said meeting before the time prescribed in the by-laws; or continues a special meeting without closing the Lodge in order to open a stated meeting at the proper hour or continues the meeting after midnight on Saturday or June 23; or elects officers when the Lodge is at refreshment or other than

labor; in any such event the election is void, and the officers for the previous year, both elective and appointive, shall hold over for another year without further installation.

Art. 294. *Dimit or Transfer of Membership Not Allowed*

While Holding Office. No member of a Lodge who has been elected or appointed to an office, and installed therein, shall dimit or transfer his membership to another Lodge while holding any such office.

(Revised 1993)

Art. 295. (333). *Who May Install.* The Installation Ceremony shall be performed by an Installing Officer assisted by an Installing Marshal who are in good standing in this Grand Jurisdiction and the following officers only are authorized to perform as either: the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Masters of this Grand Jurisdiction, Grand Wardens, District Deputy Grand Masters, Past Masters of this Grand Jurisdiction, or the Master of the Lodge. Such ceremony, when performed by Installing Officer and Installing Marshal other than one of the above listed officers is void, and unless repeated by authorized officers prior to August 1st, the old officers hold over as provided in Article 293.

Art. 296. (334). *All Officers Installed in Person.* All officers of the Lodge, both elective and appointive must be installed in person.

Art. 297. (335). *No Installation While Charges Pending.* No Brother shall be installed in any office while charges of un-Masonic conduct are pending against him.

Art. 297a. *Requirements for Installation as Worshipful Master or Warden.* Prior to his installation as Worshipful Master or Warden, compliance with the provisions of Article 276a of the Laws of this Grand Lodge is required. (Revised 2011)

Art. 298. (336). *Time of Installation.* All officers shall be installed on June 24, the day of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, or at any stated or called meeting thereafter prior to midnight on the last day of July; provided, however, that no officer shall be installed on Sunday. Otherwise the old officers hold over as provided in Art. 293, unless installed in another office, in which case Art. 306 applies. It is not necessary that all officers be installed at the same time.

Art. 299. (337). *Place of Installation.* Except as otherwise provided by law, the officers of a Lodge must be installed at a place within the territorial jurisdiction of their Lodge, except in the case of a joint public installation which may be held at a place beyond the jurisdiction of the Lodge as governed by the provisions of Article 303. (Revised 1989)

Art. 300. (338). *Public Installation: Place.* A public installation may be held in the Lodgeroom or at some other suitable place within the Lodge's Territorial Jurisdiction, except a joint public installation may be held outside the Territorial Jurisdiction of the

Lodge provided such joint public installation is held in accordance with Articles 298 and 301.

Art. 301. Public Installation: When Dispensation Required. A public installation cannot be held without a dispensation, except as provided in Articles 300, 302 and 303, and any such public installation shall be held in accordance with the requirements of Article 298.

Art. 302. Lodge Opened in Master's Degree. Lodges shall not install officers without first opening a Master's Lodge, and if the installation is to be public, the Lodge must be called off, it being recognized and agreed that these functions will be deemed to have been carried out when performed by the Lodge acting as sponsor of the public installation, when two or more Lodges conduct a joint public installation, and while the Lodge is called off, all Masons present shall be Masonically clothed so far as white aprons are available, and each Lodge officer shall wear the jewel and clothing appropriate to his office. After installation, the Lodge must be called on and closed in its Lodgeroom in due form.

When a joint public installation has taken place, this function will be deemed to have been carried out and satisfied when performed by the Lodge acting as sponsor of the public installation.

(Revised 1995)

Art. 303. Joint Public Installation. For the purpose of conducting a joint public installation, a Lodge, being first opened in its own Lodgeroom may, upon invitation by the Lodge(s) in whose Territorial Jurisdiction such public installation is held, enter the Territorial Jurisdiction of said Lodge(s) and perform such ceremonies.

When deemed more convenient by the Lodges involved in a joint public installation, the following procedure may be followed and will be acceptable by this Grand Lodge:

1. The Secretaries of the Lodges which participate in a joint public installation will write to the Secretary of the sponsoring Lodge requesting that such sponsoring Lodge open a Master Mason's Lodge not only on its own behalf but also on behalf of each Lodge represented by the letter or letters specified above.

2. The sponsoring Lodge, upon receipt of such letter(s) shall open a Master Mason's Lodge and the minutes of said sponsoring Lodge shall recite (i) the receipt of letter(s) from the other Lodge(s) which will participate in a joint public installation, and (ii) that such Lodge(s) had specifically requested the sponsoring Lodge open a Master Mason's Lodge on their (its) behalf for the purpose of conducting the joint public installation.

3. The sponsoring Lodge will then be called off for the purpose of holding the joint public installation.

4. Following the joint public installation, the sponsoring Lodge

will call a Master Mason's Lodge from refreshment to labor, report in the minutes about the joint public installation including the name(s) of the Lodge(s) participating with other particulars desired and deemed of interest and thereafter close the Lodge.

5. The Secretary of the sponsoring Lodge will promptly write to the Secretaries of the Lodges participating in the joint public installation furnishing a copy of the pertinent minutes of the sponsoring Lodge to said Secretaries, or an appropriate summary thereof, and the Secretaries of the Lodges participating in the joint public installation will then make that correspondence a part of their minutes.

6. As a courtesy, the Lodges participating in a joint public installation shall notify, in advance, the appropriate District Deputy Grand Master or District Deputy Grand Masters, as the case may be.

The provisions of Article 298 and 302 apply to all joint public installations. (Revised 1995)

Art. 304. Repealed 1991.

Art. 305. **New Appointment: When.** When an appointive officer is found to be disqualified, or dies, or moves out of the Lodge's jurisdiction before he is installed, another appointment may be made to fill the office.

Art. 306. **Elective Office Vacant.** Except as provided in Article 277 when an elective officer is found to be disqualified, or fails from any cause to be installed within the time prescribed by Masonic law, and the officer filling said office the previous year has been installed into another office, the said office shall remain vacant until the next regular election, and shall be filled pro tempore, at each meeting of the Lodge.

CHAPTER 17 – TITLE II FEES AND DUES

For "Fees, Dues and Contributions to the Grand Lodge" See Const., Arts. IX and X.

Art. 307. **Minimum Fees.** The fees for initiation, passing and raising shall be not less than Thirty Dollars for each degree. The Twenty-five Dollar donation to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc. collected from the candidate for the Master's Degree under Article 163-5 is in addition to the regular fee for that degree. (Revised 2006)

The Five Dollar donation to the George Washington Masonic Memorial collected from the candidate for the Entered Apprentice Degree under Article 318b is in addition to the regular fee for that degree. (Revised 2006)

Art. 308. **Lodge May Fix Fees Above Minimum.** A Lodge

may by its by-laws fix, or by amendment thereto from time to time raise or lower the fees for the degrees or any of them in any amount equal to or above the minimum prescribed in the foregoing Art. 307; provided that the fees in effect at the time a petition for the degrees or advancement is filed with the secretary shall be charged to the petitioner.

Art. 309. New Lodge in Concurrent Jurisdiction. A new Lodge, organized within the jurisdiction of another Lodge or Lodges, shall adopt the fees for degrees and the dues charged by the oldest Lodge; and neither shall thereafter reduce the same without the consent of the other. Any Lodge exercising concurrent jurisdiction with another Lodge may increase the fees and dues without the approval of any other Lodge, and may subsequently reduce them likewise, but not below the amount originally fixed, without the consent of the other Lodges having concurrent jurisdiction.

Art. 310. No Distinctions Among Vocations. No distinction in the amount of fees charged a candidate for the degrees, nor in the amount charged a member for dues, shall be made on account of the profession, occupation or calling of the candidate or member; and no reduction in the amount of fees, contributions or dues accruing to the Grand Lodge shall be made on that account.

Art. 311. Dues: Fixed by Lodge: Minimum. The amount of annual dues in a Subordinate Lodge shall be fixed by the Lodge as may be determined by a majority vote of the members present provided, that such membership dues shall never be fixed below a minimum of Thirty Dollars per annum. By-Laws in conflict with this provision are void. No Lodge shall have the power to levy assessments, other than regular dues, against its members; nor to raise its dues for a definite period of time; but may raise and lower its dues from time to time as it may deem proper, in like manner as provided in Article 309. (Revised 1989).

Art. 312. Fees and Dues Paid Only in Money. Lodges shall receive nothing but money in payment of fees and dues, nor can fees, or any part thereof, be remitted but must be paid before the degree is conferred; provided, that when a Lodge is indebted to a Brother, such indebtedness may be liquidated by allowing the Brother's dues to be credited with such indebtedness or necessary part thereof.

Art. 313. Uniform Receipt Card. Lodges shall use no other receipt for dues than the one provided by the Grand Secretary.

Art. 314. May Remit or Exempt from Payment. A Lodge may exempt any member from the payment of current dues, may remit the dues of a member in arrears, or may remit or compromise the amount of dues owing by a Brother suspended

for non-payment thereof, but is not thereby exempt from the payment of any part of its dues on such member or suspended Brother to the Grand Lodge. (Revised 1995)

NOTE: The current dues of the Lodge are primarily for the payment of current operating and fixed expenses and charges. While this Article gives to the Lodge a wide discretion in dealing with its members regarding dues for current and previous years, it does not authorize the Lodge to limit, curtail, diminish, allocate or appropriate any portion of its future dues for any other purpose, whether by agreement, resolution, by-law, pledge, or any other means. Any dues paid in advance for any future period must be held by the Lodge and applied to the receipts of the current year or years for which they are paid.

Art. 315. Life Membership. A Lodge may grant only one life membership in any one Masonic year and only for distinguished service rendered to the Lodge; and one additional life membership during any consecutive Masonic three-year period and only for long and distinguished service. The name of a member so to be honored shall be proposed at a stated meeting and voted on at a subsequent stated meeting by show of hands, or secret ballot at the discretion of the Master presiding. A majority vote of the members present shall elect. Life members are exempt from paying dues to the Lodge; but the Lodge is not exempt from paying to the Grand Lodge its per capita contributions on account of its life members.

Art. 316. Exemptions: Members in Texas Masonic Retirement Center, 50 Year Service Awardees, and Certain Military Personnel. Every member admitted to the Texas Masonic Retirement Center maintained by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, so long as he is a beneficiary of said Home, and every member entitled to a Fifty Year Masonic Service Award under Art. 14 shall be exempt from Lodge dues. Should the Brother be a member of more than one Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, he shall be exempt in all Lodges. In addition, every member who is currently serving on military duty in a combat area may be exempt from Lodge dues. Additionally a Lodge may remit the per capita of such members from its Annual Returns, using a certificate furnished by the Grand Secretary to show the current status of each such member. (Revised 2011)

Art. 317. Dimit: Unearned Dues Refunded. A member applying for a dimit shall be charged the unpaid pro rata part of his dues up to the time the dimit is granted; which sum must be paid before his application therefor is granted. If he has already paid his dues the Lodge shall, upon granting the dimit, refund to him the pro rata part thereof covering the unexpired portion of the period for which he has theretofore paid.

Art. 318. Twenty-Five Dollar Donation to Texas Masonic Charities Foundation. There shall be presented to each Brother receiving the Master's Degree a Certificate on Form 29, setting forth the fact the Twenty-Five Dollars paid by him under Art. 163-5 has been so paid as a contribution to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation. Such presentation shall be made in open Lodge by the Worshipful Master or under his direction at the close of the degree following the presentation of the Lambskin Apron. An appropriate address concerning the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation may be given at such presentation. When the Secretary sends in his Annual Returns of the Lodge required by Art. 488 he shall transmit to the Grand Secretary the amount received during the preceding Masonic year from the Brothers contributing such Twenty-Five Dollar donations together with the full name of each contributing Brother. (Revised 2006).

Art. 318a. Endowed Membership.

1. Any member in good standing in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction whose dues are paid to date may purchase an endowed membership for the benefit of such Lodge (hereinafter referred to as the "Endowed Lodge"), and be thereby relieved from the further payment of dues in the Endowed Lodge effective as of the date such purchase is made. The secretary of the Endowed Lodge shall issue annually a regular dues card to the member holding the endowed membership certificate at the same time other dues cards of the Lodge are issued.

2. (a) The purchase price for an endowed membership shall be fixed annually by the Endowed Lodge as may be determined by a majority vote of the members present; provided that such purchase price shall be a multiple of \$100 (\$100 being the par value of an endowment unit) and shall be not less than \$500 (5 endowment units). The vote to fix the purchase price for an endowed membership shall be had at the time provided by Article 292 and any change in the purchase price shall be effective June 24.

(b) A deceased Master Mason may be honored in a Texas Lodge with the purchased of an Endowment in his name at the rate of \$500.00 (5 endowment units) or at the current lowest rate of the Texas Grand Lodge Endowment program.

(c) A Fifty-plus Year Mason or a Life Member may purchase an Endowment for himself or be honored with the purchase of an Endowment in his name at the rate of \$500.00 (5 endowment units) or at the current lowest rate of the Texas Grand Lodge Endowment program.

(d) The increase of an endowed membership purchase price shall not void or adversely affect any previously agreed upon installment purchase plans established under article 318-a(7).

(e) An Endowed member who wishes to support his Lodge by adding to what he has previous paid for his Endowment may do so in units of \$100 or multiples. (Revised 2013)

3. The purchase price collected by an Endowed Lodge for endowed memberships shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary so as to be received by him on or before the next succeeding June 23 in order to qualify for an income distribution under Paragraph 4 hereof. Funds received by an Endowed Lodge for the purchase of endowed memberships may be invested by the Endowed Lodge in an insured interest bearing account in a reputable financial institution, and all such funds except as provided under Paragraph 7 hereof, shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary no later than the next succeeding June 23rd. The Grand Secretary shall cause all monies received by his office for the purchase of endowed memberships to be promptly deposited into the Endowed Membership Fund and shall provide a monthly summary of such deposits to the Grand Lodge Trustees and to the Committee on Investments.

4 (a) The Endowed Membership fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the supervision of the Grand Lodge Trustees.

The Grand Lodge Trustees shall take action as they may determine necessary to protect the Endowed Membership Fund for the benefit of the Lodges, including, without limitation, the formation of Trusts, Limited Liability Partnerships, corporations, or any other appropriate entity as may be determined by the Trustees.

(b) For accounting and investment purposes the endowed Membership Fund shall be composed of endowment units with an initial value of \$100 each. The net asset value of an endowment unit may vary from one investment period to the next. For the purposes of computing the net asset value of an endowment unit, interest and dividends received, any net realized capital gain or loss and the distribution required by this Article, the investment period shall begin July 1 and end the following June 30. All endowment units shall be credited and allocated to the Endowed Lodges.

(c) Annually, not later than the first day of August, Endowed Lodges shall receive a distribution from the endowed Membership Fund computed as follows:

(1) An amount equal to the interest and dividends received.

(2) Plus sixty percent (60%) of the net realized capital gain received; provided, the additional distribution may be reduced so that the additional distribution shall not cause the net asset value of an endowed unit to be less than \$100 after the additional distribution.

No distribution shall be paid for any endowed membership unit until August 1 of the 2nd calendar year after such endowment membership unit is received by the Grand Secretary.

(d) An administrative fee not to exceed five percent (5%) of the annual distribution paid to the Endowed Lodges may be deducted from the distribution before payment is made to the Endowed Lodges. (Revised 2012)

5. The Grand Secretary shall issue to the member in whose name an endowment has been created for the benefit of an Endowed Lodge an Endowed Membership Certificate under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary. Replacement or duplicate certificates may be obtained from the Grand Secretary, by the endowed member, a family member of a deceased endowed member, or the Endowed Lodge upon payment of the current fee established by the Grand Lodge Trustees.

6. Endowed memberships are not transferable with Lodge membership, and remain to benefit the Endowed Lodge where such memberships are purchased. Endowed memberships purchased by members and endowed memberships purchased in any part in honor or memory of a member, or endowed memberships purchased in any part by a Lodge, organization, individual or group of individuals in the name of a member or former member and, the endowed memberships of deceased members cannot be transferred to any Lodge except as provided for consolidated or demised Lodges.

Consolidated Lodges Within 12 months after the date of consolidation of two or more Lodges, an endowed member whose endowed membership was not purchased in the surviving Lodge may, if he affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, at the time of the affiliation, transfer the endowed membership to the Lodge with which he affiliates, provided the Lodge did not purchase the endowed membership. The transfer of the endowed membership shall be effective as of the fiscal year-end of the Endowed Membership Fund following receipt by the Grand Secretary of the request to transfer the endowed membership.

Demised Lodges After the dissolution or demise of an Endowed Lodge, the holder of an endowed membership certificate therein, if he affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, may transfer the endowed membership to the Lodge with which he affiliates. If the holder of an Endowed Membership affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction within twelve months after the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge, any interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund for that endowed membership shall transfer to the credit of the Lodge with which he affiliates. If the holder of such an endowed membership fails to affiliate with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction within twelve months after the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge, any interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund from the date of the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge to the date of the transfer of an endowed membership shall be added to the principal

of the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership Fund until the date the holder of the endowed membership affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, from which time the interest will accrue to the benefit of the Lodge with which the holder of the endowed membership affiliated. (Revised 2012)

7. Lodges are prohibited from donating or selling endowed memberships in any other manner than as provided in this Article except Lodges may establish special accounts for the purpose of assisting and encouraging those members who wish to purchase endowed memberships on an installment plan by making regular, systematic, and regulated contributions to such account for the purpose of accumulating the necessary fee required to purchase an endowed membership. After the required fee has accumulated in the special account, the Lodge shall transmit such fee to the Grand Secretary as provided in this Article. The plan for such special account must be approved by a favorable vote of the Lodge, and must conform to those rules and requirements listed on Form No. 76-B of the Laws of this Grand Lodge. The funds in such special account shall be deposited in an insured interest bearing account in a reputable financial institution until such time as the funds are transmitted to the Grand Secretary.

8. Holders of endowed membership certificates are subject to all of the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and loss of membership due to suspension or expulsion may automatically terminate such endowed membership certificate, and may cause such holder to forfeit his endowed membership and any future claim to fees paid or to revenues earned from such endowed membership. The Lodge which held the endowed membership at the time of forfeiture, as provided herein, shall continue to receive the revenues earned from such endowed membership.

9. Upon the death of a holder of an endowed membership, the endowed Lodge shall continue to receive the income from the endowed membership.

Art. 318b. Contribution to George Washington Masonic Memorial. There shall be presented to each Brother receiving the Entered Apprentice's Degree a certificate, setting forth the fact that the \$5.00 paid by him under Article 163-12 has been paid as a contribution to the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Such presentation shall be made in open Lodge by the Worshipful Master or under his direction at the close of the degree. An appropriate address concerning the George Washington Masonic Memorial may be given at such presentation. When the Secretary sends in his Annual Returns of the Lodge as required by Article 488 he shall transmit to the Grand Secretary the amount received during the preceding Masonic year from the brother contributing such amount.

CHAPTER 18 – TITLE II SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Art. 319. (354). **Automatic Suspension.** Lodge dues are due and payable one year in advance on January 1st of each year (unless otherwise exempt) and if not paid on or before that date a member shall be in arrears for his dues; and on or before thirty days before the last stated meeting of the Lodge held before June 24th of each year, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify each member, in writing, who may be in arrears for any dues, and if such member fails to pay such dues on or before June 23rd of such year, he shall stand automatically suspended for non-payment of dues without action by the Lodge, and such suspension shall be recorded in the minutes at the first subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge.

Article 319a. **Committee on Members in Arrears.** The Worshipful Master, as soon as practicable after the first of January, each year, will cause the name of each member of the Lodge who may be in arrears for his dues, to be assigned to a committee of three members of the Lodge, whose title shall be Committee on Members in Arrears. The Worshipful Master may appoint as many three member committees as he may deem necessary. The committees shall each be provided with appropriate information regarding the Brother in arrears. Each of the committee thus assigned, will collectively or individually, make every reasonable effort to contact the Brother in arrears, and encourage him to pay his dues. The committee will then report its findings to the Lodge, and in the event the Brother does not pay his dues, recommend that the Brother's dues be remitted, that he be suspended, or that he be encouraged to dimit.

The Worshipful Master may assign one, or more than one, member in arrears to each committee as he may deem appropriate. (Adopted 1995)

Art. 320. (355). **Notice of Suspension.** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify by written notice all members automatically suspended for non-payment of dues, forthwith, unless such member is present at the meeting when his suspension becomes effective. Provided, when the post office address of the suspended member is unknown, notice shall be mailed to his last known post office address. The names of all members so suspended on June 23rd shall be reported to the Grand Secretary in the annual report of the Lodge. When such suspended member is reinstated, the fact shall be recorded in the minutes of the Lodge at the next stated meeting, together with a statement of the amount of dues paid by him, and the subordinate Lodge shall be charged with Grand Lodge dues for each such reinstated member for the year in which he was so suspended.

Art. 321. (356, 358). **No Dues During Suspension.** Dues shall not accrue during the suspension of a Brother.

Art. 322. (357). **Mental Incompetence.** When a member becomes mentally incompetent, and upon proper documentation of his incompetence being submitted by a qualified physician, he is not liable to either Masonic discipline or suspension for nonpayment of Lodge dues while in such state of mental incompetency. The Lodge must report him as a member but shall pay no dues for him to this Grand Lodge. The Lodge shall deduct Grand Lodge dues from the Annual Returns, using certificate furnished by the Grand Secretary, to show current status of each such member. (Revised 1992)

Art. 323. **Effect of Suspension.** Suspension for non-payment of dues has the same effect, except as to instruction for advancement, as suspension for un-Masonic conduct, except that upon payment of all dues to date of suspension and the current dues, the Brother becomes reinstated without any action of the Lodge unless such suspension has continued for more than three years. (Revised 1999)

Art. 324. **Reinstatement After Three Years.** A Member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues and remains so for three years is not reinstated automatically upon payment of dues in arrears, but is required to present his petition, in writing, to the Lodge at a Stated Meeting requesting reinstatement. The petition must be accompanied by payment of all dues in arrears to the date of his suspension, unless the amount thereof has been reduced under Art. 314, in which event the amount authorized shall be paid. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee for Investigation and Report. The petition shall lay over to a subsequent Stated Meeting when a ballot shall be taken. If two-thirds favorable ballot of the membership of the Lodge present is cast, the petitioner shall be reinstated, otherwise, his petition shall stand rejected. Whenever a petition for reinstatement is rejected, the dues tendered shall be refunded.

A Past Master, Past Grand or Deputy Grand Master or Past Grand Warden, who is suspended for non-payment of dues, is automatically reinstated to Grand Lodge membership upon his automatic reinstatement to Lodge membership under Art. 323. (Revised 2012)

Art. 325. (361). Deleted, 1998

Art. 326. (362). **Expulsion Permitted After Three Years.** Should a suspended member fail to pay his dues in arrears within three years from the date of his suspension, he may, after not less than thirty days written notice, be expelled at a stated meeting, by an affirmative ballot of two-thirds majority of the members of his Lodge present. Only members of the Lodge of which he is a member shall be permitted to ballot thereon.

Art. 327. (363). **Expulsion Permitted After Three Years:**

Reinstatement. When a member of a Lodge has been expelled for the non-payment of his dues as provided in Art. 326, and desires to be reinstated to membership, he shall present such a petition to his Lodge, in writing, at a stated meeting thereof, and pay all dues in arrears, up to the date of his suspension, unless same has been reduced as authorized by Art. 314 of the Laws, in which case the amount authorized shall be paid. The petition shall lay over to a subsequent stated meeting and the Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee for investigation and report. It shall require a unanimous favorable ballot of the members of such Lodge present to reinstate the petitioner to membership. If such petitioner is rejected he may petition for reinstatement again after six months have elapsed. If he is rejected a second time he shall not petition again until one year has elapsed from the date of the last rejection. Any subsequent petitions shall not be received except after the elapse of an additional year. Any such petitioner for reinstatement, who is rejected, shall have the dues paid refunded. (Revised 2012)

Art. 328. (364). **When Lodge Demised: Restoration.** When a member is suspended for non-payment of dues, and his Lodge subsequently demises, he may be restored to good standing as a non-affiliated Mason by paying to the Grand Secretary the amount of his dues up to the date of his suspension. The Grand Secretary may require such suspended member to furnish a certificate of good character vouched for by the Master or Secretary of a Lodge should he deem it desirable. The rights of restoration herein provided shall not apply to a member laboring under a sentence of expulsion for any cause. When recommended by the Finance Committee the Grand Master may reduce the amount of dues to be paid by any member of a demised Lodge suspended for the non-payment of his dues, or of any member shown on the books of such Lodge as in good standing, yet in arrears for dues at the time of such demise.

Art. 329. (365). **When Lodge Demised: Reinstatement.** A member of a demised Lodge who has been suspended or expelled for non-payment of his dues, who may desire to be reinstated to good standing as a member of a Lodge may do so under the following procedure: He shall pay to the Grand Secretary the amount of his dues in arrears at the date of his suspension, unless the amount is reduced as provided in Art. 328, and take the receipt of the Grand Secretary therefor. He may petition the Lodge

in whose jurisdiction he is domiciled, for membership by affiliation, attaching such receipt to his petition. A unanimous favorable ballot of the members of such Lodge present shall reinstate him in good standing and elect him to membership in said Lodge by affiliation.

Art. 330. Grand Lodge Dues Continue During Charter Arrest and Lodge Suspension. The suspension of a Lodge or the arrest of its charter does not stop the accumulation of dues to this Grand Lodge; such dues do not cease to accrue until the date of the demise of the Lodge.

CHAPTER 19 – TITLE II BUSINESS OF LODGE

Art. 331. Stated Meetings. Except when officially receiving Grand Lodge Officers, all stated meetings of a Lodge may be opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree or Fellowcraft Degree, provided that if no Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason is present, it shall be the option of the Worshipful Master to open said meeting on either the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master's Degree. A Lodge opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree for the purpose of holding a stated meeting, may be opened and closed on such degree without first opening on the Master's Degree. At a stated meeting, the regular business of the Lodge shall be transacted. At a stated meeting, only Master Masons shall be entitled to vote. (Revised 2007)

Art. 332. Called Meetings. At the option of the Worshipful Master, a Lodge may first be opened at a called meeting of the Lodge on an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft Degree and closed on such degree without first opening on the Master's Degree. A called meeting must be opened on the Master's Degree when officially receiving Grand Lodge Officers, hearing Master Mason proficiency examinations, conferring Master's Degrees and complying with the installation of officer requirements of Art. 302 and Art. 303. Called meetings may be opened in any Lodge in order to comply with the examination and proficiency requirements of Art. 436, Art. 437, and Art. 439. At a called meeting, only Master Masons shall be entitled to vote. (Revised 2007)

Art. 333. Order of Business. At stated meetings after opening of the Lodge in due and ancient form, a quorum being present, the Order of Business, unless otherwise ordered by the Lodge or the Worshipful Master, shall be as follows:

1. Reading, correcting and approval of Minutes of previous meetings.
2. Receiving and referring to Committees of Petitions and Applications.
3. Reports of Special Committees.
4. Balloting on Petitions and Applications.

5. Reports of Standing Committees.
6. Communications from the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. Motions, Resolutions and New Business.
9. Examinations for Proficiency in the proper degree.
10. Voting on Proficiency.
11. Claims and Accounts.

Each Lodge shall conduct its business as nearly as possible according to the rules of order established in Articles 168 to 176 inclusive of the Laws of this Grand Lodge for the government of the Grand Lodge.

Art. 334. “Committees of the Whole” Prohibited. “Committees of the Whole” are not recognized or permitted in Masonic parliamentary procedure.

Art. 335. Lodge Funds Under Its Control.

A. A Lodge may appropriate its funds for any purposes not inconsistent with the principles and purposes of Masonry, or the Laws of the Grand Lodge.

B. Subject to the provisions of Article 224, Lodges may conduct projects to raise funds for a Lodge’s general fund, charity fund, endowment fund, needy individuals, any recognized Masonic charity or foundation, disaster relief, public schools, educational scholarships or other similar funds. All such funds must be of a noncontroversial, nonsectarian, nonpartisan, patriotic and/or community character.

All fund raising activities are subject to the following restrictions:

1. The project must be approved by the Lodge at a stated meeting.
2. No such project may be held on June 24th, December 27th, during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, or at any time or place prohibited by any law of the land or any Masonic law.
3. All federal, state and local regulations shall be strictly observed and all required permits obtained.
4. No gambling or lottery, except legal charitable raffles conducted in compliance with the laws of the State of Texas, shall be conducted. (Revised 2003)
5. No alcoholic beverages shall be distributed, sold, purchased, possessed or consumed during a fund raising project on Lodge property.
6. No Masonic apron or regalia shall be worn.
7. The entire project shall be conducted in strict accordance with Masonic tradition, custom and dignity.
8. Masonic Lodgerooms shall not be used for fund raising activities.

(Revised 2000)

Art. 336. Reconsideration of Matters. No order made, resolution adopted, or other vote on any business matters shall be reconsidered except at the same or next stated meeting of the Lodge, nor unless an equal or greater number of members are present than were present when the action was taken, provided, that this regulation shall not prevent consideration of motions to amend, revoke or rescind, at any subsequent stated meeting thereafter, and action may be taken thereon by a majority vote of the members present.

Art. 337. **Minutes of Lodge.** The minutes of the Lodge shall be transcribed for permanent record in a well bound book or in loose leaf form included in a substantial binder with secure locking devices. They shall conform as far as practicable to the official forms prescribed; and shall contain all the data set forth herein, and an accurate, concise statement of all business transacted and all other matters transpiring at the meeting and shall be approved at a stated meeting and signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary in person at that meeting. Names of the officers filling the several offices as in said forms provided shall be given, and the number of members and visitors present, the names of whom shall appear in the register as provided in Art. 378.

Art. 338. **Inspection of Minutes: By Whom.** The minutes of the Lodge are the private records of the Lodge and no copy of same or any part thereof, shall be made or used for other than Masonic purposes. They shall be securely kept and preserved by the Secretary, and shall be open for inspection at reasonable times by the officers and other members of the Lodge, or by such other Masons as have an appropriate reason therefor, but not under any circumstances by those who are not Masons. (Corrected 2005)

Art. 338a. **Summary of Minutes Permitted.** For purposes of providing accurate historical and genealogical information concerning the Lodge and its members, a summary of the minutes and records of the Lodge may be prepared and published in a form and manner that would not bring discredit on the Masonic Fraternity and the Lodge or any of its members, past or present. If the summary is sponsored by the Lodge, it must be presented to, and approved by, the members of the Lodge prior to publication.

Sources of Lodge information include, but are not limited to, Lodge minutes, Annual Returns to Grand Lodge, Masonic records of individual Masons, membership files, general Lodge documents, records and files, and Lodge correspondence. Additional sources of information include Grand Lodge Proceedings, Minutes of the Grand Lodge, and Lodge records in the Archives of the Grand Lodge.

In preparation of the summary, the Lodge is to strictly conform to the applicable provisions of Art. 506; Art. 405a; Art. 421; Art. 427; Art. 594; Art. 602; and Art. 605. Further, the summary cannot contain any libelous matter which would include the following: (a) blackening the memory of the dead; (b) injuring a living person's reputation and exposing the person to public hatred, contempt, ridicule or financial injury; (c) impeaching any person's honesty,

integrity, virtue or reputation; or (d) publishing a person's natural defects so as to expose that person to public hatred, ridicule, or financial injury. The summary may include, but is not limited to, the following listings:

1. Members of the Lodge;
2. Past Masters and Affiliated Past Masters;
3. Officers of the Lodge;
4. Changes in Membership for any reported year including names of Members:
 - a. Raised;
 - b. Affiliated;
 - c. Reinstated;
 - d. Demitted

In addition, the summary may include awards presented to Lodge Members, obituaries of deceased Members, recognition of Members for past historic, patriotic or community services provided, or awards given, as reflected in the minutes of the Lodge.

(Revised 2003)

Art. 339. Lodge Shall Not Sponsor Other Organizations.

No lodge shall stand as sponsor for any other organization, even though such organization be composed exclusively of Master Masons or of the wives, sisters, sons or daughters of Master Masons. Provided that this article shall not apply to the Chapters of the Order of DeMolay for Boys and Assemblies of the Order of Rainbow for Girls. (Revised 2007)

Art. 339a. Formation of Texas Non-Profit Corporations. A Lodge may authorize by a vote of a majority of those of its members present at a Stated meeting, the formation by members of a Texas non-profit corporation for the purpose of establishing (including the acquisition of such real property and personal property from the Lodge and such other persons or entities as will be necessary from time to time), supporting and maintaining a museum and library to preserve the Masonic history and knowledge of its Lodge and other Masonic Lodges and bodies in the surrounding area, for historical research in Masonic history in such area, preservation of the archives of that Lodge and other Masonic Lodges and other Masonic bodies in that area, and provide for a museum to exhibit, display, and interpret Masonic history in that area, and applying to the Internal Revenue for a federal income tax exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) (or other applicable sections) of the Internal Revenue Code for such non-profit corporation and applying to the

State of Texas for exemption from franchise tax, sales tax, or ad valorem taxes or any other applicable federal, state, or local taxes. However, any transfer, sale, or conveyance by that Lodge or any other Masonic Lodge or other Masonic body must be in conformance with the statutes of this Grand Lodge, including, without limitation, Article 340, Permission to Acquire, Sell, or Mortgage Lodge Property: Procedure, and such non-profit corporation at its formation must have a valid, legal and enforceable agreement with the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas that upon the demise of such non-profit corporation that all of its real and personal property shall be transferred to the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas.

Should the Lodge so approve certain of its members forming such non-profit corporation for such purposes, then the members of the Lodge may apply, in writing, to the Grand Lodge, or if during its vacation, the Grand Master, for written consent to form such non-profit corporation which will then apply for federal income tax exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and such application to the Grand Lodge shall be accompanied by a full and complete plan for the establishment, support, and maintenance of the proposed library and museum, including, without limitation, the proposed Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and the application to Internal Revenue Service for its federal income tax exemption and such other documents or information as may be requested. Upon receipt of such application, the Grand Master shall refer such application to the Committee on Civil Law for examination, report or recommendation thereon; such report being made to the Grand Master in vacation or at the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, as the Grand Master may direct.

If such non-profit corporation is formed upon consent being obtained, it shall not be an entity related to that Lodge but shall be a separate corporation of which its members at all times shall be Masons who are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

(Revised 2000)

Art.339b. Formation of Masters, Wardens and Secretaries

Associations. A Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association composed of such officers of constituent Lodges in any Masonic District, with the approval of the Grand Lodge of Texas, may be organized as an unincorporated, nonprofit association under Title 6 of the Texas Business Organization Code for such purposes as

the Grand Lodge of Texas may approve. Each such Association must each submit its request for approval to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, who shall forward the request to the Grand Master. Each such organization shall comply with all statutes of The Grand Lodge of Texas that apply to the Lodges, including those, that related to conducting audits and filing audit reports with the Grand Lodge of Texas, fundraising statutes, the filing of all appropriate federal or state tax returns, if required, as well as the compliance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Each Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association shall adopt and file with the Grand Secretary By-Laws Form 23a, which may be amended from time to time as provided therein, which by-laws and subsequent amendments thereto shall be approved by the Grand Lodge before they are effective. No such organization shall be authorized to acquire or otherwise have an ownership interest in any Lodge property or other real estate.

Once a Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association has been approved by the Grand Lodge of Texas, it shall be included as an “Other Organization” for the purpose of Art. 225 as though specifically set out therein. (Adopted 2012)

Art. 340. Permission to Acquire, Sell or Mortgage Lodge Personal Property or Real Estate

A. (1) No Lodge shall acquire any real property or any interest therein by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise without first obtaining the written consent of this Grand Lodge, or if during its vacation, the consent of the Grand Master; provided, that in granting such consent same shall be done by the Grand Master by endorsing his written consent on the deed or other instrument capable of being recorded in the public records. Neither the Grand Lodge nor the Grand Master shall incur or assume any liability by reason of such consent. The provisions of this Article shall apply to all Lodges on equal terms, whether acting directly or indirectly.

(2) When written application is made to the Grand Master by any Lodge for consent to acquire, receive, or accept title to real property or any interest therein, as set out above, it shall be the duty of the Lodge to furnish a full detailed description of the subject real property or any interest therein and details of process that the Lodge is using to acquire said property, as may be required by the Grand Master, who, upon receipt of such application, shall refer the matter to the Committee on Civil Law for examination, report and recommendation thereon either to him or Grand Lodge as he may direct.

The Grand Master shall then appoint a member of Civil Law to contact the Lodge attempting to acquire or sell property within (5) five days and communicate **to** the Lodge the requirements of Grand Lodge as to the proper actions to be taken and documentation that the Grand Lodge will require. The Committee on Civil Law may make such inquiries for information or request for documents or documentation, as may assist such Committee in its examination, report and recommendation. In all such applications to acquire, receive or accept title to any real property and any interest therein by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise, a letter of support or other recommendation from the District Deputy Grand Master appointed for the benefit of the Lodge filing such application shall be included with such application.

The Lodge shall complete the required documentation and submit the package to the Committee on Civil Law for its review. Within (15) fifteen days and no more than (20) twenty days after submission, the Committee on Civil Law shall contact the Lodge's representative before the next stated meeting so the representative can discuss the proposal with the members of the Lodge.

The Lodge shall review the recommendations received from the Committee on Civil Law and make amendments to the paperwork for the Committee on Civil Law to review and, within (15) fifteen days after receiving same, the Committee on Civil Law shall then identify any additional items not in compliance with the requirement of Grand Lodge so that the Lodge can make final corrections to facilitate the Lodge's closing of the subject transaction as soon as possible after its second stated meeting.

The time frame may be extended by mutual agreement between the Committee on Civil Law and the Lodge that is attempting to acquire or sell the property.

(3) Any Lodge which shall acquire real property or any interest therein without first obtaining consent as required herein shall be guilty of a Masonic disciplinary violation and subject to arrest and forfeiture of its Charter or such other penalty as Grand Lodge shall inflict.

B. (1) No Lodge shall sell any of its real property or interest therein, or create any indebtedness and secure such indebtedness by lien or mortgage on any of its property, whether real or personal property, or any interest therein, or create any indebtedness of any kind or character, secured or unsecured, except for the current operating expenses of the Lodge, without first obtaining the written consent of the Grand Master; provided, in granting

such consent to the mortgage, lien or other written instrument in such manner, that neither Grand Lodge nor the Grand Master shall incur or assume any liability by reason of such consent. The provisions of the Article shall apply to all Lodges on equal terms, whether acting directly or indirectly.

(2) Permission may be granted to a Lodge under dispensation to purchase property for Lodge purposes for cash; but said Lodge shall not borrow any money or create or assume any debt (secured or unsecured) in connection with such purposes.

(3) Title to real estate or personal property should be taken and held in the name of the Lodge. See Article 28 of these Laws.

C. The Committee on Civil Law may, from time to time, prepare and forward to the regular Lodges and other entities under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, such guidance, suggested forms, and other documentation and information as may be useful in the preparation of an application to acquire or dispose of real or personal property or any interest therein by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise, as considered by this Article. (Revised 2014)

Art. 341. Permission to Sell or Mortgage Lodge Property: Procedure. When an application is made to the Grand Master by any Lodge for consent to incur an indebtedness and secure the same by mortgage or deed of trust for the purpose of constructing a building or improving its property; or to create any indebtedness for any purpose other than the current operating expenses of the Lodge, secured or unsecured, it shall be the duty of the Lodge to furnish full detailed description of the plans and purposes for which said indebtedness shall be incurred. Said Lodge shall also furnish the Grand Master with the plan of financing and payment of such indebtedness and/or payment of such building or improvement. The Grand Master, upon receipt of any such application, may refer the question to the Committee on Civil Law for examination, report and recommendation thereon; said report may be made to the Grand Master in vacation or at the next Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge as the Grand Master may direct.

Art. 342. Permission to Sell or Mortgage Lodge Property: Penalty for Acting Without Consent. Any Lodge which may sell its Lodge Hall or real property and/or create any lien on its property; or create any indebtedness for any purpose other than the current operating expenses of the Lodge, secured or unsecured, without first obtaining the consent thereto of the Grand Lodge, or if in vacation, the consent of the

Grand Master thereto, shall be guilty of a Masonic disciplinary violation and be subject to the arrest and forfeiture of its Charter, or such other penalty as the Grand Lodge may inflict.

Art. 342a. Permission to Bring Court Action Required. No civil or criminal action shall be brought in any court by any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction without first obtaining the permission of this Grand Lodge or during its vacation the permission of the Grand Master.

Art. 342b. (New). Texas Public Schools Week. Every officer and member of every Lodge in the state shall take an active part to the greatest extent possible in the annual observance of Public Schools Week in the community.

1. All Lodges shall observe Public Schools Week during the period established by the Governor of the State of Texas or by the State Board of Public Education as Public Schools Week.

2. All activities of Lodges normally conducted at stated and/or called meetings shall be permitted, including visits of District Deputy Grand Masters to Lodges, and official visits of the representatives of all organizations that are authorized and permitted to use Lodgerooms as listed in Article 225 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

3. All Lodges shall make every reasonable effort to promote Public Schools Week to the greatest extent possible, and encourage every member and all Masons to attend a public school during the week of public schools observance.

(Adopted 2000)

TITLE III MEMBERSHIP

NOTE: The use of the expression "plural member" as synonymous with "resident member" is discarded; and "plural membership" is used to denote membership in more than one Lodge as distinguished from "single membership" denoting membership in only one Lodge. The two characters of membership are denoted "parent" and "plural" and the respective Lodges as "parent Lodge" and "plural Lodge."

CHAPTER 1 - TITLE III MEMBERS OF LODGES

Art. 343. (380). Regulations to Enforce Attendance. Lodges are authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary to enforce the attendance of their members.

Art. 344. (381). Status of E.As and F.Cs Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are Masons but they are not members of the Lodge and cannot vote or dimit, but shall be entitled to Masonic burial subject to the provisions of Art. 360. They are entitled to sit in the Lodge or Lodges in which they have received a degree or degrees, or to visit like Lodges upon examination or proper avouchment. (See Art. 60.) Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts may attend Masonic funerals and appear in public wearing aprons of their respective degrees, provided the Lodge has dispensation to appear in public, and they do not participate in any of the ceremonies. (Revised 1998)

Art. 345. (382). Master's Degree Conferred Illegally. When a Mason receives the third degree in a regular Lodge which has no legal jurisdiction he, nevertheless, becomes a member thereof; such Lodge being amenable for the irregularity.

Art. 346. (382a). Twenty-Five Year Emblem. Any Lodge in this jurisdiction may present an emblem conforming to the design on file in the Grand Secretary's office to any of its members who has for a total of 25 years been a member in good standing in one or more Lodges: provided that no Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be awarded more than one such emblem. To such general design any Lodge, at its option, may add name and number, or either, of such Lodge. All such awards shall be reported by the Secretary of the Lodge in his Annual Report to the Grand Secretary.

Article 346a. (New) Forty-Year Emblem. Any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may present an emblem, conforming to the design provided by the Grand Secretary's office, to any of its members who has, for a total of forty (40) years, been a member in good standing in one or more Lodges provided that any such presentation will be subject to the same requirements and procedures as those specified in Article 346 hereinabove. (Adopted 1999)

CHAPTER 2 - TITLE III PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

Art. 347. (383). Membership Permitted in Multiple Lodges. A Master Mason of this Grand Jurisdiction may be a member of

more than one Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction at the same time. He may, while holding his membership in his parent Lodge, and without dimitting therefrom, petition to another Lodge or Lodges for affiliation; and, if elected, hold plural membership in such Lodge or Lodges. The words "parent Lodge" shall be construed to mean the Lodge in which a member holds his membership at the time he applies to another Lodge for plural membership.

Art. 348. (384). **In Two Grand Jurisdictions.** A Master Mason, who is a member of a Lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal relations and which said Grand Jurisdiction permits dual or plural membership, and which permits its members to hold such a membership in another jurisdiction, shall be eligible to petition for, and if elected, to hold a plural membership in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction by affiliation; provided, that such a petition be accompanied by a certificate of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Jurisdiction of his parent Lodge, showing that he is privileged to apply for such plural membership. In case the petitioner cannot secure such certificate, then he must furnish to the Grand Master of this Jurisdiction satisfactory evidence of his right to make such petition and obtain his permission to make it, before a Lodge may vote on same.

Art. 349. (385, 390). **Procedure.** The petition for affiliation as a plural member in a Lodge must state the name, age, and residence of the applicant, and the name and number and location of the parent Lodge of which said petitioner is a member; Petition must be signed by the petitioner and be recommended by two Master Masons, members of the Lodge to which the petition is addressed, and shall be governed by the same procedure relating to regular petitions for affiliation.

No affiliation fee shall be charged the plural member, but he must pay the regular dues.

Art. 350. (386). **Record and Reports of Secretary.** It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge, upon the election of a Brother to plural membership, to promptly report the fact to the Lodge in which he maintains his parent membership and to the Grand Secretary. The Secretary of the Lodge having plural or parent members, shall keep a record of all such members, and shall

make annual report to the Grand Secretary, listing the names of all such members, together with the name of the parent or plural Lodge and Grand Jurisdiction thereof. Such plural member shall be counted by the Lodge in which he holds such membership only for the purpose of fixing and paying to this Grand Lodge such dues or contributions as it may be entitled to. Provided, that if the parent membership is in a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, then he shall be counted for all purposes by the Lodge in which he holds his plural membership.

Art. 351. (387). Effects of Suspension or Expulsion in One Lodge.

A. When a Brother who holds membership in any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, is suspended or expelled for any reason from any Lodge, he is automatically suspended or expelled from all other Lodges in which he might hold membership, without further action than noting the fact in the minutes. The Secretary of the Lodge inflicting such penalty shall immediately report the fact to the other Lodge or Lodges and to this Grand Lodge.

B. When a Brother who holds his parent or plural membership in another Grand Jurisdiction and his other membership in this Jurisdiction is suspended or expelled in this Jurisdiction, such fact shall be immediately reported to the Secretary of his Lodge in the other Jurisdiction. (For Suspension or Expulsion for other than non-payment of dues in another Grand Jurisdiction see Art. 641).

Art. 352. (388). Reinstatement in One Lodge: Effect. Any Brother holding plural membership in Lodges in this Jurisdiction, who has been suspended or expelled for any cause by one of his Lodges, shall, upon reinstatement therein, be automatically reinstated in his other Lodge or Lodges, unless a protest is filed by a member of that Lodge with the Worshipful Master. Where the suspension or expulsion is for non-payment of dues, a protest is not allowed. Under this Article and Art. 627, a protest has the effect of three blackballs. (Revised 1994)

Art. 353. (389). All Lodges Must Pay Grand Lodge Dues. All of the Lodges to which a plural member belongs, if located in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall pay to the Grand Lodge such per capita

tax, dues or contributions on such member as are now or shall hereafter be required by The Grand Lodge from its regular members, provided that no Lodge shall be liable for such dues or contributions on Brethren who are residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center or who are Fifty Year Masonic Service Awardees and who are plural members, as provided in Article 316.

Art. 354. (391). **Rights of Plural Members.** A member holding plural membership in a Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall have all the rights and privileges therein of other members and shall be eligible to hold office therein, as provided in Art. 266.

Art. 355. (392). **Withdrawal: Transfer of Membership: Dimit.** Except as provided in Art. 294, a plural member desiring to withdraw from any of his Lodges shall file a written petition (Form 40) therefor with the Secretary, which shall be read at the next stated meeting and automatically granted (Form 41) if his dues are paid and no charges are pending against him. The Secretary shall promptly report the withdrawal to the Secretary of the parent Lodge and to the Grand Secretary. (Revised 1997)

If he desires to affiliate with another Lodge he may do so under the procedure of petition for affiliation and Certificate of Good Standing as prescribed in Art. 392.

If he desires to become an unaffiliated Mason he must first withdraw from his plural Lodges and then apply for a dimit from his parent Lodge.

Art. 356. (393). **Rejection of Petitioner for Plural Membership.** In the event the petition for plural membership in a Lodge in this Jurisdiction is rejected, the Lodge does not retain any jurisdiction of the applicant thereby, as is provided in the case of original applicants for Masonry, so as to require a waiver of jurisdiction by such Lodge should application be made thereafter to another Lodge for such membership.

Art. 357. (394). **Requirements as to Domicile.** The requirements as to domicile of original applicants for the degrees shall not apply to applicants for plural membership.

Art. 358. (395). **Plural Membership in Another Grand Jurisdiction.** Any Brother holding his parent membership in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction is privileged to petition a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction for plural membership therein, if such membership is authorized by the laws of such Jurisdiction.

(Revised 2012)

CHAPTER 3 – TITLE III MASONIC FUNERALS

Art. 359. (396). **To Whom Extended.** Burial with Masonic ceremonies is a privilege which pertains to all Masons, including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons, by virtue of their membership. It may be extended to worthy non-affiliated Masons if the Master of the Lodge so determines. It shall be the duty of each Lodge except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, to conduct the funeral ceremonies, in accordance with Masonic customs and usages, in all cases where it was the expressed wish of a member in good standing and is concurred in by his near relatives. In the absence of such expressed wish, the ceremonies shall be performed over the remains of such deceased member when requested by his near relatives after his death.

Upon request it may be extended at the discretion of the Master of the Lodge to worthy non-affiliated Masons if he so determines, and to worthy suspended Masons who have been suspended for non-payment of Lodge dues.

Art. 359a. **Grand Lodge Funerals.** The provisions of the official Manual of the Lodge and of official Laws, resolutions and forms of Grand Lodge concerning burial services and/or funerals shall apply only to funerals conducted under the auspices of a subordinate Lodge and not to funerals conducted under the auspices of Grand Lodge. When a funeral is conducted under the auspices of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, or his official representative conducting the funeral, shall have the right, if he wishes, to conduct the particular funeral in accordance with the wishes of the decedent or members of his family.

This Grand Lodge may only officiate at the funeral services of the following: (1) Past or present elected Grand Lodge Officers, and (2) Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, and members of the Committee on Work who die while serving in office. (Revised 1995)

Grand Lodge may officiate also at the funeral services of a Mason in good standing who has heretofore been elected to any other office in this Grand Lodge.

Art. 360. (397, 401). To Whom Not Extended. Whenever a member of a Lodge commits a Masonic disciplinary violation, or is laboring under charges involving un-Masonic conduct and dies before such charges have been filed or disposed of according to Masonic Law; or in case any member suffers death under circumstances that are discreditable; or that may subject his memory to reproach, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge may refuse to allow him a Masonic funeral.

No expelled Mason shall be accorded a Masonic funeral, and no suspended Mason shall be accorded a Masonic funeral except as otherwise provided in these Laws, but no Mason who stands suspended for nonpayment of dues at the time of his death can be restored to membership thereafter by payment, or remission, of such dues.

When a suspended or expelled Mason has been reinstated in a Lodge, subject to approval of the Grand Lodge, and dies before the Grand Lodge has acted, the Grand Master has the discretion to grant a dispensation for a Masonic funeral. No dispensation may be granted where there has been no reinstatement.

The privilege of a Masonic funeral, when requested, shall be extended to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who die within twelve months of the conferral of the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Degree upon them, or have petitioned and been favorably balloted upon for advancement subject to the other applicable provisions of this Article.

Art. 361. (398). Who May Conduct Ceremonies. The Worshipful Master, or a Warden in his absence (or a competent Brother called by him to officiate for the time being), shall conduct the funeral ceremonies, during which, the Lodge shall be called off. Upon the conclusion of the ceremonies the members shall return to the Lodge room and the Lodge shall be called on and closed. Only Master Masons may participate in the ceremo-

nies. Provided that constituent Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas may open a Lodge of Sorrow and that it be called from labor for the purpose of conducting Masonic funerals and that the Lodge of Sorrow when once opened and called off can remain in force throughout the term of the Worshipful Master for that Masonic year, and toward the end of that period, the Lodge of Sorrow shall be called to labor and the list of funerals conducted be read and entered on the minutes of that date and a suitable memorial to each deceased Brother be given, if desired, and the Lodge of Sorrow be then closed. Another Lodge of Sorrow may be opened for the next Masonic year and called off and allowed to remain in force until the close of the term of the Worshipful Master for such new Masonic year.

Art. 362. Regarding Ceremony and Processions. When a religious ceremony is conducted over the remains, either at the house or church, the Lodge shall not take charge until after the duties of the minister have been concluded. After the Lodge takes charge of the remains of the deceased Brother, it shall have entire control of the funeral ceremonies and procession until the rites are completed and the body is laid to rest, except a minister may be permitted to offer a prayer or prayers during or at the conclusion of the Masonic Ceremony. The active pallbearers should be Master Masons, when available, provided, however; if the family of the deceased Brother requests other than Masonic pallbearers, such request may be honored. When Masons and non-Masons are pall-bearers, Masons may be clothed as Masons. If societies composed solely of Masons be invited to take part in the procession, they shall serve as an escort to the Lodge and shall precede the Lodge. Societies and civic organizations not composed entirely of Masons shall follow the family and relatives in the line.

While it is necessary that a Lodge have charge of a funeral procession and ceremony, it must be recognized that the needs and desires of the family must be the paramount consideration. Therefore, the Master of the Lodge may, at his discretion, allow deviations so long as the image and dignity of Masonry is maintained. (Revised 2007)

Art. 363. (400). In Open Air: On Sundays: Other Days. In conducting funeral ceremonies in the open air, no rule of Masonic

propriety requires of the members the uncovering of the head, except when the Name or Blessings of Deity are invoked. It is permissible for a Lodge to open and conduct funeral ceremonies on Sunday, or on any other day.

Art. 364. (399a). When Body Cremated.

Section 1. In the event the body of a Brother is cremated, and a Masonic Funeral is requested, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge shall have the right to use such parts of the Funeral Services formulated by Grand Lodge as may be appropriate to the occasion, he being authorized to make such minor changes in the ritual service as may be appropriate to fit the particular occasion, and that portion of Art. 362 which recites that the Lodge shall have entire control until the rites are completed "and the body is laid to rest," which applies to the regular interment of the body in the earth, may, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, be relaxed to conform to the character of service desired.

Section 2. In the event the family desires a Masonic memorial service with or without the presence of the body, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, shall have the right to use such parts of the Funeral Service formulated by the Grand Lodge and make such changes in the ritual service as may be appropriate to fit the particular occasion performing such ceremony either during the day or evening hours at the Lodge, home, funeral chapel or the church (if such is agreeable with the minister of such church).

Art. 365. (399b). Death in Armed Services. In the event the body of a Brother, who dies while in the services of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall have been interred in a place other than his home, or final resting place in the United States, and the body is returned to his home, or final resting place in

the United States, in the event no Masonic Funeral Service has been performed, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge may, at his discretion, upon request, grant such request, and perform such service.

Art. 366. (402). Funeral in Jurisdiction of Another Lodge. For the purpose of conducting funeral ceremonies, a Lodge, being first opened in its own Lodgeroom may enter the territorial jurisdiction of another Lodge and perform such ceremonies.

Art. 367. (403). Deleted 1995.

CHAPTER 4 – TITLE III DIMIT

Art. 368. (404, 408). Definition and Effect. A dimit is the withdrawal of a Master Mason from membership in a Lodge, thereby becoming an unaffiliated Mason. The payment of his dues and the vote of the Lodge thereon, or the regulation provided in Art. 369, are the acts which dissolve his connection with the Lodge. The certificate issued thereon is only the evidence of dimission. A dimit is not granted one holding plural membership upon withdrawing from only one of his Lodges. (See Art. 417 for who may vote on application; and Art. 355 regarding plural membership.)

Art. 369. (405). Procedure. The right of a member, clear on the books as to dues and no charges pending against him, to withdraw from membership in a Lodge thereby becoming an unaffiliated Mason is inalienable. In such a case, the member may present his application to the Lodge in writing, requesting a dimit. If all dues have been paid to the date of his application and no charges are pending against him, the Lodge may grant the dimit at once by unanimous favorable vote, which in the discretion of the Master in each case may be taken either by ballot or by show of hands. The action shall be entered in the minutes of the Lodge and his membership shall terminate when the result of the vote is announced. It shall be the duty of the Secretary thereupon to issue to said applicant a Certificate of Dimission. If the vote is not unanimous, the application shall

lay over until the next stated meeting of said Lodge, and, if no charges have been preferred the dimit is automatically granted upon convening of the Lodge, and the Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary to issue the Certificate of Dimission, notwithstanding the previous vote thereon, and to cause an order to be entered in the minutes granting said dimit, by operation of law.

Art. 370. (406). **Charges Pending: Not Granted.** A dimit shall not be granted to a member when charges are pending against him, until such charges have been finally disposed of by dismissal, trial, appeal or otherwise, and if such member is then eligible for such dimit.

Art. 371. (407). **Officer Can Not Dimit.** An officer of a Lodge, either elective or appointive, after installation, cannot dimit until his successor is installed.

Art. 372. (409). **Certificate of Dimission.** When a dimit is granted the Secretary shall issue and deliver to the brother a Certificate of Dimission. When the certificate is lost or destroyed the brother may obtain a duplicate by filing a written application with the Secretary of the granting Lodge, stating the fact of its loss or destruction and that it had never been deposited with any other Lodge. No action of the Lodge is necessary in such case, but the fact should be reported to the Lodge and noted in the minutes.

Art. 373. (410). **Non-Affiliates: Privileges Allowed and Denied.** An unaffiliated Mason, holding a dimit or its equivalent granted by a regular Lodge or the authorized Grand Secretary of this or any other Grand Jurisdiction with which we are in fraternal relations, may:

1. Visit a Lodge as provided in Art. 382.
2. Sign a petition for a new Lodge Under Dispensation (Art. 184), or for a new chartered Lodge (Art. 205) or affiliate with any Lodge in this State; provided that such unaffiliate, in any case, is domiciled in this Grand Jurisdiction.
3. March in a Funeral or other Masonic Procession or appear Masonically clothed at a Masonic funeral, when properly accredited and permitted by the Worshipful Master, upon satisfactorily accounting for his non-affiliation.

He shall not:

1. Preside over or fill any station or place in any Lodge.
 2. Confer, or otherwise participate in conferring any degree.
 3. Vote by ballot or otherwise on any matter coming before any Lodge, or lodge any protest whatever.
 4. Address the Lodge or speak upon any matter before it, unless invited thereto by the Master presiding.
 5. Participate in any official capacity, or in any organization or body whose membership is limited to Master Masons.
- Unaffiliated Masons are amenable to Masonic Law and subject to Masonic discipline. (See Art. 495.)

CHAPTER 5- TITLE III WIDOWS AND ORPHAN'S CERTIFICATE

Art. 374. (411). **Widow and Orphans.** On the death of an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason, in good standing and pursuant to Article 359 and 360, the Lodge may furnish his widow and orphans with a certificate of his good standing. (Revised 1990)

Art. 375. (412). **Widow with Other Masonic Affiliation.** A widow whose father or brother is a Master Mason, but whose deceased husband was a non-Mason, is entitled to Masonic recognition as the daughter or sister of a Master Mason. (Revised 1990)

Art. 376. (New). **Remarriage.** Upon remarriage to a non-Mason, the widow of a Mason loses her status as such, and any certificate theretofore issued to her is invalidated. Such remarriage does not affect the Masonic obligation to orphaned children of a deceased Mason. (Revised, 1990)

Art. 377. (413). **Legally adopted child.** A legally adopted child of a deceased Mason is entitled to the same benefits as the natural child of a deceased Mason. (Revised 1990)

CHAPTER 6- TITLE III VISITORS

Art. 378. (414). **Register.** A book shall be kept in each Lodge in which each member and visitor shall register his name, the

name and location of his Lodge, and the jurisdiction thereof, whenever he attends any meeting therein.

Art. 379. (415). **Masons of Other Grand Jurisdictions.** A Master Mason, in good standing, a member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of any grand Lodge or other Grand Body which is in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, may be admitted as a visitor, subject to the provision of Art. 383.

Art. 380. (416). **Good Standing.** Upon notification to the Worshipful Master, and at his discretion, a member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge may visit any Texas Masonic Lodge working under this jurisdiction without the avouchment and or examination process providing that he is in good standing and presents a receipt from his Lodge showing that his dues are current at the time of said visitation along with a photo identification; except in cases provided for in Art. 382. Sojourning Masons from other jurisdictions must possess a current dues card and shall be vouched for or examined in accordance with Art. 381. (Revised 1999)

Art. 381. **Avouchment and Examination.** One Mason cannot vouch for another unless he has sat in open Lodge with him, and can so state, or was a member of a Committee appointed to examine such Brother in a Lodge. A Brother cannot vouch for another upon the request of another Brother who has sat in a Lodge with the visitor but was unable to be present at the meeting; nor can it be done upon any private examination apart from the Lodge. Provided, that the Worshipful Master may appoint an examining Committee, prior to the opening of the Lodge to examine and report upon any applying visitor. (Revised 2008)

Art. 382. (418). **Non-Affiliates.** A non-affiliated Mason may not visit any Lodge in this jurisdiction more than three times unless he shall petition a Lodge for membership. If his petition is rejected he may be allowed to visit Lodges for one year thereafter, when he should again petition.

Art. 383. (419). **Visitors Excluded: When.** A visitor, who is not a member in good standing of a Lodge working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, may be excluded on the objection of a member of the Lodge at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. When three members make the objection, such visitor must be excluded.

Like objection may be made to a member of a Lodge working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas only if such member is under charges preferred against him.

CHAPTER 7- TITLE III AFFILIATION

Art. 384. (420). **Affiliation: Where and by Whom.** Any Mason holding a Certificate of Dimission from a Lodge under this jurisdiction or under a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge at the time such certificate is issued, or a certificate of good standing as provided in Art. 392, when duly vouched for by a member of a Lodge under this jurisdiction, may petition for and, if elected, become affiliated with any Lodge in this jurisdiction, regardless of his domicile in this jurisdiction. The minimum age for affiliation shall be same as that for the degrees as set forth in Art. 393.

Art. 385. (421, 422). **Requisites of Petition.** The petition for affiliation must be in writing and signed by the petitioner personally; be recommended by two members of the Lodge petitioned; and be presented at a stated meeting.

It must state the name, age, date and place of birth, and domicile of the petitioner, and must be accompanied by his Certificate of Dimission from the Lodge of which he was last a member, or a certificate of good standing as provided for in Art. 392 or satisfactory reasons shown for the absence of either of such certificates. A certificate of life membership in a Lodge of another recognized jurisdiction will be accorded the same effect as a Certificate of Dimission, when accompanied by a certificate of present good standing in the Lodge which issued such life certificate.

Art. 386. (423). **Committee of Inquiry.** A petition for affiliation or advancement may be referred to a committee or voted upon at a stated meeting where petition is read. The petition will be referred to committee if any member makes a verbal request for such action. If no request is made and all requirements are met, a vote will be held at the time of original reading. This vote may be held by voting box or show of hands at the discretion of the Lodge. If referred to committee, the committee shall consist of three members who will make inquiry and report thereon, which report shall be made at a subsequent stated meeting; but no ballot shall be taken thereon in less than one month from date of presentation of petition to committee.

(Revised 2004)

Art. 387. (424). **Ballot.** If a petition for affiliation or advancement is referred to a committee of inquiry, as provided in Article

386, the ballot shall be taken after the report of the committee is made. If the petitioner is elected, his certificate of dimission, or his certificate of good standing, as the case may be, shall be filed by the Secretary and no fee shall be charged for his affiliation. If the petition is rejected, the certificate of dimission shall be returned to the petitioner. The certificate of good standing shall be returned to the issuing Lodge as provided in Article 392. (Revised 2004)

Art. 388. (425). **Who May Vote.** Only members of the Lodge petitioned may vote on a petition for affiliation.

Art. 389. **Protest Not Allowed.** A petition for affiliation can be rejected only if more than 3 of the members present cast black balls. If 3 or less black balls are cast, the petitioner shall be elected. A protest against affiliation shall not be entertained. If more than 3 black balls are cast, the petitioner shall be rejected, but for no definite period. He may present a new petition at any time.

Art. 390. (427). **Effect of Rejection.** When a petition for affiliation has been rejected by a Lodge in this jurisdiction, as provided in Article 389, it will not prejudice the right of the petitioner to petition another Lodge having jurisdiction.

Art. 391. (428). **Members of Demised Lodge.** Any member in good standing at the time of the demise of his Lodge, after obtaining a certificate to that effect from the Grand Secretary may, upon election, affiliate with any other Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, regardless of his place of domicile therein. If he desires to become an un-affiliated Mason he may obtain a Certificate of Dimission from the Grand Secretary.

Art. 392. (429). **Certificate of Good Standing.** A member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction may apply to his Parent Lodge for a certificate of Good Standing, to be used for any of the following purposes:

- 1) To transfer his membership to another Lodge;
- 2) To apply for plural membership in another Lodge or Lodges;
- 3) To sign a petition for a new Lodge.

When an Application for a Certificate of Good Standing is received by the Lodge, and dues have been paid for the Masonic year of the application, and no charges are pending against the applicant, the Secretary of the Lodge may provide a Certificate of Good Standing without further action. This action shall be reported to the Lodge at the next stated meeting, and recorded in the minutes. (Adopted 1992)

When such application is presented to the Lodge, it may grant the application at once by a unanimous favorable vote of the

members of the Lodge present, either by ballot or show of hands, at the discretion of the Master presiding. The result of the vote shall be recorded in the minutes. If the vote is not unanimous, the application shall lie over until the next stated meeting and if no charges are preferred, the Master presiding shall cause an order to be entered in the minutes directing the Secretary to issue the Certificate. The Certificate shall be issued forthwith by the Secretary and delivered to the applicant. (Revised 1992)

If the application is for transfer of Lodge membership or for plural membership in another Lodge, it shall give the number, name and location of the Lodge to which such transfer or in which such plural membership is desired; and the Certificate shall be addressed to such Lodge. If the application is for the purpose of signing a petition for a new Lodge, it shall be addressed to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge, as the case may be.

The Certificate may be attached to a regular petition for affiliation in the Lodge to which it is addressed; and shall take the regular course prescribed for such petitions. If the petitioner is elected he automatically becomes a member of the Lodge petitioned, and the Secretary shall promptly and without delay, notify the Secretary of the issuing Lodge and the Grand Secretary of such election and affiliation. If the petition is for transfer of parent or plural membership, such notice shall also be sent to the Secretary of the other Lodge in which petitioner holds membership.

It shall be the duty of each Secretary receiving such notice to report the fact to his Lodge and enter a record thereof in the minutes; and in case of transfer of membership from such Lodge, to cancel such membership and refund to petitioner any portion of his Lodge dues, pro rata, for the unexpired portion of the period for which he has paid. Membership in the Lodge petitioned and any cancellation of membership in the Lodge issuing the certificate shall each date from the date of election in the Lodge petitioned. If the petition for affiliation is rejected, the Certificate shall be returned by the Secretary of the rejecting Lodge to the Secretary of the issuing Lodge for cancellation, with notation of such rejection thereon, under the seal of the rejecting Lodge.

If the Certificate is attached to a petition for a new Lodge, and the petition is denied, the certificate shall be returned to the issuing Lodge for cancellation. If the petition is granted, notice thereof shall be given to the Secretary of the issuing Lodge and to the Secretary of any other Lodge of which the petitioner is a member.

Every Certificate of Good Standing shall expire on the last day of the period for which dues have been paid in advance, unless, on

or before that date, a petition for affiliation to which it is attached has been filed with the Secretary of the Lodge to which it is addressed; or unless, on or before that date, a petition for a new Lodge to which it is attached has been signed by the holder. The date of expiration shall be stated on the Certificate. In case of expiration, it shall be the duty of the holder to return the Certificate to the Secretary of the issuing Lodge for cancellation.

The privileges and provisions of this article and the procedure thereof in so far as they can be made applicable shall extend to any Master Mason, who is a member in good standing of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction with which the Grand Lodge is in fraternal relations and who desires to affiliate with a Lodge in this jurisdiction. (See Art. 417.)

TITLE IV DEGREES

CHAPTER 1 — TITLE IV CANDIDATES

Art. 393. **Qualifications.** A candidate for the degrees of Masonry must be free-born, sound in mind, of good moral character, a full eighteen years of age on or before the day his petition is received by the Lodge, and without maim or defect which will render him incapable of earning his own living or receiving and imparting, Masonically, all that is required by the ritual of the several degrees: provided that as to physical maims and defects Articles 27 and 401 of these Laws shall be applicable. After the foregoing requirements have been strictly met, the question of the candidate's mental, moral, and such physical qualifications as do not come within the restrictions of Art. 401 is one to be decided within the sound discretion of the members of the Lodge petitioned. (Revised 2014)

Art. 393a. **Solicitation.** This Grand Lodge supports and practices the ancient custom and usage among Masons that a man is required to present himself for the Degrees of Masonry of his own free will and accord. At the same time, it acknowledges to all Masons of its obedience, that it is permissible and proper to extend a neutrally-worded invitation to petition for the Degrees of Masonry to a man whom you have strong reason to believe is of good moral character and reputation, who is otherwise qualified to petition under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. After answering the non-Mason's questions about the Fraternity (those proper to be discussed) and explaining the procedure for petitioning, the potential candidate should be left to make his own decision and to proceed of his own free will. (Adopted 1992)

Art. 394. (431). **Domicile Requirements.** Every candidate for the degrees of Masonry must have been domiciled within this Grand Jurisdiction for six months; and within the jurisdiction of a Lodge for six months before the date of his petition, and be known to at least three members in good standing of a Lodge or Lodges chartered by this Grand Lodge or a Grand Lodge duly recognized by this Grand Lodge, none of whom may be either of the two required recommenders.

(Revised 1995)

Note: In determining the place of a man's domicile for Masonic territorial jurisdictional purposes, the following general rules apply:

1. Domicile means the place of a person's permanent residence; where he has the right to vote, to sit on juries and to exercise other rights and privileges of citizenship.

2. A married man's domicile is usually where his wife resides, but where there is a permanent separation, the husband's domicile is governed by the rules applicable to an unmarried man.

3. When a man (married or single) moves away from his domicile for the purpose of attending school, educating his children, engaging in business or other purpose, but does not intend to abandon his domicile, but intends at some time in the future to return to it and retains his rights of citizenship there, he does not thereby lose such domicile, regardless of the length of his absence therefrom. In like manner, if such person's business takes him from place to place for short or long periods of time, his domicile is not thereby changed.

4. When a person moves away from his domicile for any purpose, with the intention of not returning thereto, he thereby ceases to be domiciled in that place. He may acquire a domicile in his new place of abode by residence there with the intention of making it his domicile, and exercising or acquiring the right to exercise his rights and privileges of citizenship.

5. When a person has never lived in one place long enough to acquire a domicile, but is a transient person, moving from place to place, he cannot lawfully apply to any Lodge in this State for the degrees in Masonry, since no Lodge has territorial jurisdiction over him. The only exception to this rule is that provided in Art. 395.

6. A person domiciled in this State who has never received any degree in Masonry and who has not been domiciled in this State at least six months and in the jurisdiction of a Lodge for the last preceding six months, is ineligible, during any such period, to apply to any Lodge anywhere for the degrees. He is, "Masonically speaking, a Man without a country."

7. Rule 6 and the provisions of this article regarding the length of time one must be domiciled in this State and in the jurisdiction of some Lodge do not apply to an EA or FC seeking advancement. He must, however, be domiciled in this State, unless some Lodge in this State holds personal jurisdiction over him.

Art. 395. (432). **In Armed Services: Countries Without Grand Lodge.** The foregoing requirements regarding domicile do not apply to residents of countries having no Grand Lodge: nor to a person having no domicile, who, at the time his petition is received is on active duty as a soldier, sailor, marine or airman, either commissioned or non-commissioned in the Armed Forces of the United States, and furnishes evidence that he has no domicile, and documentary evidence of such service; all such evidence to be retained by the Lodge with his application.

Art. 396. (433). **Unnaturalized Foreigner.** An unnaturalized foreigner who has permanently resided in this jurisdiction the required length of time and possesses the other necessary qualifications, is eligible to receive the degrees.

Art. 397. (434). **Religious Belief.** A firm belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures is indispensably necessary before a candidate can be initiated, but this Grand Lodge does not presume to prescribe any canonical books or what part thereof are inspired. It is the policy of this Grand Lodge to permit a candidate whose religious persuasion is based upon other than the Holy Bible to be obligated upon the book of his chosen faith, and same may be situated upon the Altar in front of the Holy Bible during the conferral of the three degrees of Masonry. In which event, all esoteric references to "The Holy Bible" during the conferral of the degree(s) and the lessons appropriate thereto shall be substituted with "The Book of your (my) Faith."

(Revised 1995)

Art. 398. (435). **Questions Answered by Candidate.** Before a candidate can be initiated he must answer, in writing, each of the following questions:

1. Do you promise, upon your honor, to strictly adhere to and be governed by the Constitution and Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas and the by-laws of this Lodge?
2. Do you sincerely declare, upon your honor, that, unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself as a candidate for the Mysteries of Masonry?
3. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you are prompted to solicit the privileges of Masonry by a favorable opinion conceived of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere desire to be of greater service to your fellow men?
4. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of Masonry?
5. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you firmly believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the

- soul, and in the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures?
6. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you have never before petitioned any Lodge of Masons for the degrees or any of them?

Art. 399. (436). **Former Petition.** If the candidate should answer that he has heretofore petitioned another Lodge, all action of the Lodge toward conferring a degree shall be suspended until it shall be shown that the candidate is legally entitled to receive the degree. The Lodge receiving the petition shall request full information from the Lodge theretofore petitioned, and the Lodge theretofore petitioned shall furnish under seal of the Lodge all information shown by the records of said Lodge to the Lodge inquiring.

Art. 400. (438). **Suspicion of Former Rejection.** A Lodge having reason to believe or to suspect that a candidate has once been rejected, must not proceed with conferring the degrees until the matter has been thoroughly investigated. If it is discovered that a candidate has a prior rejection from any regular Lodge, and if that Lodge still possesses jurisdiction, all action upon the petition must cease. All fees that have been prepaid shall be refunded, and the facts of the matter shall be disclosed at the next stated meeting and noted in the minutes. (Revised 2012)

Art. 401. (439). **Physical Defects.** When a Lodge discovers that a candidate for the degrees has a physical maim or defect it must, before proceeding further, make a full and complete report thereof to the Grand Master for his decision, and no degree shall be conferred on the candidate until authorized by the Grand Master. In case of maim or defect form No. 27 must be used.

No degree shall be conferred by courtesy upon an applicant from another Grand Jurisdiction when the candidate does not meet the requirements of this Grand Lodge regarding physical maids or defects.

For the advancement of a candidate with physical maim, defect or affliction on which the Grand Master has given a previous favorable ruling, and which has not become aggravated, it is not necessary to obtain another ruling.

Art. 402. (437). **Physical Defects After Receiving a Degree.** Maids received by a Brother after he has received one or more degrees will not prevent him from proceeding further in Masonry provided that he retains other pertinent Masonic qualifications, including the ability to earn his own living, that he continue to

reside in the jurisdiction of his Lodge, and that the Grand Master grant appropriate approval. The Committee on Work may make recommendation as to how to best impart Masonic knowledge to such candidates proceeding in Masonry.

Art. 403. (440). Petition for Degrees: Requisites. A candidate for the degrees must file with the Secretary of the Lodge a petition in writing, which must be presented to the Lodge at a stated meeting only. The petition must state the name of the petitioner in full; his age; date and place of birth; his domicile during the preceding twelve months; and shall contain all other matters required by law and Form No. 26. Said petition shall be signed by the petitioner in person and shall be recommended and the application personally signed by not less than two members of the Lodge.

In the event of death, expulsion or suspension of either or both signers before the petition is received, it will be necessary to obtain other qualified signers.

A certified or photostatic copy of petitioner's birth certificate must accompany the petition, which shall be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge, or withdrawn by petitioner upon substituting a photostatic copy thereof; provided that, upon being furnished with satisfactory documentary evidence, the Grand Master may issue his certificate of approval in lieu of birth certificate, which certificate shall accompany the petition and be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge.

When a petitioner's name has been changed by law or other proper means from that shown in the birth certificate, and a full explanation thereof deemed satisfactory to the Lodge is attached to the birth certificate, the petition may be voted upon if satisfactory in all other respects.

Art. 404. (441). Petition for Degrees: Answers to Questions in Art. 398. The petition for the degrees must contain the questions of Article 398 with the answers of the candidate thereto.

Art. 405. (442) Petition for Degrees: (Withdrawal Permitted Before Ballot.) A petition for the degrees, or any of them is "received" when it is read in open Lodge at a stated meeting upon direction of the Master presiding, usually by the Secretary. If the petition is one that may lawfully be received, it must be referred to an Investigation Committee and follow the procedure hereinafter provided, but may be withdrawn by the petitioner by written request at any time prior to the ballot thereon. Notwithstanding such withdrawal, any subsequent petition for the degrees shall

state that the petitioner has previously petitioned a Lodge for the degrees or any of them. (Revised 2001)

Art. 405a. Publication of Names Prohibited. The names of Petitioners, Candidates, Entered Apprentice Masons and Fellowcraft Masons shall not be published in a Lodge newsletter or any news media public or private. (Adopted 1990)

Art. 406. Unlawful Presentation: Waiver of Jurisdiction. A petition unlawfully presented to a Lodge must be returned to the petitioner. If the Lodge is without territorial or personal jurisdiction over the petitioner, the petition may be withdrawn or the Lodge may apply to the proper Lodge for waiver of jurisdiction under the procedure provided in Article 456.

Art. 407. Referred to Committee. A petition for the degrees shall be presented at a stated meeting and referred by the Master presiding to a committee of three members for investigation and report. A member of this committee may not be a recommender or any Mason listed as a reference on such petition, unless and except no otherwise qualified Brother is available to serve as such. Such report may be made at a subsequent stated meeting; but no ballot shall be taken thereon in less than one lunar month from the date the petition is received, unless dispensation is granted by the Grand Master under Article 414.

The Lodge may grant the committee further time upon request of one of its members; but no recommitment may be made after the committee has reported to the Lodge. (Revised 2008)

Art. 408. No Standing Committee. No standing committee shall be appointed for investigation of candidates petitioning for the degrees.

Art. 409. New Committee: When. When the investigating committee fails to report within two months, it may be discharged, and a new committee appointed, which shall report at a subsequent stated meeting.

Art. 410. Petitioner's Death or Mental Incompetence.

When a candidate dies, or becomes mentally incompetent, before the report of the investigating committee is made, his death or mental incompetence shall be reported to the Lodge and noted in the minutes, the committee discharged, and no further proceedings shall be taken thereon; and all fees paid shall be refunded to the person properly authorized to receipt therefor. (Revised 1992)

Art. 411. Petitioner's Total Disqualification. If the investigating committee finds the candidate totally disqualified for any reason, the facts should be reported to the Lodge, such report entered in the minutes, the fee returned, and no further action taken.

Art. 412. Committee: Duties and Report. The investigation by the committee shall include: the moral character and reputation of the petitioner, facts relating to jurisdiction, physical qualifications, and all other matters the Lodge is called upon to pass in balloting on petitioner. A face-to-face interview between each Investigation Committee member and the petitioner is required on all petitions for the Mysteries and Advancement, except on approval by the Worshipful Master. (Revised 1990)

Before a ballot can be taken a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge; each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28. If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon. (Revised 2003)

Art. 413. Ballot. When the report of the investigating committee has been made, and one lunar month has elapsed since the presentation of said petition, the ballot shall be taken. If found clear, the candidate may be initiated as soon as convenient. As to all petitions requiring ballot by the Lodge, the petitioner shall be notified in writing within fifteen days of such ballot, signed by the Worshipful Master and attested to by the Secretary of the Lodge, as to either his election or his rejection by the Lodge. (Revised 2000)

Art. 414. (451). **Dispensation changing Time Requisites.** In case of extreme emergency the Worshipful Master may apply to the Grand Master for a dispensation to postpone examinations for proficiency, in such cases. In such application the Worshipful Master shall state fully the facts creating such emergency.

CHAPTER 2 – TITLE IV THE BALLOT

Art. 415. (452). **Taken at Stated Meeting: Exception.** All ballots on petitions for the degrees, or any of them; affiliation, reinstatement; on restoration; and all ballots or votes on applications for waiver of jurisdiction; certificates of good standing, dismissals or dimits; shall be taken at stated meetings only, unless a dispensation is issued by the Grand Master.

Art. 416. (452a). **Favorable Ballot: Effect.** One ballot on a petition for the degrees, if favorable, shall elect the petitioner to receive the three degrees of the Lodge. One favorable ballot shall elect an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft to receive the remaining degrees, or degree.

One favorable ballot shall elect an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft of another Lodge, to receive the remaining degrees, or degree after waiver of jurisdiction or a certificate of dismissal has been issued by the Lodge holding such jurisdiction, in favor of the Lodge petitioned.

In case 12 months have elapsed after the petitioner has been elected before he presents himself for initiation; or if 12 months or more shall elapse after receiving the Entered Apprentice degree before the Fellowcraft degree is conferred and likewise between the Fellowcraft and Master's degree the previous election as to the degrees or the remaining degree become null and void. A new petition in writing shall be required and the procedure thereon, shall be regulated by the provisions of Art. 430.

Art. 417. (453). **Who May Vote.** In balloting on petitions for the degrees or either of them, any member in good standing in

a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge is entitled to vote, and all members of the Lodge present must vote.

In balloting on petitions for affiliation; reinstatement; restoration; or applications for demit; certificate of good standing; waiver of jurisdiction; certificate of dismissal; or voting on examinations for proficiency; or the business transactions of the Lodge, only the members of the Lodge acting, shall vote.

Art. 418. (454). Blackballs: Effect. In balloting on candidates for degrees, three blackballs shall reject for one year, four blackballs for two years, and five or more blackballs for three years. The term "blackball" shall be construed to include "Black cube." If the ballot contains only one or two blackballs, and if no protest has been entered against the Petitioner, it shall be declared as favorable, but if one or more protests have been entered, each such protest shall be counted as a blackball in accordance with the provisions of Art. 425 of these laws, and the ballot shall be announced accordingly.

(Revised 1992)

Art. 419. (455, 456). Manner of Balloting. When there is more than one petition for degrees; affiliation; reinstatement; restoration; or applications for demits; certificates of good standing; waivers of jurisdiction; or certificates of dismissal, it is permissible to ballot on all of said petitions or applications in each of said classes, collectively, and, should the ballot be favorable each of said candidates of the class balloted on shall be declared elected, or the applications granted as the case may be. If the ballot is unfavorable, it shall not operate as a rejection of any of said petitioners, or applicants, but it shall then become the duty of the Worshipful Master to take a separate ballot on each such petition or application of the class balloted on, as the case may be. It is not permissible in a single ballot to include more than one of said classes of petitions or applications; each such class shall be balloted on separately.

Art. 420. (457). Ballot Is a Finality When Announced. A ballot on any kind of a petition or application named in Art. 419 may be retaken as many times as may be necessary to satisfy the Worshipful Master that no mistake has been made, before the result of any ballot is announced by the Worshipful Master, but not thereafter. No result of a ballot shall be announced until called for by the Worshipful Master, but the result must be announced before the meeting at which the ballot is taken is closed. If the Junior and Senior Wardens and the Worshipful Master find that the ballot is favorable, each shall declare the ballot favorable at their respective stations. If the ballot is reported favorable by both Wardens, and the Worshipful Master has received one or more protests, which

when combined with the number of blackballs cast equals three or more, he shall announce the number of blackballs cast and the number of protests received by him, and declare the ballot as unfavorable. If the ballot is unfavorable when the final ballot is taken, they shall declare the ballot "unfavorable" and the Worshipful Master, only if the combined vote and protests is unfavorable, shall announce the number of blackballs cast and the number of protests received by him, and the same shall be recorded in the minutes of the Lodge. (Revised 1992)

Note: For the vote for favorable or unfavorable ballot see the following:

Affiliation: Art. 389

Reinstatement except NPD: Art. 658

For NPD: Art. 324 through Art. 329

Restoration: Art. 658

Dimit: Art. 369

Certificate of Good Standing: Art. 392

Waiver of Jurisdiction: One blackball defeats;

Proc. 1914, p. 45, Dec. 88 and

Proc. 1915, p. 45, Dec. 13.

Certificate of Dismissal: Art 446

Note: For formalities in balloting see the *Monitor of the Grand Lodge* adopted in 1982. For protests in connection with the ballot see Chapter 3, Title IV of Grand Lodge Laws.

CHAPTER 3—TITLE IV PROTESTS

Art. 421. (458). **Against Whom Effective.** The election of a candidate to receive the degrees or any of them, can be prevented or set aside by protests made to the Worshipful Master or any officer acting as Worshipful Master of a Lodge. A protest against the reinstatement to good standing in the Lodge of a former member or restoration to the status of a nonaffiliated Mason of a former member of another Lodge, convicted in said Lodge, who is laboring under a sentence of indefinite suspension or expulsion, for a Masonic disciplinary violation, other than for nonpayment of dues, shall be given effect by the Worshipful Master, or the officer acting as such, as a rejection of such petition as provided in Art. 627. Such protests cannot be withdrawn after they have been announced. (Revised 1992)

Art. 422. (458a). **Against Whom Not Effective.** A protest is not effective on a petition for affiliation; or on applications for a

dimit; waiver of jurisdiction, certificate of dismissal; or for a certificate of good standing.

Art. 423. (462). When and By Whom Made. Any member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction may protest, either orally or in writing, a candidate for any degree, either before or after his election. In each case the protestor must give clearly his name and the name, number and location of his Lodge. Protest may be made by telephone if the person called is satisfied as to the identity and qualification of the Protestor; in each such case the person called must in the same telephone conversation advise the caller whether or not the protest is accepted. The Worshipful Master or officer acting as Worshipful Master, shall not disclose the identity of the Brother who made the protest, but shall immediately upon receipt of the protest notify the Wardens and Secretary that it has been made.

To be effective as to any petitioner for a degree, protests must be made after the petition is received by the Lodge and before conferring the degree has begun. (Revised 1992)

An outgoing Master is under duty to transmit to his successor all unannounced protests made to him.

Only members in good standing of the acting Lodge may protest against reinstatement or restoration as authorized in Art. 627.

Art. 423a. Separate and Joint Protests: Defined. A separate protest is that made by an individual Brother to the Worshipful Master. A joint protest is that made by two or more Brethren who simultaneously appear before the Worshipful Master and lodge a protest. Separate and joint protests shall have the same value or effect.

Art. 424. (459). Withdrawn: When. A protest may be withdrawn by a Brother who made it, at any time before it is announced, but not thereafter.

Art. 425. (460). Effect of Protests. A protest shall have the same effect and value and be counted as a blackball under Art. 418. Three protests, or a combination of protests and blackballs with a combined total of three shall reject for one year. Four protests, or a combination of protests and blackballs totaling four shall reject the petitioner for two years; five or more protests, or a combination of protests and blackballs having a collective total of five or more, shall reject the Petitioner for three years. (Revised 1992)

Art. 426. (460a). **Advancement After Protests.** When a candidate is protested after receiving the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Degrees and wishes to advance after expiration of the time for which he was protested, he shall be required to present a new petition in writing for advancement and be reelected before he shall be permitted to advance. A committee on investigation and report shall be appointed and the petition shall lie over not less than one lunar month before the ballot is taken thereon. (Revised 1992)

Art. 427. (461). **Rejection Must Not Be Published.** The identity of rejected candidates shall not be published to the world.

Art. 428. (463). **Announcement of Protests.** When three or more protests are lodged against a petitioner for the degrees or a degree or for advancement, before his election thereto, no announcement thereof shall be made by the Worshipful Master, or officer acting as such, until after the ballot on said petition has been taken and the result announced. The Worshipful Master shall then announce that three or more protests have been lodged against the petitioner, stating the number of such protests, which shall be recorded in the minutes of said Lodge; provided that the Brethren making such protests were not present during the taking

of the ballot on such petition. In case they are present during the balloting, the protests of such are as present shall be disregarded, not counted, nor announced. (Revised 1992)

When three or more protests are lodged against a petitioner after his election to receive the degrees or a degree, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master, or officer acting as such, to announce said protests at the first meeting of the Lodge, whether it be a stated or called meeting and it shall be recorded in the minutes. (Revised 1992)

No degree shall be conferred on a protested candidate during the term of his rejection, after three or more protests have been lodged against him. (Revised 1992)

Art. 429. Duty of Worshipful Master. It shall be the imperative duty of the Worshipful Master, or officer acting as Worshipful Master, to recognize and announce three or more protests as provided in Art. 428 and a failure to do so shall constitute a Masonic Disciplinary violation for which he may be suspended from office by the Grand Master upon the filing of an allegation of Masonic disciplinary violation for such failure to act, if the Grand Master accepts the allegation. (Revised 2012)

CHAPTER 4 – TITLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CANDIDATES

Art 430. Degree Not Conferred One Year After Election. After twelve months have elapsed since the election of a petitioner to receive the degrees and no degree has been conferred or twelve months have elapsed since an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft has received such degree, his election to receive the degrees or the failure of the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft to receive the next degree, shall become null and void, and a new petition shall be required which shall be governed by all the rules and follow all the procedures prescribed for an original petition for the degrees. (Note – for procedure after rejection, see Article 434. For procedure after lapse of time, see Article 434-a. For personal jurisdiction, territorial jurisdiction, and waiver of jurisdiction see the following Chapter 5, Title IV, and the Articles therein numbered 440 to 465.) (Revised 1993)

Art. 431. Degree Conferred on Only One Candidate at a Time. The initiation, passing or raising of two or more candidates at the same time is forbidden, but the lecture and charge of the degree may be given to more than one, if done before the Lodge is closed. No lecture or charge shall be postponed until another meeting.

It is the responsibility of the Master to see that sufficient time is allowed to complete all degree work which has begun at the meeting, before the Lodge is closed, and particularly so when the Lodge meeting is on Saturday.

Art. 432. Candidate Refusing to Conform. When a candidate refuses to conform to the ceremonies he must not be allowed to proceed. He should be escorted from the Lodge, his degree fees refunded (except for previously conferred degree or degrees), and a record of such action noted in the minutes.

Art. 433. Time Elements: Examination Requirements. A candidate must complete the first portion of the Lodge System of Candidate Information prior to receiving the Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree; further, he cannot be passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft until he has completed, as prescribed in the System, the second portion; nor can he be raised a Master Mason until he has completed, as prescribed, the third portion of the System.

Except as provided in Art. 39, a candidate cannot be passed or raised until at least 14 days after his receiving the preceding degree; and until he has been examined in open Lodge and voted proficient in the trial lecture of the preceding degree. This provision applies to candidates upon whom degrees have been conferred in other Grand Jurisdictions. (Revised 2002)

Candidates are required to learn only the answers to the questions asked in the three sections of the Entered Apprentice Degree and the first section of the Fellowcraft Degree, except by request of the Lodge, the Grand Master, by dispensation, may waive any part of the learning requirements of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Once a candidate has been examined and voted proficient in either degree, he is not required to be examined therein again, regardless of the length of time thereafter before his advancement. The Lodge is the sole judge of the proficiency of a candidate. (Revised 1995)

Art. 434. Procedure After Rejection. Whenever an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft receives any blackball or protest against his advancement, no instruction shall be given, or permitted to be given, to him nor shall he be permitted to sit in any Lodge until there has been a favorable ballot of the Lodge of Competent Jurisdiction upon his petition for advancement taken as provided in Article 430, and such candidate cannot be passed or raised until he has been examined in open Lodge, and voted on as proficient in the trial lecture of the Degree last conferred except as otherwise provided in Articles 39 and 414. (Revised 1993)

Art. 434a. Procedure After Lapse of Time. Whenever an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft must petition for advancement because of lapse of time, he shall be permitted to receive instruction, to sit in a Lodge in the highest degree to which he has attained and be examined in open Lodge and voted on as proficient in the trial lecture of the degree last conferred; after which his petition for advancement may be received and dealt with in the same manner as a petition for affiliation as set forth in Articles 386 and 387, and must receive a favorable ballot of the Lodge of Competent Jurisdiction as provided in Article 430, except as otherwise provided in Articles 39 and 414. (Revised 2004)

Art. 435. (472). **Examinations: What Lodge.** A candidate must be examined and voted on as to his proficiency by the Lodge in which he has been elected for advancement, except as provided in Articles 475 and 478.

Art. 436. (473). **Examination: How Conducted.** A candidate may be examined as to his proficiency at a stated or called meeting after receiving the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Degree.

The examination must be conducted only in the Lodgeroom with the Lodge opened in the degree for which the examination is being given.

The Entered Apprentice examination may be conducted in one section of the proficiency examination at a time, and each section can be balloted on separately after it is conducted.

Art. 437. (473). **Proficiency Vote.** At the option of the Worshipful Master, a vote on the proficiency of a candidate may be taken in a Master's Lodge or in an Entered Apprentice Lodge or Fellowcraft Lodge in which the examination is held. Subject to the provisions of Article 344 which states, in part, that Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are not members of the Lodge and cannot vote, a vote on the proficiency of a candidate may be taken by a show of hands and requires a majority of members present to be declared satisfactory. (Revised 2001)

Art. 438. (475). **New Petition After Rejection.** When a candidate has been rejected for the degrees or advancement, and again wishes to petition after the expiration of the time for which he was rejected, he shall be required to present a new petition which shall conform and be subject to all the formalities, rules and procedures prescribed for petitions for degrees or advancement.

Art. 439. (476). **Examination in Master's Degree.**

1. Within ninety days after he is raised, a Brother shall have heard the fourth portion of The Lodge System of Candidate Information, shall have received all four booklets which comprise the System, be certified as having completed a Grand Lodge approved course on Masonic Information (Additional Lodge Light, A.L.L. program) under the supervision of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service, and shall have been examined in open Lodge and voted as proficient in the entire trial lecture of the Master's Degree. (Revised 1996) It shall be the duty of the officers of the Lodge to see that this is done. Any Brother who, after receiving the Master's Degree, willfully neglects or refuses to present himself and be examined as to his

proficiency in such degree, within ninety days thereafter, unless further time is granted him by the Lodge shall be subject to automatic suspension as provided hereinafter; absence from the State, natural infirmities or unavoidable accident alone excusing him.

2. In each case in which a Brother, except during the time (if any) he is excused from doing so under the last clause of the next preceding section of this Article, fails to meet the requirements set out in the preceding section of this Article, the Master of the Lodge must notify such Brother by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, that he will stand automatically suspended if the examination is not taken and passed within ninety (90) days from receipt of such letter unless the time is further extended, only for good cause, by the Lodge, and if the Brother fails to do so he shall then stand automatically suspended and such suspension shall be recorded in the Minutes of the next subsequent Stated Meeting of the Lodge. Any Brother so suspended, however, may receive instruction and be examined in open Lodge and if and when he passes the examination required by this Article he may be reinstated by following the procedure provided for reinstatement of those automatically suspended for non-payment of dues.

3. It shall be unlawful and shall constitute a Masonic disciplinary violation for a Brother who has not passed his examination for proficiency in the Master's Degree to apply for or receive membership or any degree in any rite, body, order or organization in which membership is predicated upon Masonic affiliation.

CHAPTER 5 – TITLE IV

JURISDICTION AS TO DEGREES

Art. 440. (476a). **Definitions.** As used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

Regular Lodge is one working under a charter or dispensation under authority of this, or any other Grand Jurisdiction with which we are in Fraternal Relations.

Personal Jurisdiction is the exclusive right of a regular Lodge, wherever located, to confer the degrees or any of them upon a particular person, regardless of the location of his domicile.

Territorial Jurisdiction is the exclusive individual right of a Lodge or the exclusive concurrent right of two or more Lodges located in a particular area to confer degrees of Masonry on anyone domiciled therein who is eligible to receive such degrees and over whom no regular Lodge has personal jurisdiction.

A “**Man Without a Country, Masonically speaking**” is one who is domiciled in this State, but has not been so domiciled for the period of six months, or one who has not been domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of any Lodge for six months, and upon whom no degree in Masonry has been conferred. Such a person is ineligible to apply for or receive the degrees until the domiciliary requirements have been met. (Revised 1989)

An Unaffiliated Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft is one who is eligible for advancement and over whom no regular Lodge holds personal jurisdiction.

A Petitioner is one who has petitioned a Lodge for the degrees or advancement, and whose petition has not been finally acted upon by the Lodge.

A Candidate is one who has been elected to receive a degree in Masonry, but has not received it, and one year has not elapsed since his election thereto.

Reinstate and Restore. See Art. 623.

Art. 441. (476b). **Territorial Jurisdiction.** All Lodges which are located in any county shall have concurrent jurisdiction with each other and with all Lodges which are located in any county contiguous thereto. Contiguous counties are “counties with common borders or corners.”

Art. 442. (476c). Repealed December 1987.

Art. 443. (476d). Repealed December 1987.

Art. 444. (476e). Repealed December 1987.

Art. 445. (476f). **Personal Jurisdiction: Acquisition and Duration.** Exclusive personal jurisdiction over a petitioner for the

degrees or any degree in Masonry by a Lodge authorized to receive his petition is acquired at the time it is filed with the Secretary of the Lodge or waiver of jurisdiction or certificate of dismissal is granted. Such petition may be withdrawn at any time before it is received by the Lodge or waiver or dismissal is granted, and the Lodge, upon such withdrawal loses all personal jurisdiction over the petitioner.

Such exclusive personal jurisdiction continues in such Lodge unless and until terminated in one of the following cases:

1. When one who has been elected to receive the E.A. Degree is not initiated within the required one year period.
2. When no vote is taken upon a petition for the degrees within one year after it is received.
3. When one has been rejected for the Entered Apprentice Degree by ballot or protest and the period for which he was rejected has expired.
4. When personal jurisdiction is transferred to another Lodge by waiver of jurisdiction.
5. When a certificate of dismissal has been granted to an E.A. or F.C.

After personal jurisdiction attaches it is not affected, during its continuance, by change of domicile.

When personal jurisdiction is terminated, except by waiver of jurisdiction, territorial jurisdiction, based upon location of domicile applies.

Art. 446. (476g). Certificate of Dismissal. A Lodge, by unanimous favorable vote, taken at a stated meeting, either by ballot or show of hands at the discretion of the Master presiding may grant to one of its EA's or FC's, who has not been rejected by ballot or protest after receiving the last degree, and against whom no charges are pending, a Certificate of Dismissal recommending him for advancement. The issue of said Certificate of Dismissal shall be mandatory when E.A., F.C., or M.M. Degree work has not been set by the Lodge within time set by Grand Lodge Law from the time exclusive personal jurisdiction has been acquired by the Lodge. Upon the granting of such certificate the Lodge thereby loses personal jurisdiction over him and his name shall be dropped from its rolls. He, thereupon, becomes an unaffiliated E.A. or F.C. and further jurisdiction over him is territorial, and governed by the provisions of Article 441. (Revised 2005)

Art. 447. (476h). Certificate of Dismissal, Procedure Under. An E.A. or F.C., domiciled in this Grand Jurisdiction and holding a

certificate of dismissal from a regular Lodge wheresoever situated, may petition a Lodge having, or acquiring by waiver, jurisdiction over him, and after election and passing the required examination as to proficiency (if he has not previously passed such examination) have the remaining degree or degrees conferred upon him. Any such candidate must have sat in the Lodge petitioned opened in the last degree he has received or be properly vouched for before he is advanced therein. A certificate of waiver of jurisdiction or dismissal will not be sufficient to meet this requirement.

Art. 448. (476i). Certificate of Dismissal, E.A. or F.C. of Another Jurisdiction. An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft of a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction cannot be passed or raised, as the case may be, in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction unless he has a certificate of dismissal; or jurisdiction is waived by his Lodge; or his Lodge is demised and a certificate to that effect is issued by the Grand Secretary of said Jurisdiction and is attached to his petition.

Art. 449. (476j). Rejection in Another Grand Jurisdiction. No jurisdiction over anyone rejected by a regular Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction can be acquired by a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction until the time for which he was rejected has expired. Jurisdiction thereafter is governed by the Laws of the Grand Jurisdiction in which he was rejected.

Art. 450. (476k). Degrees Conferred in Traveling Lodges. Master Masons, Fellowcrafts, and Entered Apprentices who have received the degrees in any traveling Lodge shall be treated as dimitted from such Lodge. Any Lodge under this jurisdiction has permission to affiliate or confer additional degrees on any such candidate, after jurisdiction has been acquired, the same as if it

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THE REPEALING OF ARTICLES 442, 443 AND 444

had the consent of such traveling Lodge. This does not authorize such Lodge to reinstate a Mason who has been suspended or expelled by a traveling Lodge. The Grand Lodge, only, upon application made direct to it, may restore such applicant to the status of an unaffiliated Mason.

Art. 451. (4761). Jurisdiction When Lodge Demised. Jurisdiction over E.A.s and F.C.s of a Lodge which has demised, and over all persons whose petitions for the degrees have been rejected thereby, as well as all uninitiated material in its territorial Jurisdiction, shall be vested in the Lodge or Lodges in whose territorial Jurisdiction they may be domiciled. No Lodge shall hold personal Jurisdiction in any such case.

Art. 452. (476m). Petitioners: To What Lodge They May Apply. A petitioner who is eligible to apply for the degrees or for advancement in this Grand Jurisdiction may present his petition therefore to any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Art. 453. (476n). Waiver of Jurisdiction: When Required. If the Lodge petitioned does not hold territorial jurisdiction over the petitioner, or if another regular Lodge holds personal jurisdiction over him, no action, other than a request for Waiver of Jurisdiction, can be taken by the Lodge until a waiver is granted.

Art. 454. (476o). Waiver of Jurisdiction: When Request Made. No request for Waiver of Jurisdiction may be made until the petition for the degrees or advancement has been filed with the Secretary of the Lodge, who shall report the fact to the next stated meeting of the Lodge at which time the request shall be made.

Art. 455. (476p). Waiver of Jurisdiction: Not Granted When. No Lodge may waive jurisdiction over a petitioner for the degrees or for advancement after the petition has been received and before ballot thereon.

Art. 456. (476q). Waiver of Jurisdiction: Procedure on Request. A request for Waiver of Jurisdiction over a petitioner for the degrees or advancement shall be presented in writing under seal of the requesting Lodge to the Lodge requested at a stated meeting and be voted on at such stated meeting, which vote, in the discretion of the Master presiding, may be taken by ballot or show of hands.

Art. 457. (476r). **Waiver of Jurisdiction: Rejected Petitioner.** No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may either waive jurisdiction over, receive a petition from, or confer any degree upon anyone who has been rejected by a ballot or protest by a regular Lodge, wheresoever situated, until the expiration of the time for which he has been rejected.

Art. 458. (476s). **Waiver of Jurisdiction: In Concurrent Jurisdiction.** Right to waive territorial jurisdiction over a person domiciled in concurrent jurisdictions vested exclusively in the oldest Lodge therein.

Art. 459. (476t). **Waiver of Jurisdiction: Refusal for advancement.** When request is refused under the provisions of Art. 456 for waiver of jurisdiction for advancement of an E. A. or F. C. who has moved his domicile from the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge holding personal jurisdiction and into the territorial jurisdiction of another Lodge, which does not have concurrent territorial jurisdiction with the Lodge holding personal jurisdiction, and no charges are preferred against him within ninety days thereafter, the Worshipful Master shall order certificate of waiver issued.

Art. 460. (476u). **Waiver of Jurisdiction: Effect of Refusal to Grant.** Refusal to grant a waiver of jurisdiction does not operate as a rejection or prevent the one so refused from petitioning the Lodge refusing.

Art. 461. (476v). **Waiver of Jurisdiction: Request Where Personal Jurisdiction in Lodge of Another Grand Jurisdiction.** No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall confer any degree upon anyone over whom a regular Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction holds personal jurisdiction, without the consent of such Lodge evidenced by certificate of waiver of jurisdiction or dismissal, dimit, or other satisfactory form of the release for its jurisdiction. No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may waive jurisdiction over a person domiciled in this Grand Jurisdiction in favor of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction except as provided in Articles 466-470.

Art. 462. (476w). **Degrees Conferred Without Jurisdiction: Further Jurisdiction.** A Lodge without properly acquired jurisdiction over a petitioner does not by receiving or acting upon his petition acquire such jurisdiction. As soon as such want of jurisdiction is discovered, such Lodge shall apply for waiver to the proper Lodge or return the petition to the petitioner.

When such Lodge confers a degree or degrees upon such petitioner it does not thereby acquire jurisdiction to confer the remaining degree or degrees. Such jurisdiction continues in the Lodge or Lodges holding same at the time such illegal action was taken.

Art. 463. (476x). Degrees Conferred Without Jurisdiction: Status of Recipient. When a degree is illegally conferred by a regular Lodge, wheresoever situated, the recipient thereof is not thereby a clandestine Mason. A regulation is violated which in this Grand Jurisdiction may subject the Lodge and/or recipient to discipline.

When the Masters Degree is so conferred in this Grand Jurisdiction, the recipient becomes a member of the conferring Lodge.

Art. 464. (476y). Fees: Paid to Grand Lodge: When. When the fee of the Lodge granting a waiver of jurisdiction is greater than the fee of the Lodge requesting the waiver of jurisdiction, the recipient shall pay the fee he would have had to pay to the Lodge that granted the waiver. The Lodge granting the waiver of such jurisdiction must immediately notify the Grand Secretary of its action and after the candidate is elected the Lodge receiving the waiver must send the difference in fees to the Grand Secretary, who shall enter the amount as a contribution to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation from the Lodge granting the waiver.

Art. 465. (476z). Fees: For Unlawfully Conferred Degrees. Any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction invading the jurisdiction of another regular Lodge, wheresoever situated, by unlawfully conferring a degree or degrees upon a petitioner over whom such other Lodge holds personal or territorial jurisdiction, shall pay to the Lodge whose jurisdiction it has invaded the amount of fees such Lodge would have received (other than the \$25.00 collected from one receiving the Master's Degrees as provided in Arts. 163-5 and 318) had it conferred such degree or degrees. Any excess shall be paid to the Grand Lodge in like manner as provided in Art. 464.

When the invaded jurisdiction is concurrent, such fees shall be paid to the oldest Lodge therein.

All fees collected by a Lodge for a degree or degrees conferred upon a person who, at the time, is a "Man without a Country,

Masonically speaking" shall be paid to the Grand Lodge in like manner as in Art. 464.

CHAPTER 6—TITLE IV WAIVER OF JURISDICTION IN FAVOR OF REGULAR LODGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

Art. 466. (506-a). **Who May Apply For.** Any Mexican citizen or American citizen of Mexican or Spanish extraction residing within the State of Texas, possessing all the qualifications provided by the laws of this Grand Lodge for the degrees of Masonry, and desiring to petition for the degrees in some regular Lodge within the Republic of Mexico operating under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas, may apply to the oldest Lodge holding territorial jurisdiction over him for a waiver of jurisdiction in favor of such Lodge in Mexico.

Art. 467. (506-b). **Application: Form and Contents.** Such application shall be in writing, duly signed by the applicant and have endorsed thereon the recommendation of two members of the Lodge holding such territorial jurisdiction. It shall set forth the qualifications of the applicant for the degrees, as provided by the laws of this Grand Lodge, and shall give the name and location of the Lodge in Mexico to which he desired to petition for degrees, and the name of the Grand Lodge under whose jurisdiction such Lodge is operating.

Art. 468. (506-c). **Application: Presentation and Investigation.** Such application for waiver shall be presented at a stated meeting, be referred to a Committee on investigation, and lie over one month for investigation and report thereon.

Art. 469. (506-d). **Application: Report on.** Report of the Committee on such application shall be made at a stated meeting of the Lodge. If the Committee finds the applicant eligible for the degrees of the Order, it shall so report with recommendations, and the ballot shall be taken at such stated meeting. If the Committee finds the applicant ineligible for the degrees of the Order it shall so report, and the application for said waiver shall be returned to the applicant without further action thereon by the Lodge.

Art. 470. (506-3). Application: Ballot on and Disposition. If such Lodge, by a unanimous favorable vote of the members present, shall grant such waiver, such action of the Lodge shall be certified in writing to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, whose duty it shall be to notify the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in Mexico holding jurisdiction over the Lodge to which such petition for the degrees is to be made, that such designated Lodge within that jurisdiction, is authorized to receive the petition for the degrees from such petitioner, and to act on same in accordance with the laws of such Grand Lodge regulating petitions for degrees and the conferring of degrees within such Grand Jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 7 – TITLE IV COURTESY DEGREES

Art. 471. (509). Foreign Jurisdictions: Grand Secretary's Duties. The Grand Secretary under the direction of the Grand Master shall handle and dispose of all requests for conferring the degrees by courtesy between this and other Grand Jurisdictions, and in all cases where such requests from other Grand Jurisdictions are addressed to the Grand Master, he shall immediately refer such requests to the Grand Secretary for action thereon.

Art. 472. (514). Foreign Jurisdictions: Correspondence After Request Granted. Upon granting a request for conferring degrees by courtesy, the Grand Secretary may direct that all further correspondence in relation thereto be conducted by and between the proper officers of the respective Lodges.

Art. 473. (507). Foreign Jurisdictions: Request to Confer Degrees in Texas. Upon request of the Grand Master, or other authorized officer of another Grand Jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, that the degrees be conferred by courtesy upon a candidate who is temporarily in this jurisdiction, such request may be granted.

Art. 474. (510). Foreign Jurisdiction: Lodge Designation and Procedure. The Grand Secretary shall designate the Lodge to confer the degrees, giving preference as far as practicable to the Lodge most accessible to the candidate, and transmit the request to that Lodge. In conferring the degrees the work, examinations

and procedure must in all respects conform to the ritual and laws of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Art. 475. (511). Requests from This to Another Grand Jurisdiction: Procedure. When a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction elects a candidate, over whom it has personal or territorial jurisdiction, to receive the degrees or a degree and said candidate is sojourning in the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, the Lodge which elected the candidate may request the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge to present a request to the Grand Master or other authorized Grand Officer of such other Grand Jurisdiction, that the degrees or degree be conferred by a Lodge in such Grand Jurisdiction as a courtesy to the Lodge making such request; and that the candidate be instructed and examined for proficiency in each of the degrees so conferred. In all courtesy degrees so conferred, the Lodge acting may confer the degrees and conduct such examinations according to the regulations of the Grand Lodge in whose jurisdiction the courtesy degrees are conferred. Upon request the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge may also make similar requests that a candidate who has received a degree elsewhere may be instructed and examined for proficiency as a courtesy to the Lodge making such request.

Art. 476. (512). Refusal by Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary may in his discretion refuse to have the degrees conferred by a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Master.

Art. 477. (513). Casual Visitor Barred. No candidate who may be a casual visitor in another Grand Jurisdiction shall be permitted to receive a degree by courtesy in that jurisdiction.

Art. 478. (515). Courtesy Requests Between Lodges of This Grand Jurisdiction. A Lodge in this jurisdiction may request another Lodge in this jurisdiction to confer a degree or degrees by courtesy. When such request is granted, the Lodge acting may, upon request, examine said candidate as to his proficiency, and certify the same to the requesting Lodge under the seal of the Lodge.

Likewise a Lodge may request another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction to instruct and examine for proficiency a candidate who has received a degree in it or another Lodge. (Revised 2000)

Art. 479. Protests.

A. Protests of candidates receiving the degrees in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction as a courtesy for another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may be made to the Worshipful Master of either the requesting or conferring Lodge. If made to the Master of the requesting Lodge, he must at once withdraw the request and announce the protest at the next meeting of the Lodge as provided in Art. 428.

B. Protests of all courtesy candidates are governed by all laws, rules and regulations provided in Chapter 3 of Title IV of these Statutes. (Revised 1996)

Art. 480. (508). No Fee Charged. No fee shall be charged by a Lodge in this jurisdiction for conferring any degree by courtesy. If the Lodge conferring such degrees shall collect the fee from the candidate for the Lodge electing him the Secretary shall remit same promptly to the Secretary of the Lodge for which the degrees were conferred.

Art. 481. (515a). Requesting Lodge Shall Not Confer Degree Until Notice of Withdrawal Received from Requested Lodge. Whenever a Lodge in this jurisdiction requests another Lodge in this or any other jurisdiction to confer a degree by courtesy under any provision of any article under this Chapter, it shall be unlawful thereafter for such requesting Lodge to confer any such degree unless and until said requesting Lodge shall withdraw such request and shall notify such requested Lodge of such withdrawal and shall receive official notice from said requested Lodge that it has received notice of such withdrawal.

CHAPTER 8 – TITLE IV PROXIES

For “May be Representatives in Grand Lodge” see Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 1, Sub-div. (d);

For “No Expenses paid for attendance upon Grand Lodge” see Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 1;

(Note: See Arts. 3, 4, 5.)

Art. 482. (516). Only One for a Lodge: Qualifications. A Lodge can have only one proxy to represent it before this Grand Lodge. He must be a member of said Lodge.

Art. 483. (517). No Proxies of Representatives or Proxies. Neither a Worshipful Master nor a Warden nor a proxy can appoint a proxy to represent him in the Grand Lodge.

CHAPTER 9 – TITLE IV APPEALS FOR AID

Art. 484. (518). Dispensation Required for Financial Aid Appeals. No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall appeal to any other Lodge or Lodges, wheresoever situated, for financial assistance of any character without the consent of the Grand Master. Request for such consent must be by action of the Lodge voted at a stated meeting thereof.

Art. 485. (519). No Grand Lodge Relief to Lodges Sustaining Fire Loss, Unless Fully Insured. No relief from losses from fire will be granted to a Lodge by this Grand Lodge unless its property was fully insured, if insurance could have been obtained at reasonable rates. The petition for such relief must be by vote of the Lodge and duly certified by its Secretary.

Art. 486. (520). Donations to Charity. Subordinate Lodges have the right to select the objects to whom they make charitable donations from their funds. Such objects may include an individual, whether Mason or profane, an organization having under its care and administering directly to the needs of persons who are objects of charity; but shall not include any organization or committee giving or distributing funds to others for charitable uses or purposes, except such as are created and operated under authority of some regular Masonic or appendant organization recognized by this Grand Lodge.

Art. 487. (520). **Right to Demand Reimbursement: When.** One Lodge shall not have the right to demand repayment to it by another Lodge for charities extended to a member thereof, unless such payment was made at the request of such Lodge.

CHAPTER 10 – TITLE IV RETURNS TO THE GRAND LODGE

For “Shall Make Annual Returns” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 1;

For “Shall Pay Contributions Set Forth” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 2;

For “Charter May Be Suspended For Failure” see Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 3;

For “Fees, Annual Dues and Contributions to the Grand Lodge to be Sent In With Lodge Returns” see Constitution, Arts. IX and X.

Art. 488. (521). **Annual Returns by Lodge.** Each Lodge shall make out its returns in duplicate to the 24th day of June each year, and each copy shall be authenticated by the Secretary under the seal of the Lodge. The original shall be sent to the Grand Secretary by the fifteenth day of the following August, together with its annual dues, and one copy shall be kept by the Lodge. (Revised 1999) Any increase in the Grand Lodge per-capita tax will not become due and payable until the second August 15th following the Grand Annual Communication at which such increase was approved. (Adopted 2000)

Art. 489. (522). **Annual Returns by Lodges: Contents.** The returns shall contain:

1. A list of the officers for the ensuing year, with their rank.
2. Past Grand Officers belonging to the Lodge.
3. Past Masters of the Lodge whose membership has been continuous since they served; and affiliated Past Masters.
4. Names of members, all Master Masons, all Fellowcrafts and Entered Apprentices who have been such for not exceeding one year, including parent and plural members as provided in Article 350 – provided that in addition to the above there shall be a complete list of all life members of the Lodge with the date upon which each was granted a life membership.
5. Those dimitted.
6. Those deceased.

(Revised 1987)

7. Those suspended for non-payment of dues, and separately, those suspended for failure to pass examination required by Article 439 of these Laws.
8. Those suspended for un-Masonic conduct.
9. Those expelled.
10. Those reinstated.
11. Those affiliated.
12. Those initiated.
13. Those passed.
14. Those raised and as to each whether or not he has passed the examination required by Article 439 of these Laws, with respective dates of each class above specified, in accordance with the forms furnished by the Grand Secretary.
15. All waivers of jurisdiction granted since last report showing for what degree or degrees; and the name, number and location of the Lodge receiving the waiver, together with the date of issuance of the certificate.

(Note: See also Arts. 57, 59 and 68.)

Art. 490. (523). Annual Returns by Lodges: Returned for Proper Authentication. Any returns to this Grand Lodge from chartered Lodges which are not properly authenticated by the signature of the Secretary and the Seal of the Lodge shall be immediately returned to the Secretary for proper authentication.

Art. 491. (524). Annual Returns by Lodges: Action on Petitions of EA's and FC's: How Obtained. Lodges receiving and acting on petitions of Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts must show, in their annual returns, how they were obtained; whether by waiver, certificate of dismissal and recommendation for advancement, or otherwise.

Art. 492. (525). Annual Returns by Lodges: Penalty for Failure to Make. On June first of each year any Lodge which stands suspended for failure to send in its returns to the Grand Secretary and make payment of its dues and contributions for the previous year shall cease all work; but any Lodge, so suspended, may, on delivering its returns and paying its dues to the Grand Secretary on or before the next Annual Communication thereafter, have

its charter and other property returned to it and be restored to good standing by the Grand Lodge; otherwise its charter shall be forfeited.

Art. 493. (526). **Remittances by August 15.** All remittances of Lodges for fees, dues and other contributions shall become due and payable and must be sent to the Grand Secretary by August fifteenth of each year. However, any increase in the Grand Lodge per capita tax will not become due and payable until the second August fifteenth following the Grand Annual Communication at which such increase was approved. (Revised 2000)

TITLE V MASONIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Purpose

The procedures set forth in this title are to be called Masonic Disciplinary Procedures, and they establish the procedures to be used by the Grand Lodge of Texas for Masonic discipline. These procedures are to be broadly construed to insure that a fair, just, and legal hearing system is afforded to any Mason involved in Masonic discipline.

CHAPTER 1 - TITLE V JURISDICTION OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Art. 494. **Powers, Jurisdiction and Duty of Grand Lodge.** The Grand Lodge has the power, jurisdiction and duty to punish by reprimand, suspension or expulsion any Mason in its jurisdiction for Masonic disciplinary violations.

Art. 495. **Masons Amenable.** All Masons, including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, dimitted and suspended Masons, who are amenable to the Constitution, Laws, Edicts and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Texas are subject to the provisions of this title.

Art. 496. **Right To Hearing.** Any Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation has a right to a hearing under the provisions of the disciplinary procedures set forth in this title.

Art. 497. **Lodges To Be Notified.** If any allegations of a

Masonic disciplinary violation against a member are filed and accepted by the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary shall immediately notify the Secretary of all Lodges in which the member holds membership at the time the Masonic disciplinary violations are alleged against him. If the allegations subsequently result in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing under the provisions of this title, the Grand Secretary shall notify the member's Lodge or Lodges of the date and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 498. Neglect By Lodges Of Duty To Discipline. It is the duty of each Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction to insure that the rules of conduct among Masons are enforced. Neglect by any Lodge to report Masonic disciplinary violations, will subject such Lodge to a disciplinary action, to include forfeiture of its Charter, upon the evidence of such fact being presented to the Grand Master. It is the duty of all District Deputy Grand Masters to report to the Grand Master any such neglect by Lodges in their respective districts.

Art. 499. Powers Of The Grand Master. The Grand Master shall have the power to supervise and direct all procedures after allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been filed with the Grand Secretary.

Art. 500. Exclusive Jurisdiction Of Grand Lodge. The officers of this Grand Lodge and the Masters of Lodges, are not subject to Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearings in a Subordinate Lodge on any allegation(s) growing out of or in connection with any official act of any such officer. Any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing of such officers shall be conducted in the Grand Lodge pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17 of this Title; however, a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing may be conducted after said term of office has expired, on any such charge where a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing was not conducted by the Grand Lodge during said term of office.

Art. 501. No Time Limitation On Asserting Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations. This Grand Lodge recognizes no positive rule or limitation against making allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and any such rule or limitation is null and void; but the lapse of time after an offense is known is a matter to be considered by the Grand Master within his power to receive, dismiss, and supervise Masonic disciplinary matters, and

is a matter to be considered by a Masonic Mediation Committee and/or the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, according to the circumstances.

Art. 502. Disciplinary Hearings For Suspended Masons.

These Masonic disciplinary procedures apply to a suspended Mason for Masonic disciplinary violations committed after suspension. He is not to be restored to membership for the purposes of processing the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations under this title, but the new allegations are to be served on him; he shall be notified to appear; and the same Masonic disciplinary hearing procedures shall be followed as for all other Masons accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation.

CHAPTER 2 - TITLE V

MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Art. 503. Term Masonic Offenses Repealed. The use of the term "Masonic offenses" is no longer used in Title V. The term that is now used is "Masonic Disciplinary Violations." Any reference to "Masonic offenses" found in any part of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, except Title V herein, are not repealed, but continue to be part of the Law of the Grand Lodge of Texas. As continuing revisions of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas are made, the term "Masonic offenses" will be replaced with "Masonic Disciplinary Violations."

Art. 504. Violations Of Obligations And Laws. Every violation of a Masonic obligation, every violation of the Constitution, Laws, Resolutions or Edicts of this Grand Lodge, or usages and customs of Masonry, and every violation of the laws of the United States, a State, or of a municipality, involving moral turpitude is a Masonic disciplinary violation.

Art. 505. Certain Other Masonic Disciplinary Violations. It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for a Lodge, a committee or any combination of Masons, or an individual Mason to:

1. Traduce, slander, libel or falsely accuse any person.
2. Make false charges, or utter any word or statement, either orally, in writing, or otherwise, or to commit any act

or engage in any activities or conduct calculated to bring reproach upon this Grand Lodge or any of its officers, institutions, agencies or subordinate Lodges or officers thereof; or which is calculated to bring discredit or disgrace on Masonry; or which is reasonably calculated to reflect unfavorably on the good name of Masonry.

3. Use the words "Masonic," "Mason," or "Masonry" or the faith and credit of Masonry, to display Masonic emblem, for a secular, business or political purpose; or, being a candidate for office, to mention in his announcements or political advertisement or literature, or otherwise publish the fact of his Masonic connection; or permit knowingly the printing of any advertisement in a Masonic book, journal or other periodical in which advertisement the words "Masonic," "Masons," "for Masons only," "for Masons and their families," or any other term, sign or symbol of Masonry are used; or solicit business for any company or firm making use of such words, terms, signs or symbols for any such purpose; provided, however, that such regulations shall not apply to:
 - (a) The manufacture and sale of Masonic supplies, paraphernalia and equipment;
 - (b) Advertisements, publications, sale or distribution of Masonic books, journals or other such periodicals;
 - (c) Masonic Temple Associations, cemetery associations or companies which set aside a section for the exclusive use of Masons and their families;
 - (d) Employment and relief bureaus operating wholly under the management and control of Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, without profit for the benefit of Masons and their families;
 - (e) The display of Masonic symbols upon tombstones, monuments or vaults erected in cemeteries or mausoleums or the cornerstones of buildings laid with Masonic ceremonies;
 - (f) The statement by a candidate for office in a political announcement or advertisement of the fact that he is a Mason, if such announcement or advertisement also lists his church and civil affiliations. He shall

not be permitted to list offices held or the name of his Lodge or the names of other Masonic Bodies. Neither shall he be permitted to display any Masonic emblem or in any other manner to solicit directly or indirectly the vote or votes of any person or persons based on any Masonic affiliation or connection.

- (g) Travel tours arranged and conducted under the supervision of the Grand Master as provided for in Grand Master's Recommendation No. 6, approved at the 1972 Grand Communication of this Grand Lodge.
 - (h) Use the Square and Compasses emblem on commonly accepted items of jewelry, such as lapel pins, tie tacks, tie chains, tie bars, rings and belt buckles and on articles of clothing such as caps, ties, shirts, and jackets – regardless of manufacture or source of supply. To prevent improper use, Texas Masons are required to remove the Square and Compasses emblems from autos or clothing prior to changing ownership or discarding.
4. Publish or print, or participate in the publishing or printing, or advertise in, subscribe for or, solicit advertisement or subscriptions for, or otherwise knowingly aid, any publication not authorized under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas and approved by the Grand Master, which publication uses the word "Masonry," "Masons," or any derivations of such word, in the title, slogan, catch word or advertisements of such publication, or any insignia, emblems, hieroglyphs, or Masonic picturization as a part of the format of such publication or which purports to be for or in the interest of Masons or Masonry, except as permitted under the immediately preceding subparagraph.
 5. Give circulation, either orally or in writing, to any statement reasonably calculated to bring Masonry, its history, traditions, institutions, ritualistic work, ceremonies, officers or membership into disrepute.
 6. Criticize Masonry, either publicly or privately.
 7. Consume, possess, have in possession, or sell intoxicating liquor in any portion of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, or of any building or portion of any building

occupied or used by any Lodge, provided, however, that this prohibition does not apply to small quantities of any such beverages or liquors required by existing rituals of such organization in the conferring of its degrees or orders, or in the ceremonies in observance of special occasions required by existing regulations of such organizations; and further, this prohibition shall not apply to space properly leased for commercial purposes.

Constituent Lodges may meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served. Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas may meet in buildings where other appendant Masonic organizations may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages so long as such service is not in progress while the Lodge is open there. Constituent Lodges may let, lease, or rent portions of their buildings to other appendant Masonic organizations who may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service does not occur in the Lodgeroom of the building.

8. Willfully refuse to pay a just debt to a Lodge if financially able to do so.
9. Affiliate with a Lodge under an assumed name with intent to deceive the Lodge or its members.
10. Knowingly permit an expelled Mason to visit a Lodge.
11. Knowingly permit any of the degrees of Masonry to be conferred on a candidate who has been previously rejected and who has not disclosed such fact of rejection to the Lodge.
12. Conceal from, or fail to reveal to, a Lodge to which he has applied for any of the degrees of Masonry, the fact that he has been previously rejected by it or any other Lodge.
13. Represent in his petition for the degrees that he has never petitioned any other Lodge for the degrees when such representation is false.
14. Inquire into, or in any way investigate, either directly or indirectly, the ballot upon any petition for affiliation, or for either of the three degrees, or on any question decided by a secret ballot.

15. Give a rejected applicant the names of members present at such rejection with a view to ascertaining who cast a blackball.
16. Disclose to any person how he voted on any applicant for affiliation or for the degrees, or on any question decided by a secret ballot.
17. Canvass publicly for or against the admission of a candidate into Masonry, the reinstatement of a suspended or expelled Mason, or the admission of an unaffiliated Mason. (Revised 2010)
18. Inform a candidate by whom he was blackballed.
19. Inform any person, not a member of the Lodge taking such action, of the rejection of a candidate.
20. Possess, or use a cipher/code book on a Lodge premises, or to use a cipher/code book or access a cipher/code book in any form, including electronic access, in the presence of a candidate when instructing the candidate in the esoteric work of a Masonic Degree. (Revised 2013)
21. Being a suspended or expelled Mason, knowingly wear, display or use a Masonic badge, button, label or emblem during the time of his suspension.
22. Participate in, approve, or aid in the formation of any organization predicated its membership on Masonic membership or in the formation of any local chapters or groups, by whatever name called, of any organization predicated membership on Masonic membership. It shall be a Masonic offense for any Texas Mason to be, remain, or continue as, a Member of any organization predicated its membership or affiliation on Masonic membership unless such organization is now currently approved or recognized in Article 225 or Article 225a.

(New 2005)

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23. Circularize by letter or other form of publication to other Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction proposing or advocating any amendments, repeal or enactment of laws in or by this Grand Lodge, without first securing a dispensation for such purpose from the Grand Master.
 24. Directly or indirectly solicit or procure the vote of a Mason or campaign for the election of a Mason or otherwise electioneer for any Mason, in any location where Masons assemble, including, without limitation, in a Lodge, a Lodgeroom, the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge building, or any other such location or facility.
 25. Willfully, or without an excuse found by the Lodge to be satisfactory, neglect or refuse to present himself and be examined as to his proficiency in the Masters' Degree within ninety (90) days after being raised.
 26. Failing to complete, execute and deliver to the youth organization approved for Masonic sponsorship and its Chief Executive Officer in Texas, the sponsoring body and to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, at the time of application, or in any event, prior to performing as an advisor to a youth organization, a completed Form No. 79, which in summary, the applicant states he has no arrests or convictions, misdemeanor or felony, nor any form of child abuse or child molestation or child exploitation; to specifically include, but not limited to, any arrests or convictions for any allegations under the provisions of Chapter 22 (Assault Offenses), Chapter 25 (Offenses Against Family), and Chapter 43 (Public Indecency), Texas Penal Code.
 27. Contribute to the delinquency, or abuse of a child, or having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person and fails to report the same in accordance with the provision of the Texas Family Code. A child is deemed to be a person under the age of seventeen (17) years.
 28. Make use of any stenographic or electronic record of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing except as provided in these laws.

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- 29. Raise money by lotteries or any other gambling devices prohibited by the Laws of Texas or the Laws of the United States of America.
 - 30. Receive or accept a fee or gift, either directly or indirectly, for participation in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing, to include, but not limited to: Trial Master, counsel for the accuser, counsel for the accused, or a member of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.
 - 31. Discuss privately with any member of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission the facts of any case pending before said Commission, or attempt in any way to influence the action of Commission or any member thereof for or against a Mason involved in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.
 - 32. Willfully disobey a summons to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, as a witness, during discovery or at the hearing, as a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission, or otherwise.
 - 33. Willfully fail or refuse to appear at the appointed time and place, after due notice, to receive a reprimand which has been duly inflicted upon him in a Masonic disciplinary proceeding.
 - 34. Knowingly give false testimony in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.
 - 35. Willfully refuse to act as Trial Master, advocate for an accuser, advocate for an accused, or member of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing panel, without a valid reason. A valid reason not to act as a Trial Master, advocate for an accuser, or advocate for an accused shall be determined by the Grand Master. A valid reason not to serve on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing panel shall be determined by the Trial Master at the time of the impaneling of the commission.
 - 36. Willfully violate or fail to comply with any of the duties set forth in Title V of these laws for an accuser, advocate for an accuser, accused, or advocate for an accused.
 - 37. Make any negative reference or take any negative action in regard to a petitioner's or member's faith, creed or race at any time. (Revised, 2010)

The foregoing enumeration of Masonic disciplinary violations shall not be exclusive, nor shall they be considered or deemed to have the effect of repealing any other law of the Grand Lodge, now existing or hereafter to be enacted, specifying or defining any other Masonic disciplinary violations.

Art. 505a. Personal or Pecuniary Disputes Between Masons. Lodges shall not take cognizance of differences or controversies between members growing out of purely personal or pecuniary transactions unless the Masonic disciplinary violation involved a Masonic obligation. (Adopted 2014)

Art. 506. Automatic Suspension Or Expulsion. Any Mason in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas shall be expelled or suspended, as hereinafter provided, upon his conviction of a felony by any court of competent jurisdiction of this or any other state of the United States, or by any federal court of the United States, or upon the discovery of an undisclosed or concealed felony conviction occurring prior to said person becoming a Mason. (Revised 2011)

1. Suspension shall be effective on the date of sentence and continue until said conviction shall become final, at which time the subject Mason shall be expelled, said expulsion to be effective as of the date of sentence without further action by the Grand Lodge.
2.
 - (a) Should such conviction be reversed or set aside by the judgment of any court, the suspension shall continue until the final disposition of the case, unless the charges shall be dismissed in which event the subject Mason shall be restored to good standing without further action by the Grand Lodge.
 - (b) In any case in which probation or deferred adjudication is not in issue, should such conviction be reversed or set aside by the judgment of any court, the suspension shall continue until the final disposition of the case, unless the charges shall be dismissed in which event the subject Mason shall be restored to good standing without further action of the Grand Lodge of Texas.
 - (c) In any instance where a Mason is charged with the commission of a felony and there is a finding of guilty by a court or jury or if a Mason enters a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere to such offense of felony and the court, after receiving evidence, finds that the defendant is guilty and places the defendant on probation or otherwise suspends the imposition of the sentence, or in the event a defendant is charged with the offense of a felony and enters a plea of guilty or enters a plea of nolo contendere and the court, after hearing evidence, finds that such evidence substanti-

ates the defendant's guilt and defers further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and places the defendant on probation, such proceeding shall be deemed a conviction of a felony for all purposes relative to this article, and said Mason shall be expelled to be effective as of the date defendant is placed on probation.

3. The Grand Secretary shall notify the subject Mason by U.S. mail at his last known address of his expulsion or suspension from the Lodge as a result of his conviction. (Note: See Form 2)
4. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to certify the record of expulsion or suspension, in writing, to each Subordinate Lodge of which the Mason is a member and any other known organization upon which membership is in any manner dependent upon being a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas in good standing of which the Mason is a member. (Note: See Form 2)

Art. 507. Voluntary Expulsion For Life. In addition to an occurrence contemplated in Article 506, herein above, any Mason in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall be EXPELLED without NOTICE and without a right to any MASONIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, if upon allegations of Masonic disciplinary violation or violations, completes, executes, and delivers to the Secretary of a Subordinate Lodge, the Chair of any Mediation Committee, a Trial Master, or the Grand Secretary, Form 3, or a like or similar form satisfactory in form and content to the Grand Master, thereby requesting to avoid and waive for all purposes any and all of the Masonic disciplinary procedures under this Title, to include a formal hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, on said Masonic disciplinary violation or violations, and thereby agreeing to EXPULSION FOR LIFE, without: (i) any right to appeal same or to request any modification or reduction of same at any future date, or (ii) any right to ever request his status as a Mason to be restored or his membership in any Subordinate Lodge or in the Grand Lodge of Texas to ever be reinstated. The Secretary of the Subordinate Lodge, the Chair of any Mediation Committee, a Trial Master, or the Grand Secretary, who received Form 3, upon verifying the genuineness of the Mason's signature shall sign Form 3 in the space provided and then shall forward same to the Grand Master for his approval and, if said form is exe-

cuted by the Grand Master, the Mason will then be EXPELLED FOR LIFE and the Grand Secretary will notify in writing each Subordinate Lodge, of which the Mason is a member and any other known organization upon which membership is in any manner dependent upon being a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas in good standing of which the Mason is a member, that the Mason has been EXPELLED FOR LIFE; however, if said form is not executed by the Grand Master, notice and/or Masonic disciplinary proceeding will continue as required herein.

A Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation may exercise his right to file a Form 3 at any time during Masonic disciplinary procedures, to include filing the same during mediation, after the proceedings have been referred to a Trial Master, or during any proceedings before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If a Mason desires to file a Form 3 during the mediation process, it shall be filed with the Chair of the Masonic Mediation Committee appointed by the Grand Master. It shall be accepted by the Chair of said committee; and all further mediation shall terminate. If a Mason elects to file a Form 3 after a Trial Master has been appointed by the Grand Master, it shall be filed with the Trial Master. It shall be accepted by the Trial Master; and all other Masonic disciplinary proceedings shall terminate. If a Mason elects to file a Form 3 after a Masonic Disciplinary Commission has been selected, it shall be filed with the Trial Master. It shall be accepted by the Trial Master, the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be dismissed and all other Masonic disciplinary proceedings shall terminate.

The Chair of any Mediation Committee or any Trial Master who receives a duly executed Form 3 shall immediately verify the signature of the Mason signing the same and forward the same to the Grand Secretary for action by the Grand Master.

CHAPTER 3 - TITLE V

ALLEGATION OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Art. 508. Necessity Of Written Allegations Of A Masonic Disciplinary Violation. No penalty can be inflicted upon a Mason without the filing of a written allegation accusing a Mason of a Masonic disciplinary violation, except as provided in Article

507 herein above. Allegations of a Masonic disciplinary violation shall be in writing and signed by the accuser and submitted to the Grand Secretary for action by the Grand Master. The written allegations must specifically allege a Masonic violation with certainty to include: a) the specific Masonic disciplinary rule being violated, b) the time, date and place of the alleged violation, c) a full and complete description of all acts taken by a Mason that resulted in a violation, and d) a list of all witnesses by name, Lodge, residence address, and telephone number who have knowledge of such violation. A general charge of un-Masonic conduct without the information set forth herein will not be entertained by the Grand Master. In case of allegations of a violation of a national, state or municipal law, the crime itself shall be asserted, rather than the conviction.

Art. 509. Status Of Mason Under Allegations Of A Masonic Disciplinary Violation. When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been referred to, accepted by the Grand Master, and referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, his standing will be a "*Mason laboring under disciplinary action*" and, until such Masonic disciplinary violations have been fully disposed of, he shall not be entitled to a demit, a certificate of withdrawal, a certificate of good standing or be installed in office or, in case of death, prior to final conclusion of the disciplinary action, a Masonic burial; otherwise, his rights and privileges shall be unaffected thereby until Masonic disciplinary violations have been found and his penalty assessed by the Grand Master, mediation, or Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 510. Acts Committed Before Accused Became A Mason. Allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations can not be based upon acts committed before the accused was made a Mason, unless he procured admission into the Lodge by fraudulent representation or concealment.

Art. 511. Duty Of Grand Secretary When Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations Received By The Grand Lodge. When the Grand Secretary or the Grand Master receive any allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations under this title, the Grand Secretary shall open a Masonic Disciplinary Violations file. The file shall contain the number of the case, the name of the accused, the name of the accuser, the Lodge of the accused, the date received, and any other information necessary to be preserved, upon a docket provided and prepared by the Grand Secretary for such purpose. After receiving Masonic disciplinary violations and

opening a file, the allegations shall be immediately forwarded to the Grand Master for his action.

Art. 512. Procedure When Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations Are Received By The Grand Master.

When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are received by the Grand Master, in the form required by Art. 508, the Grand Master shall review the allegations. After his review, the Grand Master shall take one of the following actions, within thirty (30) days after said allegations have been filed with the Grand Secretary:

- (a) Determine that the allegations are not of sufficient detail to enable the Grand Master to make a determination of future action. If the Grand Master so determines, he may require the District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic district where the allegations arose to make further investigation of the facts and make further written reports to the Grand Master. Such written reports shall be filed with the Grand Secretary within sixty (60) days.
- (b) Determine that the allegations do not rise to the level of a Masonic disciplinary violation, and dismiss the allegations. If the Grand Master dismisses the allegation, the Grand Secretary shall notify the accuser, the accused, and the Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member.
- (c) Determine that the allegations may set forth a private grievance between Brothers, and order the Worshipful Master of the Lodge where the allegations arose to appoint a Lodge Committee on Reconciliation. No record shall be made of such appointment in the minutes of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master of said Lodge shall file a written report with the Grand Secretary after the Reconciliation Committee completes its work.
- (d) Determine that the allegations may set forth a Masonic disciplinary violation, and refer the matter to a Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation having jurisdiction over the matter for mediation under the rules prescribed for mediation.
- (e) Determine that the allegations may set forth a Masonic disciplinary violation, and order that a Masonic Disciplinary Commission be convened to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations, and assess an appropriate punishment if the allegations are determined to be true.

Art. 513. Lodge Committee On Reconciliation. When ordered by the Grand Master as a result of the filing of allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge shall appoint a Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, consisting of three (3) members of the Lodge, whose duty it shall be to make every reasonable effort to compose or adjust the differences between the Brothers and report the result of their efforts to the Worshipful Master. Their report to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge shall be as follows:

- (a) If there is reconciliation, composition, compromise, or adjustment effected by the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, a written report to that effect, signed by all members of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, the accusing Brother and the accused Brother, shall be filed with the Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master shall immediately forward such report to the Grand Secretary for review and action by the Grand Master. If the Grand Master approves the recommendations of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, no further action will be taken on the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and the Grand Secretary will notify the Worshipful Master, the accusing Brother, and the accused Brother of his acceptance of the report of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation.
- (b) If the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation can not adjust the dispute between the Brothers, the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation shall make a written report to that effect to the Worshipful Master. Said report of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation shall fully describe the dispute between the Brothers, the position advocated by the accusing Brother, the position advocated by the accused Brother, and what prevented an adjustment of the dispute between the Brothers. The Worshipful Master shall immediately forward such report to the Grand Secretary for further action by the Grand Master. Upon receipt of the report of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation that the dispute between the Brothers could not be reconciled, or if the Grand Master does not approve the recommendation of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, the Grand Master shall take any action prescribed in Article 515.

Art. 514. Grand Lodge Committee On Masonic Mediation.

When ordered by the Grand Master as a result of the filing of allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall proceed to attempt to resolve the pending charges within thirty (30) days of receiving the order from the Grand Master, and report the results to the Grand Master. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall be bound by the provisions of Article 126(f)(3).

- (a) If there is a successful mediation of the allegations, the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall prepare a written mediation report containing all of the terms and conditions of the agreement of the parties, signed by all members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation, the accusing Brother and the accused Brother and the report shall be filed with the Grand Secretary for review and action by the Grand Master. If the Grand Master approves the recommendations of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation, no further action will be taken on the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and the Grand Secretary will notify the Worshipful Master, the accusing Brother and the accused Brother of his acceptance of the mediation report.
- (b) If the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation can not resolve the allegations by mediation, the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall make a written report to the Grand Master. Said report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall fully describe the dispute between the Brothers, the position advocated by the accusing Brother, the position advocated by the accused Brother and what prevented a mediation of the dispute between the Brothers. Upon receipt of the report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation that the allegations could not be resolved by mediation, the Grand Master shall take any other action prescribed in Article 512.

CHAPTER 4 - TITLE V

GRAND MASTER'S REFERRAL TO MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Art. 515. When Commission Appointed. When the Grand Master determines that a Masonic Disciplinary Commission should be appointed to determine the truth or falsity of Masonic disciplinary violations, he shall take the following actions:

- (a) Notify the District Deputy Grand Master and Worshipful Master of the accused's Lodge or Lodges that allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been accepted by the Grand Master;
- (b) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Trial Master;
- (c) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing any Lodge in the State of Texas as Secretary of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission;
- (d) Order the District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic district in which the accused Mason resides to either personally serve or serve by certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery-deliver to addressee only, such accused Mason with a true and correct copy of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, the name of the Trial Master, the name of the advocate for the accuser, and the name of the advocate for the accused. The District Deputy Grand Master shall make a written notation of the date, time and place of service of the foregoing documents on the accused, and file the same with the Trial Master for inclusion in the records.

Art. 516. If Accused Cannot Be Found. If the District Deputy Grand Master can not find the accused, so as to serve him with the notices required in Article 517, he shall make inquiry as to the cause of his absence, and make a return to the Trial Master so such absence may be included in the records.

Art. 517. Service On Accused Essential. No Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be held until the accused has been served with a copy of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and has been duly summoned to a disciplinary commission

hearing as set forth herein after, except on special permission by the Grand Master. Said permission shall not be granted by the Grand Master unless there is good cause shown, i.e.; flight of accused, voluntary concealment, absence from United States, etc.

If the accused secretes himself, or in any manner evades service of a copy of the allegations, or if his residence or whereabouts are unknown, and cannot be ascertained by reasonable effort to do so, then the Trial Master shall appoint some member to represent the accused, as proxy, in all matters pertaining to the disciplinary hearing, upon whom notice can be served, which will have the same effect and be as binding as if served on the accused in person.

Art. 518. Appointment Of Trial Master. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Trial Master at any time he orders allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The necessary travel expenses of the Trial Master shall be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas. No member of a Lodge in which an accused or an accuser is a member shall be appointed as Trial Master.

Art. 519. Duties And Powers Of Trial Master. Once appointed by the Grand Master, the Trial Master shall have control of all of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations referred to him for Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The Trial Master shall have the specific duties and powers:

- (a) To preside during all deliberations of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.
- (b) To determine the place and date of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, and to notify the accuser, the accused, and their advocates of such time, date, and place. Each party and each advocate shall have at least thirty (30) days notice of the date of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.
- (c) To order the Secretary of the Lodge where the Disciplinary Commission hearing is to be conducted to summons a Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel as set forth herein after.
- (d) To enter pre-hearing orders.

- (e) To hear and rule on all pre-hearing motions, to include motions to amend the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, motions to dismiss, motions to quash, motions for bill of particulars, motions for continuance, motions for change of venue, stipulations of evidence, the taking of written discovery and oral depositions, discovery disputes, motions to enter agreements, negotiated findings, agreements to settle contested issues by agreed findings of fact and law, agreements as to punishments, and to dismiss the Masonic Disciplinary Commission if the allegations have been resolved by pre-trial agreements between the parties and approved by the Trial Master.
- (f) To resolve and conclude the disputed facts prior to or during hearing. Although the Trial Master has full authority to resolve and conclude the disputed facts, the Trial Master may not at any time deprive an accused of his right to have the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations fully determined by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and his right to have a Masonic Disciplinary Commission determine an appropriate punishment for the accused with respect to the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against him.
- (g) To enter an Order dismissing the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations if, after discovery is complete or after the evidence has been presented at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, there is no credible evidence to support the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations and no reasonable Masonic Disciplinary Commission would have found the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to be true.
- (h) To enter an appropriate punishment for Masonic disciplinary violations that have been referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission if all of the parties agree to the punishment recommendation, and the Trial Master believes that the punishment is a fair and reasonable punishment for the accused based on the Masonic disciplinary violations alleged. If the punishment agreement is agreed to by the Trial Master, he shall enter an appropriate order assessing the punishment, dismiss the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and file his Order with the Grand Secretary. The Grand Master has no authority to set aside or over rule any Order by a Trial Master of any agreed punishment under the provisions of this Article.

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THE REPEALING OF ARTICLES 522, 523 AND 524

Art. 520. Appointment of Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Secretary at any time he orders allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The necessary expenses of the Secretary shall be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas. No member of a Lodge in which an accused or an accuser is a member shall be appointed as Secretary.

Art. 521. Duties and Powers of Secretary. The Secretary shall have the specific duties and responsibilities to see that the testimony of all witnesses before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission is duly recorded. The recording shall be by either audio or video, and shall insure that the testimony of any witness or witnesses is preserved for use by any party on appeal to the Grand Master.

Art. 522. Appointment of Advocates for Accuser and Accused. Repealed December 2014

Art. 523. Duties of Advocate For Accuser. Repealed December 2014

Art. 524. Duties of Advocate For Accused. Repealed December 2014

Art. 525. Failure of Accused To Appear. If the accused fails to appear at the time and place set for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, and the Trial Master finds that the accused was duly notified of the date, time, and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, the Trial Master shall proceed with the hearing in the absence of the accused, and enter a plea of Not True to all of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against the accused.

The advocate for the accused shall have no authority to enter any pleas of True to the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations unless specifically authorized to do so by the accused, in writing, and filed for record with the Trial Master prior to the commencement of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 526. Accuser and Accused May Choose Own Advocates. Both the accuser and the accused may choose their

own advocates. Such advocates must be Master Masons in good standing in the Grand Lodge of Texas. If an accuser or an accused chooses his own advocate, the name, address, and Lodge membership shall immediately be provided to the Trial Master. The Trial Master does not have the authority to reject an advocate selected by the accused, but if the Trial Master does not believe the advocate selected by the accused has the ability to comply with all of the requirements of an advocate for an accused, the Trial Master may require that the advocate for the accused selected by the Grand Master continue to advise the accused throughout the disciplinary procedures, to include the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

CHAPTER 5 - TITLE V

WAIVER OF RIGHT TO HEARING BEFORE MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Art. 527. Right To Hearing Before A Masonic Disciplinary Commission. Every Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation has a right to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. Said right to such hearing can not be waived except upon the request of and consent of the accused.

Art. 528. Waiver Of Right To Hearing Before Masonic Disciplinary Commission. An accused may, upon written request submitted to the Trial Master, waive his right to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and submit all contested facts and evidence to the Trial Master for his determination without the benefit of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 529. Admonishments To Accused. The Trial Master shall, prior to proceeding to a hearing without a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, fully admonish the accused of his rights to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and insure that the accused's waiver of a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission is freely, voluntarily and intelligently made based on a full understanding of his rights.

Art. 530. Hearing Before Trial Master. If the Trial Master accepts the accused's waiver of his right to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Trial Master shall proceed

to hear the evidence and testimony of the witnesses under the same discovery, evidentiary and procedural rules required in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing set forth hereafter in this Title.

Art. 531. Ruling of Trial Master. After the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing and the argument of all advocates, the Trial Master shall determine if the Masonic disciplinary allegations are True or Not True; provided however, if the accused shall plead True to the allegations, it shall not be necessary to determine the truth of the allegations, only the penalty.

If the Trial Master determines the allegations to be Not True, the accused shall be released from all jeopardy for such Masonic disciplinary allegations.

If the Trial Master determines the Masonic disciplinary allegations to be True, or if the accused has pled True to the Masonic disciplinary allegations, the Trial Master shall determine the appropriate penalty as follows:

1. Expulsion;
2. Indefinite suspension;
3. Definite suspension for a specific period of time; or
4. Reprimand.

The Trial Master shall orally announce his penalty decision to the accuser, the accused, and advocates for the accuser and the accused. Within five (5) days after the hearing, the Trial Master shall make a written record of his findings and forward a copy of the same to the Grand Secretary for filing with the Grand Lodge of Texas, with a copy to the accuser, the accused, and advocates for the accuser and the accused.

Art. 532. Grand Secretary to Notify Lodge of Action of Trial Master. Upon receipt of the written report of the Trial Master, the Grand Secretary shall notify any Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member of the action taken by the Trial Master.

CHAPTER 6 - TITLE V

**ORGANIZATION OF MASONIC
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

Art. 533. Selection And Empanelling Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission. After Masonic disciplinary violations are referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission for hearing as set forth herein above, the Trial Master shall provide for the selection and empanelling of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission in the following manner:

- (a) The Trial Master shall contact the accuser and the accused to arrange for an agreed hearing date. If no hearing date can be agreed upon, the Trial Master shall set a date for the hearing, giving consideration to the length of time necessary for the accuser and the accused to prepare for hearing; the length of time necessary to complete discovery, if any; and time needed to select a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If no hearing date can be agreed upon, the Trial Master shall give the accuser and the accused not less than thirty (30) days advance written notice of the date, time, and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. (Revised 2014)
- (b) The Trial Master shall, from the membership of the Lodge where the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing is to be held, select three (3) Master Masons who shall be called "Commissioners." These commissioners shall, within five (5) days of their selection as commissioners, meet at the Lodge to select twenty-four (24) Master Masons of the Lodge, who shall be fair and impartial, to serve as the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel. If there are not twenty-four (24) such members, the Commissioners, and the remaining membership of the Lodge shall constitute the panel list.
- (c) The names of the twenty-four (24) Master Masons selected by the commissioners shall be written and mailed to the Trial Master. The list will be provided by the Trial Master to the accuser and the accused. If there are twenty-four (24) on the list, the accuser and the accused shall each have a right to strike three (3) names from the list. If there are less than twenty-four (24) names on the list,

the right of challenge shall be proportionately reduced by the Trial Master. The challenges of the accuser and accused shall be returned to the Trial Master within five (5) days after they are received. (Revised 2014)

- (d) After the challenges of accuser and accused have been received by the Trial Master, he shall strike those names from the list, place the remaining names on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel list, and forward the same to the District Deputy Grand Master who has jurisdiction over the Lodge.
- (e) The District Deputy Grand Master shall immediately meet with the Secretary of the Lodge and prepare a summons to each Master Mason on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel list. The summons shall be under the seal of the Lodge, to appear at the time and place set for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and advising that failure to answer such summons shall subject such member to discipline as a Masonic disciplinary violation. Said summons shall be mailed to each person on the list by regular mail and advising each person to contact the Secretary of the Lodge to verify that the summons was received. Upon receipt of the summons, each person shall immediately notify the Secretary of the Lodge that he received the summons, and that he will appear at the time and date specified on the summons to serve on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel.
- (f) Upon the date and time of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, the Trial Master shall call the names from the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel in the order they appear on the panel list. The first twelve names on the list shall constitute the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.
- (g) If, for any reason, a member of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel summoned fails, or shall be unable, to appear and act, the next following name on the list shall be placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, until twelve (12) Master Masons are placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.
- (h) If, after the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is empanelled, and the hearing has commenced, any of said commissioners should become disqualified by sickness,

death, removal, or refusal to act, the hearing shall nevertheless proceed, provided there still remain as many as nine qualified commissioners. In case less than nine remain, the proceedings shall be suspended and a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be selected.

Art. 534. Disqualifications for Masonic Disciplinary Commission. The following Masons are not qualified to serve on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and the Trial Master shall make inquiry of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission as to these matters prior to commencement of the hearing;

- (a) A Master Mason who is not in good standing in a Lodge in the State of Texas;
- (b) A Master Mason who is under allegations of a Masonic disciplinary violation;
- (c) A Master Mason who is a material witness in the hearing for either the accuser or the accused;
- (d) A Master Mason who is related to the accuser or the accused in the second degree affinity or the second degree consanguinity;
- (e) A Master Mason who has expressed an opinion as to the truth or falsity of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and said opinion is so fixed as to cause him to be prejudiced against, or biased in favor of the accuser or the accused;
- (f) A Master Mason who has previously served on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing the same allegations against the same accused;
- (g) A Master Mason who, for whatever reason, is incapable of giving the accuser or the accused a fair and impartial trial based solely on the testimony and Masonic Law.

Art. 535. Effect of Disqualification. If, after the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is seated, the Trial Master finds that any member of the commission is disqualified, the member shall be dismissed, and the next following name on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel list shall be placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. This procedure shall continue until twelve (12) qualified Master Masons are placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 536. Oath To Masonic Disciplinary Commission. The following oath shall be administered to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission:

"Do each of you, upon your honor as Master Masons, pledge to render a fair and impartial verdict according to Masonic law and upon the testimony presented at the hearing of this cause?"

Art. 537. Instructions To Masonic Disciplinary Commission. After a Masonic Disciplinary Commission has been empanelled, the Trial Master shall give the following instructions to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission:

- (a) Do not mingle with, nor talk to, the parties, the witnesses, or any other person who might be connected with, or interested in, this case, except for casual greetings. They have to follow these same instructions and you will understand it when they do.
- (b) Do not accept from, nor give to, any of the persons specified next above any favors however slight, such as rides, food, or refreshments.
- (c) Do not discuss anything about this case or even mention it to anyone whomsoever nor permit anyone to mention it in your hearing until you are discharged. If anyone attempts to discuss the case, report it to me at once.
- (d) Do not discuss the case among yourselves until after you have heard all of the evidence, the Trial Master's instructions, the advocates' arguments and until I have instructed you to consider your verdict.
- (e) Do not make any investigation about the facts of this case. Occasionally, we have members of a Masonic Disciplinary Trial Commission who privately seek out information about a case on trial. This is improper. All evidence must be presented in open Lodge during hearing so that each side may question the witness and make proper objections. This avoids a hearing based on secret evidence. This applies to the parties and to me. If you know of, or learn anything about this case except from the evidence admitted during the course of this trial, you must tell me about it at once.

- (f) Do not make personal inspections, observations, investigations or experiments nor personally view premises, things or articles not produced in this Lodge during trial. Do not let anyone else do any of these things for you.
- (g) Do not seek information contained in law books, dictionaries, public or private records or elsewhere which is not admitted into evidence.
- (h) At the close of the evidence, I may submit to you a written charge and a verdict form for your use in determining your verdict and the punishment to be assessed, if any.

Art. 538. Place of Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing. All Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearings shall be held in a Lodgeroom or adjoining anteroom or other room connected therewith.

Art. 539. Who May Attend A Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing. Any Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas may attend a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and be present during the presentation of all evidence.

CHAPTER 7 - TITLE V

DISCOVERY PRIOR TO MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION HEARING

Art. 540. Forms of Discovery. The permissible forms of discovery are:

1. Request for disclosure;
2. Request for production and inspection of documents;
3. Written interrogatories;
4. Oral depositions.

Art. 541. Scope of Discovery. In general, an accuser or an accused may obtain discovery regarding any matter that is relevant to the Masonic disciplinary violations pending before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 542. Request for Disclosure.

1. Name, address, and telephone number of persons with knowledge of relevant facts and a brief, general statement of their knowledge;
2. Name, address, and telephone number of all persons expected to be called as witnesses at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing;
3. Name, address, and telephone number of any expert witnesses that will be called as witnesses at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing;
4. A copy of the written statement of any witness;
5. The legal contentions and the factual basis for such contentions.

Art. 543. Request for Production of Documents. An accuser or an accused may serve on the other person a request for production or inspection, to inspect and copy documents regarding any matter that is relevant to the Masonic disciplinary violations pending before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. An accuser or an accused may not submit more than twenty-five (25) written requests for production of documents to the other person without leave from the Trial Master.

Art. 544. Written Interrogatories. An accuser or an accused may serve on the other person written interrogatories to inquire about any matter that is relevant to the Masonic disciplinary violations pending before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. Such interrogatories may inquire into the specific Masonic disciplinary violations, to include asking the responding person to state the factual basis for the other's claims and/or defenses. Such interrogatories shall not be used to require the responding person to marshal all of his available proof or the proof the party intends to offer at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. An accuser or an accused may not submit more than twenty-five (25) written interrogatories to the other person without leave from the Trial Master.

Art. 545. Oral Depositions. An accuser or an accused may take the oral deposition of any person or entity by deposition on oral examination before any person authorized to take oral depositions under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (preferably a

Master Mason); or take a video or audio recorded oral deposition under rules that are set forth by the Trial Master. If a request is made to take a video or audio recorded oral deposition without the use of a person authorized to take oral depositions under the Texas Rules for Civil Procedure, the Trial Master shall either personally supervise the taking of such depositions, or appoint another Master Mason to supervise the taking of such video or audio recorded oral deposition. Such person shall provide a copy of the oral deposition to the Trial Master with his certification that it is a true and correct representation of the testimony of the witness being deposed.

The accuser and the accused shall diligently work to set an agreed date and place for the taking of any oral depositions as soon as possible. If an agreement as to a date and place for oral depositions can not be determined by the parties, the Trial Master, upon request of either the accuser or the accused, shall determine the date and place of any oral depositions.

Notice of an oral deposition upon an accuser, an accused or any other Master Mason shall be given in writing delivered in person, or by delivery through the U.S. mail, registered mail, return receipt requested, setting for the date, time, place of the deposition and the manner in which the deposition will be taken. Each Mason shall be given not less than three (3) days written notice of the time, date and place of his oral deposition, if within the jurisdiction of the Lodge, and five (5) days written notice if outside the jurisdiction of the Lodge. Said notice to a Mason shall inform him that it is a Masonic disciplinary violation for him to willfully fail to appear for his oral deposition. If a Mason fails to appear after receiving notice of his deposition, he shall be immediately contacted by the District Deputy Grand Master in his jurisdiction to ascertain why he did not appear. If the Mason does not have good cause for his failure to appear for his oral deposition, the District Deputy Grand Master shall file Masonic disciplinary violations against such person.

Every witness whose deposition is taken by oral examination must first be placed under oath as prescribed by Article 570 (Oath To Witnesses), and, if the deposition is taken in writing, the witness shall be given the opportunity to read, correct, and sign his oral deposition if he chooses to do so.

Art. 546. Notice and Service of Discovery Request. All requests for discovery requested by the accuser or the accused

shall be served on the other person by hand delivery, by registered mail, return receipt requested, or by fax transmission with confirmation requested.

All discovery will be exchanged between the accuser and the accused only, unless there is a discovery dispute, in which case, a copy of any discovery in dispute shall be submitted to the Trial Master with the person's request for the Trial Master to rule on the discovery dispute.

Art. 547. Time for Response To Discovery. All discovery shall be responded to in writing by the person receiving the discovery within fifteen (15) days from the time of his receipt of the discovery. If such time is not adequate, the person receiving the discovery may request additional time for his response from the Trial Master. Upon request, the Trial Master may determine the time for response to discovery.

Art. 548. Duty to Supplement or Amend. If an accuser or an accused learns that his responses to written discovery were incomplete or incorrect when made, or although complete and correct when made, are no longer complete and correct, the person must amend and supplement his written responses to discovery to make the responses complete and correct.

Art. 549. Discovery Disputes. An accuser and the accused and their advocates are expected to cooperate in discovery and to make any agreements reasonably necessary for the efficient disposition of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations. Any discovery disputes between the accuser and the accused shall be resolved by the Trial Master, and his discretion on discovery disputes is final and not appealable.

Art. 550. Pre-Hearing Discovery Order. Upon the request of an accuser or an accused, or upon his own motion, the Trial Master may prepare a pre-hearing discovery order setting forth the permissible discovery, the manner of service of discovery, the permissible time for response and supplementation of discovery and any other discovery orders that the Trial Master deems appropriate.

Art. 551. Discovery Abuse. It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for an accuser, an accused or an advocate for either to abuse the discovery process by: (1) seeking, making or resisting

discovery or filing unreasonably frivolous, oppressive or harassing discovery requests or (2) filing a response or answer to discovery that is unreasonably frivolous or made for the purposes of attempting to delay a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

A Trial Master who finds that an accuser, an accused or an advocate for the same is abusing the discovery process shall immediately advise such person in writing of such abuse. If the person persists in abusing the discovery process after a written warning of such, the Trial Master shall file Masonic disciplinary violations against such person.

CHAPTER 8 - TITLE V CHANGE OF VENUE

Art. 552. Motion For Change of Venue. Motion may be made to the Trial Master by an accuser, or an accused for change of venue. The grounds for change of venue are:

- (a) It is apparent that a fair and impartial trial cannot be obtained in such Lodge where the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is to be convened;
- (b) The membership of the Lodge where the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is to be convened, exclusive of officers, and material witnesses, is not sufficient to provide a Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel of at least twenty-four (24) members;
- (c) When a new hearing has been granted in any proceedings before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and there appears to be an insufficient number of qualified members in the Lodge to provide a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission; or
- (d) When it becomes apparent to the Trial Master, without motion, that a fair and impartial hearing cannot be obtained in a Lodge or when a new hearing is granted and there is an insufficient number of qualified members in a Lodge to provide a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel, the Trial Master is authorized to transfer the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing to any Lodge which is located not

more than one hundred (100) miles from that Lodge in which the original hearing was set, and which is not open to the same objection, for a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 553. Time For Filing Of Motion. Any motions for change of venue must be filed fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and any such motions filed on the date of the hearing will not be considered for any purpose.

Art. 554. Procedures After Change of Venue. When the venue for any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing is changed to another Lodge for hearing, the Trial Master shall proceed in the same manner and shall exercise the same powers to convene another Masonic Disciplinary Commission as set forth herein. The Trial Master may require the advocates for the accuser and the accused to continue or he may request the Grand Master to appoint other advocates.

CHAPTER 9 - TITLE V

CONTINUANCE OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION HEARING

Art. 555. Grounds For Continuance. Motion may be made to the Trial Master to continue the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing for the following reasons:

1. Absence of the accuser, accused, or advocates for either;
2. Absence of necessary witnesses;
3. Sickness;
4. To await action of state or federal courts;
5. Any other just and equitable reason.

Art. 556. Length Of Continuance. It shall be the duty of the Trial Master to reconvene the Masonic Disciplinary Commission as soon as possible, giving due diligence to the rights of the parties to a fair and impartial hearing. The Trial Master shall not continue a hearing for longer than thirty (30) days unless there is good

cause to do so. Sickness of necessary persons and time to complete discovery are to be deemed necessary reasons.

Art. 557. Postponement To Time Certain. When granting a continuance, the Trial Master shall at the same time fix a specific date and time for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

No indefinite postponement shall be granted by a Trial Master.

The Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing as prescribed herein above.

Art. 558. Acquittal By Civil Courts Not To Govern Disposition Of Allegations of Masonic Disciplinary Violations. The acquittal of any Mason by the state or federal courts of any offense of which he stands accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation shall not serve as a criterion for, or govern the action to be taken by, the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Grand Master may proceed with its disciplinary procedures notwithstanding, if the facts show that a Masonic disciplinary violation has been committed. Each such case must be governed by its own facts and demands of Masonic justice tempered by the exercise of such charity as the circumstances justify.

CHAPTER 10 - TITLE V

PRESENTATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS AND ANSWERS OF THE ACCUSED

Art. 559. Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations To Be Read. The Trial Master shall read the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 560. Answer Of Accused. After the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been read to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the accused will enter his answer to the allegations. The accused's plea shall be "True" or "Not True."

Art. 561. Two Sets Of Allegations May Be Heard At The Same Time. All allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations may be heard at the same time, even though the alleged violations occurred at different times and the allegations were referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission at different times. All allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations must be voted on separately by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 562. Burden On Accuser. The allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against any Mason are presumed to be Not True. The burden rests with the Accuser and his advocate to introduce evidence to prove the allegations are true before a finding of True may be made by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 563. In Absence Of Answer By Accused, Answer Of Not True To Be Recorded. If the accused neglects or refuses to answer or stands mute, an answer of Not True shall be recorded by the Trial Master, and the hearing shall proceed in all things as though the accused answered Not True.

Art. 564. Accused May Answer Orally Or In Writing. The answer of the accused may be in writing or he may answer generally “True” or “Not True.” In case he answers orally, such answer shall forthwith be recorded by the Secretary. If he answers in writing, his answer shall be read to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by the Trial Master, recorded, and filed with the papers in the hearing.

Art. 565. Procedure When Accused Answers True. When an answer of “True” is entered in any hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, it shall not be necessary to vote on the question of the truth of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations. The Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall then proceed to the question of an appropriate punishment to be entered for the accused. Both the accuser and the accused are entitled to introduce evidence before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission for its use in determining an appropriate punishment to be entered for the accused. Evidence of the gravity of the offense or evidence in mitigation of the offense may be offered for the limited purpose of determining a proper punishment for an accused.

CHAPTER 11 - TITLE V WITNESSES

Art. 566. Oral Testimony If Witness Present. The testimony of all resident Masons who can attend the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing must be given orally before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 567. Masons May Be Summoned As Witnesses. The attendance of witnesses who are Masons may be enforced by summons. To summon witnesses, either the accuser or the accused must make application for summons to the Trial Master in writing. Such application shall provide the full name, residence address, home telephone number, and Lodge of the Mason being requested to appear by summons. The Trial Master shall then forward the request for summons to the District Deputy Grand Master in whose district the Mason resides. The District Deputy Grand Master shall insure that the Secretary of the Lodge issues a summons, under the seal of the Lodge, to the witness to appear at a time certain to be a witness in the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The summons shall be personally delivered to the witness by the District Deputy Grand Master, or other Masons designated by him. At the time of delivery of a summons to any witness, the witness must be advised that it is a Masonic disciplinary violation to willfully refuse to obey a witness summons.

Art. 568. Those Connected With Trial May Be Summoned. The Trial Master is authorized to issue summons to enforce the attendance of any other person officially connected with a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. Disobedience of any such summons is a Masonic disciplinary violation.

Art. 569. Witnesses Shall Be Sworn And May Be Put Under The Rule. Witnesses testifying before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall first be sworn as provided in Article 570. In all hearings, upon the request of the accuser or the accused, the witnesses (other than the accuser, the accused, or any other officer of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission), after being sworn, shall be removed from the room in which the hearing is being conducted to some place where they cannot hear the testimony of any other witness. This is termed "placing the witness under the rule." Witnesses, when placed under the rule, shall be instruct-

ed by the Trial Master that they are not to converse with each other or with any other person about their testimony at the hearing other than the accuser and his advocate or the accused and his advocate except by permission of the Trial Master, and they are not to read any report of or comment upon the testimony in the hearing while under the rule.

Art. 570. Oath Of Witnesses. The Trial Master is vested with the power and authority to administer an oath to any witness before he testifies at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. Said oath shall be as follows:

"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony which you shall give in the matter pending against Brother _____ shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?"

In case any witness refuses to be sworn, the fact shall be noted and his testimony taken notwithstanding, but same shall be given such credence as the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members shall accord it.

Art. 571. Qualification Of Witnesses. Any person of normal intelligence or understanding is a competent witness. A witness cannot be compelled to criminate himself.

Art. 572. Certain Witnesses To Retire After Testimony. When a suspended or expelled Mason, or a non-Mason, is a witness at any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and his/her testimony has been completed, he/she shall be courteously requested to retire by the Trial Master.

Art. 573. Accused Cannot Be Compelled To Testify. An accused may not be compelled to testify.

CHAPTER 12 - TITLE V EVIDENCE

Art. 574. Limitation On Use Of Evidence. Any evidence introduced in a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission may not be used outside the Lodgeroom for any purpose except before the Grand Lodge on appeal.

Art. 575. Evidence Of Mediation Or Settlements. If any accusations of Masonic disciplinary violations are referred to Mediation by the Grand Master, or if any settlement conference or procedures are ordered by the Trial Master, the fact of such actions and any facts disclosed by the accuser or the accused at any mediation or settlement conferences are strictly prohibited from being introduced into evidence at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 576. Order of Introduction of Evidence. The accuser shall present his witnesses and introduce his evidence. The accused shall then present his witnesses and introduce his evidence after which rebuttal evidence may be introduced by the accuser and the accused. (Revised 2014)

Art. 577. Official Record As Evidence. The official books and records of the Lodge, the Charter of the Lodge, and the official records of the Grand Lodge or certified copies thereof, as well as the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, are admissible as evidence and are proof of any fact contained therein.

Art. 578. Certain Court Records Admissible. The record of a Court of competent jurisdiction, duly certified, showing complaint, information, indictment, arraignment, conviction, and sentence of the accused, according to the forms of law, for the same offense for which the accused is accused under a Masonic disciplinary violation, is legal and competent evidence against the accused, and, if offered, shall be admitted in the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and such weight given to it as the Masonic Disciplinary Commission may deem appropriate to the hearing.

Art. 579. Written Pre-Trial Discovery Admissible. Written pre-trial discovery, if taken under the provisions of Chapter 7, Title V, of these laws shall be admissible, unless the Trial Master finds that such discovery would be irrelevant to the accusations or prejudicial to either party. If a Trial Master prohibits the admission of pre-hearing discovery at any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, he shall state on the record his reasons for such rejection.

Art. 580. Voluntary Statement of Accused. The voluntary statement of an accused is not admissible as evidence in his behalf but may be used against him when made under such circumstances as to constitute a voluntary confession of the truth of a Masonic disciplinary violation.

Art. 581 Hearsay Evidence. The admission of hearsay evidence is under the discretion of the Trial Master. Such evidence has to be relevant and material to a contested issue, the introduction of such evidence is admissible only if the Trial Master determines that the hearsay evidence a) has a tendency to make the existence of any fact more probable or less probable than it would be without the hearsay evidence; and b) the probable value of the evidence is not outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence. c) the evidence is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent individuals in the conduct of their business or major personal financial affairs. (Revised 2014)

Art. 582. Ex Parte Affidavits Inadmissible. Ex parte affidavits cannot be used in evidence. The accuser and the accused have the right to require that all witnesses appear and subject themselves to cross examination of the other party.

Art. 583. Proof Of Day Violation Occurred. Proof of the specific day and time the violation was committed is not confined to a particular day as alleged in the written accusations of a Masonic violation. However, substantial proof of the time and date of the occurrence will be made to insure that the allegations of a Masonic violation are not too remote as to deprive an accused of his right to a fair and impartial Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 584. Truth Of Alleged Defamation Admissible In Defense and Mitigation. An accused answering accusations of defaming a Brother may introduce evidence to establish the truth of the alleged defamation in defense or mitigation of the accusations.

Art. 585. Accused May Testify. An accused shall, in all hearings, be allowed to testify in the same manner and under the same rules as other witnesses, provided that, if the accused be an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, or a suspended or expelled Mason, such testimony shall be taken in the same manner and under the same rules as provided for the taking of the testimony of persons who are not Masons.

Art. 586. Hearings For Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Masons. Masonic Disciplinary hearings for an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason shall be conducted with the same procedure employed in the trial of a Master Mason.

Art. 587. Testimony Given In Previous Hearing Admissible. Testimony given before a Masonic Disciplinary,

Commission hearing and reduced to writing shall be admissible evidence on a subsequent hearing of the same accusations with said testimony, or a copy thereof, being certified to as correct by the Secretary or the Trial Master in the hearing from which the testimony was taken; provided that both the accuser and the accused had the opportunity for cross-examination of the witness while said testimony was being given; and provided that either party may re-examine the witness at such subsequent trial, if present, notwithstanding the former testimony of such witness may have been read under the provisions of this article.

Art. 588. The Trial Master May Question Witnesses. The Trial Master may propound questions to witnesses at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. Said questions shall only be propounded after the accuser and accused have completed their examination of the witness, and only for the purpose of clearing up ambiguities and conflicts in the testimony, if any. The members of the Masonic Trial Commission may not propound questions to any witness at the hearing.

Article 589. The Trial Master Shall Rule On Evidentiary Questions. The Trial Master shall have the authority to rule on all matters involving the introduction of evidence at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

- (a) The Trial Master may, in his discretion, direct the order of proof, exclude cumulative or irrelevant testimony or other evidence, and direct the parties to focus their presentations on issues the in which the decision could dispose of all or part of the allegations.
- (b) All evidence shall be taken in the presence of the Trial Master and the parties, except where any party is absent, or in default default, or has waived the right to be present.
- (c) All parties shall be afforded an opportunity to examine such documents or other evidence and to lodge appropriate objections, if any.
- (d) The Trial Master is not required to follow strict rules of evidence as required in civil or criminal trials in state and federal courts, but a Trial Master shall follow all rules of evidence set forth in this Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and he shall make such ruling as to provide the accused and the accuser with the right to a full, fair, and impartial hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

- (e) In the administration of the rules and procedures set forth herein by the Trial Master, the central principal shall be fairness to all concerned.

(Revised 2014)

Art. 590. An Accuser Or Accused Without Advocate. An accuser or an accused who does not have an advocate shall have the same right to present evidence as would his advocate if he had such advocate.

CHAPTER 13 - TITLE V ARGUMENTS

Art. 591. Arguments. After the close of the evidence, arguments may be presented to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by the accuser and the accused, under such regulations and restrictions as to time as the Trial Master shall determine; provided that both shall be afforded an equal division of time for arguments. (Revised 2014)

Art. 592. Order Of Arguments. The accuser shall have the right to present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission first, and then the accused shall present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If he elects to do so, the accuser may split his argument, to be given the right to close the arguments. If the accuser elects to split his arguments, he shall be required to fully present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission when he first makes his argument, and his closing argument shall be limited to rebutting arguments of the accused. (Revised 2014)

Art. 593. Limitations Of Arguments. Arguments shall be limited to a summarization of the evidence offered at the hearing, reasonable deductions to be made from such evidence, and arguments as to an appropriate punishment to be entered by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. A Trial Master may, within his discretion, establish reasonable time limits on arguments. (Revised 2014)

Art. 594. Arguments. If The Parties Have Advocates. If the accuser or the accused has an advocate, the advocate shall be given the same right to present arguments as would the party he represents. (Revised 2014)

Art. 595. No Comments After Arguments. After the arguments of the advocates for the accuser and the accused are concluded, no further remarks may be made to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by any person as to the merits of the case.

CHAPTER 14 - TITLE V

CONSIDERATION AND BALLOTTING BY MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Art. 596. Who May Be Present During Consideration And Balloting. After arguments, and prior to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission considering any evidence and punishments, the Trial Master shall close the proceedings and remove all persons from the room. The only persons authorized to be present in the Lodge room when the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is convened to consider the evidence and/or punishment are the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members and the Trial Master. All others present, to include the accuser and the accused, and their advocates, shall be ordered from the room.

The Tiler shall be ordered to secure the door from the outside. The Trial Master may authorize the secretary to appear before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, if necessary, to review evidence with the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. (Revised 2014)

Art. 598. Ballot On Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations. After discussion by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, if any, the Commission shall proceed to determine, by ballot, whether the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are True or Not True; provided, however, that, if the accused shall plead True to the allegations, it shall not be necessary to ballot on the allegations, but only on penalties.

Art. 599. Ballots Necessary To Sustain Allegations And Enter Punishment. A majority of the votes of the members of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission present shall be necessary for finding the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to be True.

A majority of the votes of the members of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission present shall also be necessary to assess any penalties against an accused.

Art. 600. Preparation Of Ballot Box. Before the ballot is taken, the Trial Master shall see that not less than twelve ballots, each, of black and white, are provided and placed in the ballot box.

Art. 601. Meaning Of White And Black Balls On The Allegations. In balloting upon the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against an accused, a black ball shall be held as a vote of True to the allegations, and a white ball shall be held as a vote of Not True.

Art. 602. Meaning Of White And Black Balls On The Penalties To Be Assessed. In balloting upon the penalties to be assessed against a Mason accused of Masonic disciplinary violations, a black ball shall be held as a vote “for the penalty being considered” and a white ball shall be held as a vote “against the penalty being considered.”

Art. 603. Manner Of Voting. The vote shall be by secret ballot, and shall be taken upon each specification separately and presented in the following manner. When the Masonic Disciplinary Commission advises the Trial Master they are ready to vote, the Trial Master shall read the first specification of a Masonic disciplinary violation and ask the Masonic Disciplinary Commission: *“Is this allegation of a Masonic disciplinary violation sustained by the evidence?”*, and then the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall vote on the allegation. In like manner, all other allegations shall be separately presented to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and voted on.

Art. 604. Ballot On Penalties. After one or more allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been sustained by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, or in the event an accused has pled True to the allegations, the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall immediately proceed to balloting on the appropriate penalty to be assessed in the following order, beginning with the highest and descending until the requisite vote is reached for a specific penalty:

1. Expulsion;
2. Indefinite suspension;
3. Definite suspension;
4. In the event the vote shall be against expulsion, indefinite suspension, or definite suspension, the penalty of reprimand will be inflicted without the necessity of voting hereon and such reprimand shall be given. The Trial Master will order that the District Deputy Grand Master, after the time for appeal has expired, and provided the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission have not been reversed, summon the accused before his Lodge and give him such reprimand. Where reprimand is ordered, and an accused moves out of the jurisdiction of the Lodge before the reprimand is given, the Grand Master shall order the District Deputy Grand Master of

the district wherein the accused resides to summon the accused before a Lodge there and to give him such reprimand.

Art. 605. Certain Ballot Cannot Be Reconsidered. A ballot resulting in a refusal to assess a penalty cannot be reconsidered.

Art. 606. Suspension. A member may be suspended indefinitely or for a definite period determined by a majority of the members of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission present.

Art. 607. Balloting On Definite Suspension. If a ballot of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission approves a penalty of definite suspension, the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall then ballot on a period of the definite suspension until a majority of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission agrees on the period of the definite suspension. The period of the definite suspension shall be in days, months, and/or years. The time of the suspension commences on the date the penalty is handed down by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, or the date the Grand Secretary certifies that all appeals have expired and the decision of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission has become final. In such case, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Trial Master, accuser, accused, advocates for both, and the Secretary of the Lodge of the accused of the date a definite suspension shall commence.

Art. 608. Where Penalty Specified By Law. If a specified penalty is provided by the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas for any Masonic disciplinary violation, no other penalty may be assessed.

Art. 609. Result Of A Tie Vote. A tie vote on any allegation of Masonic disciplinary violation submitted to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission fails to sustain the truth of the allegation. A tie vote on any penalty considered by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission defeats the punishment being considered.

Art. 610. Results Of Ballot To Be Recorded. The result of the ballot upon each allegation of Masonic disciplinary violation and result of the ballot upon each penalty considered by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be recorded by the Trial Master.

Art. 611. Notification Of Action Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission. After the Masonic Disciplinary Commission has

considered and balloted upon all matters submitted to them by the Trial Master, the Trial Master shall then open the proceeding and return all Master Masons present to the Lodgeroom, to specifically include: the accuser, the accused, and the advocates for both. The Trial Master shall orally announce the decisions of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 612. Report Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearings. Within five (5) days after the hearing, the Trial Master shall make a written record of all findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and forward a copy of the same to the Grand Secretary for filing with the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Art. 613. Grand Secretary To Notice Lodge Of Action Of Trial Master. Upon receipt of the written report of the Trial Master, the Grand Secretary shall notify any Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member of the action taken by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. In the case of expulsion and suspension, the Grand Secretary shall notify all Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member of the date when the expulsion and suspension is to commence.

Art. 614. Result Of Failure To Sustain An Allegation. If no allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are sustained by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Trial Master shall declare the allegations have not been sustained, and the accused shall be released from all jeopardy for such allegations. A Mason can not be held to answer for the same allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations more than once unless upon appeal the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission are set aside and a new hearing is ordered by the Grand Master.

CHAPTER 15 - TITLE V RE-HEARINGS

Art. 615. Trial Master To Decide Motions For Re-Hearing. The Trial Master alone has authority to grant a motion for re-hearing, if filed by the accused, after any Masonic Disciplinary Commission decision. A re-hearing should only be granted upon good cause being shown or where it is apparent to the Trial Master there was not a fair and impartial hearing.

Art. 616. Time For Filing A Motion For Re-Hearing. A motion for re-hearing, and reasons therefor, shall be filed with the Trial Master and the other party or his advocate, in writing, within ten (10) days after the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is rendered.

Art. 617. Procedure For Consideration of Motion For Re-Hearing. The Trial Master may grant the other party the right to file an answer to any motions for re-hearing, and may permit oral arguments on the motion and answer, but is not required to do so. The Trial Master shall act promptly upon the motion and either grant or overrule the same. If not acted upon within thirty (30) days by the Trial Master, the motion shall be considered as having been overruled, as of the expiration of such thirty (30) day period, for the purpose of fixing the time within which notice of appeal may be given. A motion for re-hearing is not a necessary predicate or prerequisite to an appeal.

Art. 618. No Motion For Re-Hearing After Notice Of Appeal. A re-hearing cannot be granted after notice of appeal has been given to the Grand Lodge.

Art. 619. When A Re-Hearing Is Granted. When a re-hearing is granted, the same shall be conducted before a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission, selected in the same manner as the first Commission, and the same proceedings shall be followed as in any other Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 620. Result Of Failure To Sustain Allegations At Second Hearing. In the case of expulsion or suspension of an accused and if, upon a subsequent hearing before Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are not sustained, he is thereby reinstated as a member in good standing in all Lodges in which he is a member.

CHAPTER 16 - TITLE V APPEALS TO GRAND MASTER

Art. 621. Notice Of Appeal. Within thirty (30) days after the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is rendered, or, if a motion for re-hearing is filed, within thirty (30) days after the motion for re-hearing is overruled, the accused shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Master from any final decision of a Masonic

Disciplinary Commission. Notice of appeal shall be given, in writing, to the Trial Master, whose duty it shall be to enter the appeal and the date of the notice of appeal in the records of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and promptly report the notice of appeal to the Grand Secretary.

Art. 622. Secretary Of Commission To Prepare Record Of Testimony. When notice of appeal is given, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission to promptly prepare a record of the testimony of all witnesses. This record shall be either audio or video, and a copy of such audio or video recording of the testimony of witnesses shall be made available to the accuser and/or the accused upon their request. All costs of providing a copy of the audio or video recording of the testimony of witnesses shall be paid for by the party requesting the copies.

Art. 623. Certification Of Record Of Testimony. Once copies of the audio or video are prepared by the Secretary, the Secretary shall certify to the party requesting the same, in writing, that the copy is a true, correct, and unedited copy of the testimony of all witnesses before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

If a party only requests part of the testimony of witnesses, and not all of such testimony, the Secretary shall prepare a copy of the witness testimony being requested under the same procedures as set forth herein and the party making such request shall pay for the expenses of copies of such partial testimony.

Art. 624. Time For Filing Transcript. It is the duty of the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission to see that a transcript is filed with the Grand Secretary within thirty (30) days after notice of appeal is given. The Grand Master may authorize additionally the filing of a transcript upon request of the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission showing good cause therefor. In no case will the Grand Master entertain an appeal from a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing unless a complete transcript of the record is filed with the Grand Secretary within twelve (12) months from the date of the notice of appeal or satisfactory cause is shown for failure to do so.

Art. 625. Notice of Filing Transcript. It is the duty of the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission to give written notice of the filing of the transcript with the Grand Secretary to the accuser, accused, and their advocates.

Art. 626. **Contents Of Transcript.** When an appeal is made to the Grand Lodge, the transcript shall contain: (1) all motions of the parties and orders of the Trial Master; all exhibits admitted into evidence, (2) all allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations submitted to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, (3) the result of the ballots taken by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission on allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations and the results of the ballots taken by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission on any penalties assessed by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, (4) notice of appeal, (5) any request for preparation of a transcript to the Trial Master, (6) the notice of filing of the transcript with the Grand Secretary and (7) the findings of fact and conclusions of law on the part of the Trial Master.

In addition, the accuser or the accused may request any other document or documents be made a part of the transcript, upon written request to the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission pointing out that such document or documents are a part of the contested matters in the appeal and providing the Trial Master a copy of such document, if requested to do so.

Either the accuser or the accused may request that any documents filed with the Grand Master or Grand Secretary be placed in the transcript, by written request to the Trial Master, pointing out that such document or documents are a part of the contested matters in the appeal. Any request for documents by the Trial Master, the accuser or the accused to the Grand Master or Grand Secretary for inclusion in the transcript shall be promptly forwarded to the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission for inclusion in the transcript.

In lieu of the requirements of the transcript set forth hereinabove, and with the intent to save the cost associated with the preparation of a transcript, the accuser and the accused or their advocates may, with the consent of the Trial Master, agree to the contents of a transcript and jointly file a transcript containing only the matters requested by the parties. If the Grand Master requests any additional matters or documents be contained in the transcript other than those submitted by the accuser and the accused, the cost of same will be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Art. 627. **Cost Of Transcript.** The cost of preparation of the transcript by the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be paid by the party giving notice of appeal. The party giving notice of appeal shall contact the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and request an estimate of the

costs of preparation of the transcript and, upon request, the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall provide such estimate. The only costs being referred to here are the cost of copying documents and records and the costs of mailing such transcript to the Grand Secretary, the accuser, the accused, and advocates for the accuser and the accused.

Any other party requesting a copy of the transcript shall pay the cost of the copy prepared for such party and the mailing expenses.

In the event the Grand Master requests a copy of the transcript, the cost of the same shall be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Art. 628. Affidavit Of Inability To Pay Cost Of Transcript. If an accused is unable to pay the estimated amount of the costs of the preparation of the transcript, or any part thereof, and he files with the Grand Secretary an affidavit to such fact, he shall be entitled to appeal and the Grand Lodge shall pay the costs of the transcript for such party.

Art. 629. Appeal Does Not Suspend Findings Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission. An appeal to the Grand Lodge shall not suspend the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, but same shall remain in force until reversed or otherwise ordered by the Grand Master; except that if a reprimand is assessed by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and an appeal is taken, the reprimand cannot be administered until the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission are affirmed by the Grand Master.

Art. 630. Appeals May Be Abandoned. The accused may abandon his appeal at any time prior to final determination by the Grand Master, by written notice forwarded to the Grand Secretary. Upon notice of the abandonment of appeal, the Grand Secretary shall give notice to the Grand Master, Trial Master, accuser, accused, and their advocates, and no other action shall be taken on the appeal. The findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission become final upon the filing of written notice of abandonment of an appeal.

Art. 631. Duty Of Grand Secretary. When the transcript of the record of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission appeal is received by the Grand Secretary, it shall be his duty to record the date received by stamp or mark on the file opened, and advise the Trial

Master, accuser, accused, and their advocates of the date of filing of the transcript by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Grand Secretary shall send the transcript of the record to the Chair of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals and notation of the fact and the date thereof shall be entered on the docket of the cause.

Art. 632. Duty Of Committee On Grievances And Appeals. Upon receipt of a transcript of the record in any Masonic Disciplinary Commission appeal, it shall be the duty of the Chair of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to make record of the receipt thereof and acknowledge such receipt to the Grand Secretary in writing.

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to examine and report its recommendations to the Grand Master on each case referred to it. The report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be in writing and duly filed with the Grand Secretary where it will be duly filed and notation of the fact and the date of filing shall be entered on the docket of the cause. The report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be immediately forwarded by the Grand Secretary to the Grand Master for his action.

Art. 633. Appeals Decided Upon Record. All appeals to the Grand Master from the decision of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be decided upon the record in the case. No additional or new testimony shall be heard or considered by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals or by the Grand Master.

Art. 634. Appeal Dismissed Unless Transcript Shows a Notice. An appeal from a Masonic Disciplinary Commission will be dismissed if the transcript fails to show proper notice of appeal.

Art. 635. Action By The Grand Master. Within thirty (30) days after receiving the report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, the Grand Master shall make the final decision on the appeal. The Grand Master has the right to grant or deny the appeal and

- a) if he denies the appeal, the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission become final;
- b) if he grants the appeal he may
 - (i) order a new hearing before another Masonic Disciplinary Commission, which shall be convened pursuant to the provisions of this Title. The Grand

Master has the authority to appoint the same Trial Master and advocates as in the first hearing, or he has the right to appoint a new Trial Master and new advocates for the accuser and the accused, or

- (ii) dismiss the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations. The accused shall thereby be restored to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, and reinstated to membership in his Lodge, if he was a member of a Lodge, and reinstated to membership in the Grand Lodge, if he was a member of the Grand Lodge.
- c) Any action taken by the Grand Master under this Article shall be final and shall not be subject to review by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 636. Status Of Accused After Granting Appeal.

When, on appeal of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, the judgment is indefinite suspension or expulsion, the Grand Master grants the appeal and remands the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations for a new hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, such action by the Grand Master shall in no way affect, alter, or change the Masonic status of the accused as it existed before said action by the Grand Master.

Art. 637. Grand Secretary To Notify Lodge Of Action Of Grand Master. When the Grand Master acts upon any appeal to him from a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Grand Secretary shall: a) record the action upon the docket; b) immediately notify the Trial Master, accuser, accused, and their advocates of the action of the Grand Master; c) immediately notify the affected Lodge and any other Lodge or Lodges of which the accused was a member of the action taken by the Grand Master; and d) transmit with each notice a copy of the Order of the Grand Master on the appeal, duly attested by the Grand Secretary.

CHAPTER 17 - TITLE V
EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION AND POWERS
OF GRAND LODGE
FOR MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Art. 638. Exclusive Original Jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction and power to:

1. Try officers of the Grand Lodge and Masters of Lodges on allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations growing out of or connected with any official act of any such officer or Master.
2. Discipline members of the Grand Lodge or of a subordinate Lodge for un-Masonic conduct or insubordination committed in its presence during Communications of the Grand Lodge and/or during meetings of the Committees of the Grand Lodge, regardless of the time or place of the Committee meeting.
3. Discipline officers of the Grand Lodge and Masters of Lodges, while holding such offices, for Masonic disciplinary violations whensover committed by them.

Art. 639. Masonic Offenses Committed In Other Grand Jurisdictions. This Grand Lodge does not recognize the right of any Grand or Subordinate Lodge of another jurisdiction to try and punish a Mason who has been duly dimitted and removed therefrom into this jurisdiction and has affiliated with a Lodge herein; but charges of a Masonic offense, committed by a Mason prior to his removal must be certified with proof thereof to the Grand Secretary for action. In any such case the Grand Lodge will be governed by the procedure for Masonic disciplinary hearings.

Art. 640. Texas Mason Convicted In Other Grand Jurisdiction. When a Mason belonging to a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction has been convicted of a Masonic offense and expelled or suspended by a Lodge not under this Grand Jurisdiction, said Mason shall be suspended or expelled by this Grand Jurisdiction upon receipt of proper written communication from the other Grand Jurisdiction provided such conviction is for an offense in violation of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas or a Masonic disciplinary violation under this Title. This provision shall not apply to suspension or expulsion for non-payment of dues. Notice of such action shall be mailed to the suspended or expelled Mason at his last known address by the Grand Secretary.

Art. 641. Accusations of Masonic Violations Against A Grand Lodge Officer Or Worshipful Master. When any officer of the Grand Lodge or a Worshipful Master of a Lodge is accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation, the Grand Master shall process the allegations under the provision of Chapter 3, 4, and 5 of this Title. All of the provisions for Masonic disciplinary hearings in this

Title shall apply with the following exceptions:

- (a) The accused shall be duly notified and cited with the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations by the Grand Secretary by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the registered address of the accused on the roles of the Grand Lodge of Texas;
- (b) The Trial Master, advocate for the accuser, and advocate for the accused shall be members of the Grand Lodge of Texas;
- (c) All Mediation Committee hearings, if any, shall be held at the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, Texas;
- (d) The Grand Master shall select the five (5) members of the Grand Lodge of Texas to serve as Commissioners pursuant to Article 533;
- (e) The Commissioners shall select fifty (50) members of the Grand Lodge of Texas to serve on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel. Said members shall be selected from various parts of the State of Texas;
- (f) All Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearings shall be held in the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, Texas;
- (g) All witnesses requested to appear by the accuser or the accused shall be made to the Grand Secretary, who shall issue summonses for the attendance of witnesses and cause the same to be served by the District Deputy Grand Master in whose Masonic district the witness resides.

Art. 642. Procedure In Hearings For Grand Lodge Officers Or Worshipful Masters. Except for the requirements set forth in Article 641 above, all Masonic disciplinary actions filed against a Grand Lodge officer or a Worshipful Master shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same procedures for all other Masonic disciplinary proceedings under this Title, to include New Hearings and Appeals.

Art. 643. Suspension Pending Resolution Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations. The Grand Master may suspend a Grand Lodge officer or any Officer of a subordinate Lodge who has allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against him from the functions of his office pending a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. When a Worshipful Master of a Lodge is suspended from office, the Senior Warden shall perform the duties of the Worshipful Master during the time of suspension. (Revised 2005)

Art. 644. When Worshipful Master Suspended. When a Worshipful Master is suspended from office by order of the Grand Master, said officer shall cease to exercise any of the duties, rights, or prerogatives of said office until he is thereafter restored, but he shall not thereby be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of membership in his Lodge. However, he shall not be entitled to the rights and privileges of a Past Master, or be or become a member of the Grand Lodge, unless and until he is restored thereto by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 645. Grand Lodge Officer Relieved Of Privileges and Duties. When a decision of expulsion, or of suspension, definite or indefinite, is rendered against a Grand Lodge officer, the officer shall be deprived of all Lodge and Grand Lodge privileges.

Art. 646. Summary Procedure. In every case where a flagrant offense is committed by any Mason present while this Grand Lodge is at labor, the rules requiring notice and citation may be dispensed with and the Grand Master may order the offending Brother to show cause instanter why he should not be disciplined.

CHAPTER 18 - TITLE V MASONIC VIOLATIONS BY LODGES

Art. 647. Invasion Of Jurisdiction. Any Lodge in this jurisdiction which shall invade the jurisdiction of another Lodge and make a Mason of a candidate domiciled in another jurisdiction, without the consent of such Lodge, shall pay to the Lodge whose jurisdiction it has invaded the amount of the fees received on account thereof and be subject to such other discipline as the Grand Lodge may inflict; provided, that if the territory of Lodges holding concurrent jurisdiction is so invaded, such fee shall be paid to the oldest Lodge, provided in Art. 465.

Art. 648. Grand Master May Arrest Or Suspend Charter of Lodge. The Grand Master may immediately suspend or arrest the charter of any Lodge when, after careful investigation or upon receipt of satisfactory proof, it is shown that such Lodge has willfully violated the territorial jurisdiction of another Lodge, or the laws, edicts or resolution of the Grand Lodge, or has been guilty of un-Masonic conduct.

**CHAPTER 19 - TITLE V
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER -
DUTIES AND POWERS RELATING TO
MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS**

Art. 649. Inquiry Into Masonic Disciplinary Violations. District Deputy Grand Masters shall inquire into all Masonic disciplinary violations committed in their respective districts, and shall report the same to the Grand Master.

Art. 650. Inquiry Into “Cypher Work.” It shall be the duty of District Deputy Grand Masters to strictly inquire into the use of any “cypher work” in the possession of the Lodges or members thereof, and report the same to the Grand Master.

Art. 651. Duty On Discovery Of Error Or Evil. When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover any error or evil in his district involving or affecting Masonry, he shall endeavor to arrest the progress thereof and he shall report to the Grand Master if such is of a grave nature.

Art. 652. Financial Affairs Of Demised Lodges. Upon the event of a Lodge being iDemisedî as defined in Art.257.B the District Deputy Grand Master (or such other or person who may be so appointed by the Grand Master), shall collect all the unpaid dues of members of demised Lodges, and all delinquent members may be accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation in the manner prescribed by the Grand Lodge for the infliction of appropriate punishment for nonpayment of dues. When the assets of such Lodges shall have been collected, he shall pay the debts of such Lodges and remit to the Grand Secretary all surplus moneys and other property remaining in hand, with a full statement of all moneys received and paid out by him and upon what account. (Revised 2014)

Art. 652a. Transfer of Real Property of Demised Lodge. In the event that it shall be necessary that real property or any interest therein be conveyed or assigned from a demised Lodge, such conveyance or assignment of real property or any interest therein shall be conveyed, or assigned or transferred in writing to the Grand Lodge in a form and sufficient detail and description appropriate for a purchase, gift, bequest, or devise as considered by Art. 340. (Adopted 2014)

Art. 652b. Transfer of Personal Property of Demised Lodge. In the event that it shall be necessary that personal property or any interest therein be conveyed or assigned by a demised Lodge, such conveyance or assignment of personal property or any interest therein shall be conveyed, assigned or transferred in writing to the Grand Lodge in a form and sufficient detail and description appropriate as considered by Art. 255. (Adopted 2014)

Art. 653. Returns Of Lodges And Annual Dues. It is the special duty of each District Deputy Grand Master to admonish all Lodges in his district which fail to send up their returns and annual dues within the time required by law, and to aid the Grand Secretary in securing compliance with the law governing such cases. When a Lodge has been suspended for failure to make its returns, or pay its dues by June first of the following year, it shall be the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master; upon receipt of a notice to that effect from the Grand Secretary, to promptly secure the Charter of any such Lodge and to require it to cease its labors until such returns and the payments due thereon are made, as provided in Article 492, or to such time as the Grand Master may direct.

Art. 654. Amounts Due By Delinquent Lodges And Property Of Suspended Or Demised Lodges. District Deputy Grand Masters are each authorized, after receiving from the Grand Secretary notice thereof, to collect and pay to the Grand Secretary the amounts due by the delinquent Lodges for his district and also to demand and receive from the last Secretary and Treasurer of any suspended or demised Lodge all the property, including charter, jewels, seal, books and funds of such Lodge and to account therefor to the Grand Lodge. He is also required to include in his annual report a list of the property of all such Lodges and, if any real estate, a description thereof together with a statement of all debts owed by such Lodge.

Art. 655. Shall Not Be Proxy, Advocate, Or Trial Master In Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearings. No District Deputy Grand Master shall be appointed as an Advocate for the accuser or the accused in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing nor shall he be a proxy for any party in a Masonic disciplinary matter.

CHAPTER 20 - TITLE V REINSTATEMENT AND RESTORATION

Art. 656. Definitions. Reinstatement and restoration have generally the same meaning and are often used interchangeably. In these statutes they are given separate and distinct meanings, as follows:

Reinstatement is applied to membership in a Lodge or in the Grand Lodge and carries with it the rights, privileges and honors attaching to such membership. It means re-establishment of membership when such membership has been lost through fault or dereliction.

Restoration is applied to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry and means the reinvestiture of those rights and privileges when they have been lost through fault or dereliction. A Mason so restored, if he is not also reinstated, has the status of an unaffiliated Mason.

Art. 657. Jurisdiction. The Lodge of which the accused, in a Masonic disciplinary proceeding, was a member at the time of his loss of membership has exclusive jurisdiction over his reinstatement and restoration.

- (a) Where a Mason holds a plural membership and that Brother is expelled or suspended for a Masonic disciplinary violation, jurisdiction for reinstatement and/or restoration is vested in the parent Lodge. The parent Lodge, however, by majority vote at a stated meeting of that Lodge, can assign its jurisdiction to any other Lodge where membership was held by that Mason.
- (b) The Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction to reinstate to membership therein, except where automatic reinstatement is provided for elsewhere in this Title.

Art. 658. Reinstatement Or Restoration By Lodge.
Petition And Vote. The Lodge having jurisdiction may, by a favorable ballot of the members of said Lodge present, reinstate or restore, as the case may be, a suspended or expelled Mason. A written petition for such reinstatement or restoration, signed by the petitioner, must be filed with the Secretary and presented to the Lodge reciting facts showing that he has made expiation for his offense and has discharged the terms and conditions of his sentence, including completion of probation, parole, or supervised release; said petition shall be read at the first stated meeting of the Lodge after it is filed. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee on investigation which shall report its findings and recommendations at a subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge whereupon a ballot shall be taken upon said petition. Only members of the Lodge in attendance may vote. In balloting on a suspended or expelled Mason for reinstatement or restoration, other than for non-payment of dues, three black balls shall reject for one year, four blackballs for two years and five or more blackballs for three years. Protests shall be allowed in accordance with Article 660, and the ballot shall be announced accordingly.

Notwithstanding the above, any member who is found guilty of, or who enters a plea of guilty, or of no contest to the charge of pedophilia or related charges (such as Indecency with a Child by sexual contact or any other means, Aggravated Sexual Assault with a child by any means and Sexual Assault with a Child by any means) and having been previously expelled from Masonry, shall not be considered for reinstatement or restoration of any Masonic membership and said member shall be expelled from Masonry for life and never again be considered for any Masonic related activity or membership. Any current Member having been charged and found guilty of, or having pleaded no contest to charges of pedophilia

ia (such as Indecency with a Child by sexual contact or any other means, Aggravated Sexual Assault with a child by any means, Sexual Assault with a Child by any means) shall be expelled immediately, for life, from this Grand Jurisdiction. (Adopted, 2003)

Art. 659. In Cases Of Appeal To Grand Master. Where there has been an appeal to the Grand Master from a decision rendered by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, any action by the Lodge in reinstating or restoring the member shall not be effective or final until a final decision on the appeal is made by the Grand Master.

Art. 660. Protest. Any member of the Lodge in which the petition is filed shall have the right to file with the Worshipful Master his protest against the reinstatement or restoration of any Mason laboring under a sentence of indefinite suspension or expulsion for a Masonic disciplinary violation, other than non-payment of dues, who may petition for such reinstatement or restoration, and such protest shall have the full force and effect of one black-ball on the petition. Protests in such cases shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 3, Title IV of these statutes insofar as they may be applicable. Only members of the Lodge in which the petition is filed may protest.

Art. 661. Where Lodge Having Jurisdiction Is Demised. Where a member has been suspended or expelled for Masonic disciplinary violations, and the Lodge having jurisdiction over his reinstatement or restoration has subsequently demised, he may petition the Grand Master for restoration of the rights and privileges of Freemasonry as an unaffiliated Mason, and shall file with his petition a certificate of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he may then be domiciled, recommending his restoration. Such recommendation shall be under the seal of the Lodge and shall certify to the number of members of said Lodge who voted on said recommendation and the number of votes cast for and against said recommendation, and the time during which the petitioner has been domiciled within the jurisdiction of the certifying Lodge.

Art. 662. When Suspended For Definite Time. When a Mason is suspended for a definite period of time and no appeal therefor is taken to the Grand Master, he will be automatically reinstated in the subordinate Lodge and Grand Lodge, as the case may be, without action of the Lodge or Grand Lodge when the time specified in the judgment shall have expired.

Art. 663. When Suspended For Definite Time AndAppealed To Grand Master. When, after a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, a Mason is suspended for a definite period of time and appeal is made to the Grand Master, such appeal shall

not suspend the findings and decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and his membership in the Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, shall be automatically reinstated at the expiration of such time found by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission without further action of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge.

Art. 664. When Suspended For Definite Time: Reversal By Grand Master. In any appeal from a decision by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission of suspension for a definite period of time, if the Grand Master reverses and dismisses the case, the Brother shall thereupon be automatically reinstated to his membership in his Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, without further action of his Lodge or the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise specifically ordered by the Grand Master.

Art. 665. Reversal By Grand Master And New Hearing Ordered. In any appeal, where such matter is reversed and remanded for a new hearing, the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be suspended, and his Masonic status shall remain unchanged as that of a "Mason laboring under disciplinary action" until a final decision is rendered by the new Masonic Disciplinary Commission and/or the Grand Master. If he should be acquitted at a subsequent Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, he shall be automatically reinstated to membership in his Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, as the case may be. Otherwise, his Masonic status shall be governed by the decision rendered at the subsequent Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 666. Where Right Of Appeal Lost. When the right of appeal is lost by lapse of time, the proper procedure for reinstatement or restoration, as the case may be, is by petition therefor to the Lodge having jurisdiction in the case.

Art. 667. No Appeal From Refusal to Reinstate Or Restore. An appeal can not be taken to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge for the refusal of a Lodge to reinstate or restore, as the case may be, a suspended or expelled Mason.

Art. 668. No Reinstatement Or Restoration Where Suspension Or Expulsion In Another Jurisdiction. This Grand Lodge will not reinstate or restore to good standing a Mason who has been suspended or expelled by a Lodge of another jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 21 - TITLE V
REINSTATEMENT AND RESTORATION
TO GRAND LODGE

Art. 669. Reinstatement To Grand Lodge Membership. A Past Master, Past Grand or Deputy Grand Master, or Past Grand Warden who has lost his membership in the Grand Lodge as a result of Masonic disciplinary violations may only be restored to membership under the provisions of this Title.

Art. 670. Suspended For A Definite Time. When the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is suspension for a definitely stated period of time, said suspension shall expire by limitation. A Mason so suspended shall, at the expiration of the time defined in the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, become reinstated to membership in the Grand Lodge and to all his rights and privileges, without vote or other action by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 671. Expulsion Or Indefinite Suspension. When the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is expulsion or indefinite suspension, the member seeking restoration shall file his petition therefor with the Grand Secretary, which petition shall be referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals by the Grand Master for examination and report thereon.

Art. 672. Vote By Grand Lodge. When any such petition has been reported by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, the Grand Lodge shall vote thereon and may grant said petition by a majority vote of the members of the Grand Lodge present and voting thereon; otherwise, it shall stand rejected. If such petition is granted, and the Mason has not been reinstated and restored to a Lodge, the Mason shall be restored to all his Masonic rights as an unaffiliated Mason without Lodge membership, and the Grand Secretary shall issue to him a dimit entitling him to apply for affiliation in any regular Lodge.

**DIVISION IV
MASONIC FORMS****CHAPTER ONE
FORMS FOR MASONIC DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS****Masonic Form No. 1
CHARGES OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas:

I hereby charge Brother _____, a member of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., or "a non-affiliated Mason residing within the jurisdiction of this Lodge," (as the case may be) with a Masonic Disciplinary Violation, to wit:

Specification 1: In that the said Brother _____, ID # _____, on or about the _____ day of _____, 20_____, did violate Article _____, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas in the following particulars:

_____ (Here describe in plain and concise language the facts constituting the violation, which must be charged with certainty, and the time, place and all particulars distinctly specified. A general charge of violations of Masonic disciplinary violations without specifications shall not be entertained. If violations involve matters not proper to be written, they should be so stated, and the accused, at the time of service of the charges, should be orally informed of the specific facts, to which the charges must then be confined.)

The Witnesses to the foregoing Masonic disciplinary violation are:

1. Name _____
Address _____
Telephone number _____
Lodge Name & No. (if a Mason) _____
ID No. _____

2. Name _____
Address _____
Telephone number _____
Lodge Name & No. (if a Mason) _____
ID No. _____

3. Name _____
Address _____
Telephone number _____
Lodge Name & No. (if a Mason) _____
ID No. _____

Specification 2: In that the said Brother _____, ID # _____, on or about the _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____ did violate Article _____, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas in the following particulars:

(State particulars as set forth for Specification 1, above.)

(Other specifications, if any).

Dated the ____ day of _____, 20____.

Signed: _____, ID# _____
(To be signed by Accuser)

Lodge Name & No. _____

Location of Lodge _____

(If the Junior Warden signs the charges he should do so officially.)
Charges should be delivered to the Secretary, who shall mark the same: "Filed
this ____ day of _____, 20____, and forwarded to the Grand Master
on the ____ day of _____, 20____."

Secretary

(Article 508) Previous versions of this Form may not be used. (Revised 2005)

Masonic Form 2
SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION DUE TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Brother _____, I.D. No. _____

This is to certify that on the ____ day of _____, 20____, the above person was charged with the commission of a **FELONY** or **MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE** to which charge he entered a plea of (i) guilty or nolo contendere, or (ii) in which he was found guilty by a court or jury, or (iii) in which the court or jury found that the evidence substantiated his guilt and placed him on probation or (iv) in which the court found the evidence was sufficient beyond a reasonable doubt to support a finding of guilt but the Court deferred the adjudication of Guilt and placed him on probation. Certified copies of such proceedings are on file in the Grand Secretary's office.

The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provide for, under any of the above circumstances, either the (i) automatic suspension of a Mason pending the appeal of criminal proceedings or (ii) automatic expulsion of any Mason when criminal proceedings are final and no appeal has been taken.

On this the ____ day of _____, 20____, I, the undersigned do hereby certify that Brother _____, a member of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F.&A.M., at _____, Texas is the person named as the defendant in the judgment attached hereto.

Master, Wardens, or Secretary of Lodge

The member has been therefore notified that he was (1) **SUSPENDED** or (2) **EXPELLED** from membership in _____ Lodge No._____, A.F. & A.M., at _____, Texas, and any other Masonic Lodges of which he was a member, effective as of _____, 20_____. (Date of sentence)

Grand Secretary

Form No. 2 (Revised 2008) (Articles 504, 505, 506, 658)

Masonic Form 3
WAIVER OF MASONIC TRIAL AND CONSENT TO EXPULSION

WHEREAS, Brother_____, ID # _____ has been made aware of certain charges (and specifications) of violations of Masonic Disciplinary Conduct in which he is named as the Accused (the "Accused") which charges (and specifications) are attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes ("Charges");

WHEREAS, the Accused desires, and herein below requests, to avoid, and waive in all respects, notice and Masonic Disciplinary Hearings as provided for in Title V, Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas, on said charges (and specifications), and to accomplish same, the Accused herein below agrees to be EXPELLED from Freemasonry in general, and in particular from the Grand Lodge of Texas and any and all organizations upon which membership is in any manner dependent upon being a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas in good standing, including all subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas in which the Accused is a member including without limitation the following Lodges:

_____ Lodge No.____ A.F. & A.M.

_____ Lodge No.____ A.F. & A.M.

_____ Lodge No.____ A.F. & A.M.

(list additional Lodges on a separate sheet and attach to this form)

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas, through its Grand Master, has the authority under the provisions of Article 507 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas to agree to such request by the Accused to avoid and waive Notice and Masonic Disciplinary Hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, it is agreed by and between each of the undersigned as follows:

1. The charges, as set forth on Exhibit "A," are properly prepared and do set forth good and valid charges of Masonic Disciplinary Violations against the Accused.

2. The Accused, having read and reviewed the Charges, hereby agrees specifically that a Masonic Disciplinary Commission not be selected and that the procedures in Chapters 3 through 16 of Title V of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas, as they exist from time to time, be not invoked; and does hereby specifically waive and release in all respects any and all rights he may have to a Masonic Disciplinary Hearing on the Charges (and specifications) being had in which the evidence could be presented.

3. The Accused hereby agrees specifically to permanent EXPULSION from Freemasonry in general, and in particular the Grand Lodge of Texas and any other organizations upon which membership is in any manner dependent upon being a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas in good standing including without limitation any Subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Texas including without limitation:

____ Lodge No. ____ A.F.& A.M.

____ Lodge No. ____ A.F.& A.M.

____ Lodge No. ____ A.F.& A.M.

(List any additional Lodges on a separate sheet and attach to this form)

The Accused hereby agrees and fully recognizes that his EXPULSION is FOR LIFE and may not, under any circumstance, be altered, modified, reduced, removed, appealed, or overturned, nor may his status as a Mason under any circumstances be restored, nor may his membership in a Subordinate Lodge or in the Grand Lodge of Texas ever under any circumstances be reinstated.

Executed this _____ day of _____, _____.
 (month) (year)

 Accused

Given under my hand and seal of _____ Lodge No. _____
 A.F. & A.M. this _____ day of _____, A.D., _____
 (month) (year)

 (seal)

 Secretary

Witness the hand of the undersigned Grand Master and the seal of said office on
 this the _____ day of _____, _____.
 (month) (year)

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS A.F. & A.M.
 By: _____

Attest: _____ Grand Master

 Grand Secretary

(Article 507) Previous versions of this form may not be used. (Revised 2005)

 MASONIC FORMS NOS. 4-10
 REPEALED 2004

No. 11

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Hall of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____

To _____

Greeting:

You are hereby notified that in accordance with Article 319 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas, you were automatically suspended on June 24th, 20____, for non-payment of dues.

At the time of your suspension you were in arrears \$ _____.

You will be automatically reinstated upon payment of all dues to date of suspension and the current dues. If you remain suspended for more than three years, to be reinstated will require a petition and election by a two-thirds vote. We invite your prompt reinstatement.

(SEAL) _____ Secretary.

No. 12

NOTICE OF EXPULSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Hall of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____

To _____

Dear Sir:

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., held _____, 20____, you were expelled for non-payment of dues.

By Order of the Lodge

(SEAL)

_____ Secretary

No. 13

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FOR
UN-MASONIC CONDUCT

Repealed 2006

CHAPTER TWO
GENERAL FORMS

The following forms are approved for the use of Lodges. Except as otherwise noted, necessary changes may be made to conform to special conditions.

No. 14

PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FOR NEW LODGE, A.F.&A.M.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons:

We, the undersigned, Master Masons in good standing, and having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavors to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of Freemasonry; and for the convenience of our respective dwellings, and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons to be named _____.

We, therefore, with the approbation of the Lodge required by Masonic law (hereunto appended) respectfully pray for a Dispensation empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge at the town of _____, County of _____, State of Texas, on the _____ (give days of stated meetings, no more than two each month) and there to discharge the duties of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the Order, and the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

We have nominated and do recommend:

Brother _____ to be the first Worshipful Master,

Brother _____ to be the first Senior Warden,

Brother _____ to be the first Junior Warden,

Brother _____ to be the first Treasurer,

Brother _____ to be the first Secretary

of said Lodge.

The prayer of the petitioners being granted, we promise strict obedience to the orders of the Grand Master and the regulations of the Grand Lodge, and the usages and customs of Masonry.

Dated _____, 20_____, (Signed) _____.

(Note: Petition, together with the certificates of dimission, or certificates of good standing and fee, \$25.00, should be sent to the Grand Master.)

(Note: Number of signatures necessary when proposed Lodge is in county where no Lodge exists, see Article 181. If in county within which one or more Lodges exist, see Article 182. If in town or city of less than ten thousand inhabitants, see Article 182. If in city of ten thousand inhabitants or more, see Article 182.)

No. 15
PETITION FOR CHARTER

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.:

We, the undersigned, Master Masons in good standing, members of _____ Lodge No. ____, located at _____, Texas.

(or _____ Lodge U. D., located at _____, Texas.)

(or We, the undersigned, non-affiliated and dimitted Masons in good standing)

are desirous of forming a Lodge of A.F. & A.M. to be named _____.

We, therefore, with the approbation of the Lodge required by Masonic law (hereunto appended) respectfully pray for a Charter, empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge at the town of _____, County of _____, Texas on the _____ (give days of stated meetings, no more than two each month) and there to discharge the duties of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons in a constitutional manner according to the forms of the Order and the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

We have nominated and do recommend:

Brother _____ to be the first Worshipful Master,

Brother _____ to be the first Senior Warden,

Brother _____ to be the first Junior Warden,

Brother _____ to be the first Treasurer,

Brother _____ to be the first Secretary

of said Lodge.

The prayer of petitioners being granted, we promise strict obedience to the orders of the Grand Master and the regulations of the Grand Lodge, and the usages and customs of Masonry.

Dated _____, 20_____, (Signed) _____.

(Note: Petition, together with fee, should be sent to the Grand Secretary. If Lodge was granted dispensation, fee for charter is \$25.00. If no dispensation was granted, fee for charter is \$50.00)

(Note: For number of signatures necessary, see Article 205.)

(Note: All certificates of dimission and certificates of good standing to be attached, or their absence satisfactorily accounted for.)

No. 16
CERTIFICATE OF LODGE VOTING ON DISPENSATION FOR CHARTER

At a Stated Meeting of _____ Lodge No. ____, held at Masonic Hall on _____, A.D. 20_____, A.L. 60_____, the petition of several Brethren for a new

Lodge at _____, in the County of _____, Texas, was presented, and at a Stated Meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 20_____, was duly considered. The Brethren nominated for the three principal offices have been duly examined by a District Instructor (or a member of the Committee on Work) to certify their competency in meeting the Installation Qualifications of Articles 276 and 276a. In addition, the hall in which the said new Lodge proposes to meet has been ascertained by the District Deputy Grand Master to meet the security requirements with reference to the work of Masonry as required by Article 80.

Each petitioner is a Master Mason in good standing, and his Certificate of Dimission or Certificate of Good Standing is attached to this petition, or its absence satisfactorily accounted for.

A vote taken on said petition resulted in: For_____, Against_____. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required for approval. It is hereby recommended by the Lodge that the prayer of the petitioners be: Approved_____ Not Approved_____.

CERTIFICATION:

The Brethren nominated for the three principal offices have been duly examined and found competent to collectively confer the Degrees of Symbolic Masonry, according to the teachings of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

District Instructor (or Member of Committee on Work)	District No.	Date
--	--------------	------

The Hall in which the said new Lodge proposes to meet has been duly examined and found to be secure with reference to the work of Masonry.

District Deputy Grand Master	District No.	Date
------------------------------	--------------	------

Given under my hand and seal of the Lodge this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____, A.L. 60_____.
(Seal)

Secretary	Lodge No.	Date
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(Revised 1992)

No. 17 DISPENSATION TO FORM A NEW LODGE

In the name and by the authority of the Grand Lodge of Texas,
(Ancient Free and Accepted Masons):

Whereas, a petition has been presented to me by sundry Brethren, to-wit, Brothers A. B. C. D. E. F. and G., residing at _____, in the county of _____, and State of Texas, praying to be congregated and form a Lodge, promising to render obedience to the Ancient Usages and Landmarks of the Fraternity and the Laws of the Grand Lodge; and whereas, said petitioners have been recommended to me as Master Masons in good standing, by the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____, under our jurisdiction;

Therefore, I _____, Grand Master of the M: W: Grand Lodge of the State of Texas, reposing full confidence in the recommendation aforesaid and in the Masonic integrity and ability of the petitioners, do, by virtue of the authority in me vested, hereby grant this dispensation, empowering and authorizing our trusty and well-beloved Brethren, aforesaid, to open and form a Lodge, after the manner of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and therein to admit and make Freemasons, according to the ancient custom, and not otherwise. Said Lodge to be known as _____ Lodge.

This dispensation is to continue in full force until the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge aforesaid, unless sooner revoked by constitutional authority. And I do hereby appoint Brother _____ to be the first Worshipful Master; Brother _____ to be the first

Senior Warden; and Brother _____ to be the first Junior Warden of said new Lodge. And it shall be their duty, and they are hereby required, to return this dispensation, with the original record of all proceedings had under the authority of the same, together with their returns of work, members, and contributions, and an attested copy of the By-Laws adopted, to our Grand Lodge aforesaid, at the expiration of the time herein specified, and for such further action in the premises as shall then be deemed wise and proper.

Given under my hand, under the authority of the Grand Lodge at _____, this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.
(Seal) _____ Grand Master.

No. 18
CHARTER OF SUBORDINATE LODGE

The Grand Lodge of Texas of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, established in the City of Houston the 20th day of December, A.D. 1837, A.D. 5837, being assembled in _____ Grand Communication, in _____ and State aforesaid, Send Greeting:

Know ye, That we, the Grand Lodge of Texas, by virtue of the powers and authorities duly vested in us by the Constitution and Usages of our Fraternity, do hereby authorize and empower our trusty and well-beloved Brethren _____ Worshipful Master, _____ Senior Warden, _____ Junior Warden, _____ Treasurer, and _____ Secretary, to open and hold Lodge, designated by No. _____, and by the name of _____, under our register and jurisdiction, in _____, in the county of _____; and we do likewise authorize and empower our said Brethren _____ to admit, make, pass, and raise Freemasons, according to the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of this Grand Lodge, and the most ancient customs and usages of the Craft, in all ages and nations throughout the known world, and not otherwise. And we do further authorize and empower the said _____ and their successors, to hear and determine all matters and things relative to the Craft, within the jurisdiction of the said Lodge, No. _____; and, lastly, we do hereby authorize, empower, and direct our trusty and well-beloved Brethren _____, to install their successors, after being duly elected and chosen, to invest them with all the powers and dignities to their offices respectively belonging, and do deliver them this warrant. And such successors to proceed in the premises as above directed; such installation to be upon or near the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, during the continuance of said Lodge forever. Provided always, That the said above named Brethren and successors do pay due respect and obedience to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge aforesaid, and to the ordinances thereof; otherwise this warrant is to be of no force or virtue.

Given in the Grand Lodge, under the hands of our Most Worshipful Grand Master; Right Worshipful Grand Officers, and the seal of the Grand Lodge at _____, this _____ day of _____ A.D. 20____, A.D. 60____.

(Seal) _____ Grand Master
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Senior Warden
Grand Junior Warden
Grand Treasurer
Grand Secretary

No. 19

DEPUTATION FOR CONSTITUTING A LODGE

From the East of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. —

To all whom it may concern:

But more especially to Brothers A. B., Worshipful Master-elect; C. D., Senior Warden-elect; and E. F., Junior Warden-elect; and the rest of the Brethren, who have been empowered by warrant of Constitution, regularly issued under the authority of our Grand Lodge aforesaid, to assemble as a regular Lodge, in _____;

Know ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the talents and Masonic intelligence of our Worshipful Brother _____, we have thought proper, ourselves being unable to attend, to constitute and appoint our said Worshipful Brother _____ to constitute "in form" the Brethren aforesaid, into a regular Lodge, to be known and distinguished by the name of _____ Lodge, No. ____, and to install their officers-elect, agreeably to ancient form, and the customs of the Craft; and for so doing this shall be his warrant.

Given under my hand this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(Seal)

Grand Master

No. 20

DECLARATION TO CONSOLIDATE LODGE

Lodge No. _____,
_____, Texas, _____, 20____,

We, the undersigned Master Masons, in good standing, of _____
Lodge No. ____, located at _____, Texas, having the prosperity of the
Craft at heart, deem it for the best interests of the members of this Lodge and of
Masonry in this District that our said Lodge be consolidated with _____
Lodge No. ____, located at _____, Texas.

The reasons why this action should be taken are as follows: _____.

We, therefore, offer the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That, subject to the approval of _____ Lodge No. ____,
located at _____, Texas, and of the Grand Master, _____ Lodge
No. ____, located at _____, Texas, be consolidated with said _____
Lodge No. _____.
Signed _____

(This declaration to be signed by a majority of members of the Lodge. See
Articles 245, 246, 247.)

No. 21

PETITION TO RETURN CHARTER

Lodge No. _____
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____

We, the undersigned Master Masons, in good standing, and members of _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, Texas, deem it for the best interests of the members of this Lodge, and of Masonry in this District, that the Charter of said Lodge be returned to the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Further reasons why the Charter of this Lodge should be returned are as follows: _____.

We, therefore, offer the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That, subject to the adoption of this petition by the method prescribed by Masonic law, and the approval of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, the Charter of _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, Texas, be returned to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

Signed _____

(Note: No particular number of members required to sign. For procedure on proposition see Article 254.)

No. 22

PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF LODGE

Lodge No. _____
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____

We, the undersigned Master Masons, in good standing, and members of _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, Texas, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, deem it for the best interests of the members of this Lodge and of Masonry in this District and believe that the interests of Masonry will be better subserved, if our Lodge be removed to _____.

Further reasons why this action should be taken are as follows: _____

We, therefore, offer the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That, subject to the adoption of this petition by the method prescribed by Masonic law, and with the approval of the Most Worshipful Grand Master (or the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas) _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, Texas, be moved to _____, Texas.

Dated _____, 20_____ (Signed)

(Note: This petition shall be signed by three or more members of the Lodge. For procedure on petition, see Articles 241 to 244.)

No. 23
BY-LAWS

Lodge No. _____

Article I
NAME OF THE LODGE

This Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas on the _____ day of _____, and shall be known by the name and style of _____ Lodge No. _____, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

This Lodge subscribed to and shall be governed by the Constitution, Laws, Resolutions, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Article II
MEETINGS OF THE LODGE

Section 1. The stated meetings shall be held on _____ of every month, at _____ o'clock p.m., (and/or as herein set forth).

Section 2. Called meetings may be made by the Worshipful Master (or in his absence or inability to serve, by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both Master and Senior Warden, then by the Junior Warden), at such times as they, or either of them, having the right to act, may think important, or to the interest of the Craft.

Section 3. As many members as possible should be notified of such called meetings, and no business shall be transacted at same, except such as was specified in the call.

Article III
OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

The officers of this Lodge shall be a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior and Junior Deacons, Senior and Junior Stewards, (Marshal and/or Master of Ceremonies and/or Musician optional), and Tiler.

Article IV
ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF LODGE

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and _____, _____, _____, shall be elected. All other officers shall be appointed. (Note: Appointments by Worshipful Master.)

Section 2. In the election of officers, should only one name be placed in nomination, the vote may be taken without ballot, but should more than one Brother be placed in nomination, the members shall prepare their ballots, which shall be taken up and counted at the Secretary's desk, and the number of votes received by each Brother reported to the presiding officer, and he shall declare the Brother receiving a majority of all the votes cast duly elected.

Section 3. In the event no Brother has such majority, the ballot will be repeated until such result is attained. Blank votes shall not be considered in determining the result.

Article V**DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

Section 1. Worshipful Master – It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to see that the By-Laws of the Lodge, as well as the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge are duly observed, and that the officers attend strictly to their duties.

Section 2. Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold all deeds, certificates of stock, notes, bonds, obligations, or other property of a financial character belonging to the Lodge, and to collect and receive the same when directed by the Lodge; to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, passing his receipt for the same; and pay them out only upon the order of the Worshipful Master and consent of the Lodge.

The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of the same, and report minutely the financial condition of the Lodge at the stated meeting next succeeding the festival of St. John the Baptist and at such other times as the Lodge may direct. For his services he shall receive an amount as set by the Lodge from time to time and be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 3. Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Secretary to carefully observe the proceedings of the Lodge; make a correct record of all things proper to be written, and to receive all moneys due the Lodge; turning them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary:

(1) To keep all books and papers relating to the proceedings of the Lodge.

(2) To authenticate all official papers and documents emanating from the Lodge with the seal of the same.

(3) To notify all Brethren of their election to office, if they were not present at the time of election.

(4) To notify the Grand Secretary, as prescribed by law, of the suspension or expulsion of members, and of the rejection of applicants; to issue all summons, dimits, and notices as he may be directed; to make out and transmit to the Grand Secretary the annual returns of this Lodge; remit also to him the Grand Lodge dues; report to the Grand Secretary the names of all Brethren elected to Parent or Plural Membership; and perform all other duties appertaining to his office.

(5) For his services he shall receive an amount as set by the Lodge from time to time and be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 4. Tiler – It shall be the duty of the Tiler to see that the Lodgeroom is kept clean and in order; and that the various articles of furniture are in their appropriate places; to strictly guard the door during the sitting of the Lodge; to summon the members of the Lodge to all called meetings where a summons is necessary, and be punctual in this attendance. For the performance of these, and such other duties as may appertain to his office, he shall receive an amount as set by the Lodge from time to time and be exempt from payment of dues.

Article VI**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens shall constitute Standing Committees on Fraternal Assistance, Sickness, and Arbitration, a majority of whom may at all times, act; and are responsible to the Lodge. Their duties are as follows:

(1) Fraternal Assistance – It is their duty to examine all claimants for assistance, and, if necessary, they may draw upon the Treasury, in each instance, for an amount not exceeding ten dollars; reporting the facts in each case to the Lodge at its next stated meeting, thereafter.

(2) Sickness – It shall be their duty to visit all sick Brethren (unless it would be dangerous or imprudent to do so), and ascertain their condition and necessities; and to take such action as they may deem proper and necessary, both in regard to the Brother and his family.

(3) Arbitration – It shall also be the duty of this committee to settle all differences between Brethren, unless the parties prefer to bring the matter before the Lodge.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master, at the first stated meeting after the 24th of June, of each year, to appoint a Standing Committee on Finance, to be composed of three discreet Master Masons, members of this Lodge, and, if possible, men practically acquainted with bookkeeping.

(1) It shall be the duty of this committee, at the close of each Masonic year, as soon as appointed, and oftener if required, to carefully examine and check up the reports, books and vouchers of the Secretary and Treasurer, and any other financial matters referred to them; and make a full and accurate report at the next stated meeting of the Lodge, showing the condition of the books and accounts. And should any inaccuracies be found, recommend the necessary steps for their correction. In the matter of ordinary accounts referred to them, they may, if satisfied, report instanter.

(2) The reports of said Committee on Finance thus made, shall be read in open Lodge and spread upon the minutes, noting the action taken by the Lodge; and all accounts and claims against the Lodge, when demanded by any Brother, shall first be referred to this committee, before being allowed.

Article VII FEES FOR DEGREES

Section 1. The fees for the degrees of this Lodge shall be an amount not less than prescribed in Article 307 of the Constitution and Laws and set by this Lodge from time to time. In addition to the regular fees collected by a Lodge, a contribution to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation shall be collected from each applicant for the Master Mason's Degree. (Art. 307 and 163-5) (Revised 2006)

Section 2. In addition to the regular fee for Initiation a \$5.00 donation to the George Washington Masonic Memorial shall be collected from each applicant for the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Article VIII DIMITS

A member is chargeable with the pro rata portion of his dues as provided in Art. 317.

Article IX LODGE DUES

Each member of this Lodge (unless herein exempted) shall pay dues from the time of his raising or affiliation, an amount set by the Lodge from time to time inasmuch as they are not less than prescribed in Article 311 of the Constitution and Laws. A member, however, shall not be required to pay such dues if he purchases an Endowed Membership in accordance with the Laws of Grand Lodge.

Article X
VISITING BRETHREN

Section 1. A visitor shall not be admitted except upon due examination or lawful avouchment.

Section 2. In the event that the visiting Brother is a stranger and hails from some Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the visitor's Lodge that we have had the pleasure of a visit by one of its members, giving the name and date.

Article XI
MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

Weapons. No weapons, either offensive or defensive, shall be carried into the Lodgeroom. (Additional Regulations not provided for or in conflict with the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Lodge may be added to this Article.)

Article XII
BUSINESS

At stated meetings after opening the Lodge in due and Ancient form, a quorum being present, the Order of Business, unless otherwise ordered by the Lodge, or the Worshipful Master, shall be as follows:

1. Reading, correcting and approval of Minutes of previous meetings.
2. Receiving and referring to Committees of Petitions and Applications.
3. Reports of Special Committees.
4. Balloting on Petitions and Applications.
5. Reports of Standing Committees.
6. Communications from the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. Motions, Resolutions and New Business.
9. Examinations for Proficiency in the proper degree.
10. Voting on Proficiency.
11. Claims and Accounts.

Article XIII
RULES OF BUSINESS

The rules of conducting the business of this Lodge shall be as nearly as possible the same as those prescribed for the Grand Lodge, and in addition, as follows:

Section 1. When a question is decided, the same matter shall not again be acted on during that meeting, unless on motion to reconsider, which can only be made by a member voting in the majority, and at that or the next stated meeting, when there must be an equal or greater number of members present than when the action was had.

Section 2. All questions of order shall be decided by the Worshipful Master without appeal or debate; but the Master may ask the advice of any member before deciding; and he has the right, at any time, to declare the Lodge closed or called off, for the purpose of stopping angry debate or confusion.

**Article XIV
AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS**

Section 1. No amendments of these By-Laws, either by alteration or addition, shall be made, unless in the following manner:

(1) The proposed amendment must be in writing, signed by the proponent, and presented and read at a stated meeting of this Lodge, at which time it may be discussed and amended, if necessary.

(2) At the next stated meeting of this Lodge, it shall be considered and voted upon without further amendment; and if approved by a majority of the votes of the members present, shall become a part of these By-Laws, upon compliance with the other provisions of this Article.

Section 2. All amendments of these By-Laws must be submitted to the Grand Lodge for its approval before they take effect, except the following:

(1) Fixing, raising or lowering the fee for each degree, or the annual dues, within the minimum limitations fixed by the Laws of the Grand Lodge, except as provided in Art. 309.

(2) Adopting its own regulations as to the payment of its Treasurer, Secretary and Tiler.

(3) The day and hour of meeting, or the number of stated meetings per month may be changed to suit its convenience. Whenever a change in the number of meetings per month, or of the day of the meeting, is made, the Grand Secretary must be notified at once.

(4) Adopting its own regulations to perform charitable work or public service which enables the Lodge to qualify for tax exemption as permitted by the Texas Property Tax Code.

Article XV

The above By-Laws having been adopted by the said _____
Lodge No. _____, on the _____ day of _____, A.D., _____, of which
witess my hand and seal.

By order of the Lodge. _____, Secretary
(Lodge Seal)

The above By-Laws having been approved by the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas, on the _____ day of _____ A.D. _____.

By order of the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. _____, Grand Secretary
(Grand Lodge Seal)

(NOTE—This form may be amplified to suit the requirements of the Lodge, provided that no change therein shall conflict with the Constitution or the Laws of the Grand Lodge.)

(Art. 218-221)

Previous versions of this Form may not be used.

(Revised 2006)

**No. 23a
BY-LAWS OF THE
MASTERS, WARDENS AND SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION**

**Article 1
NAME**

Section A – The name of this Association shall be “The Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association, A.F. & A.M. of the _____ Masonic District of Texas”; and this Association exists only at the will and pleasure of the Grand Lodge of Texas, acting through the Grand Master and in turn through the District Deputy Grand Master in the District.

**Article II.
PURPOSE**

Section A - This Association is a cooperative service organization dependent upon the Masonic Lodges of the _____ Masonic District of Texas for support and has no authority or right to concern itself in any manner with the business or other affairs of the Lodges of this District, or of any member thereof. All members of this Association shall retain all rights and privileges invested in them as Master Masons under the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas and nothing herein shall ever be construed to restrict such rights in any manner.

Section B - The purpose of this Association shall be:

(1) To assist the District Deputy Grand Masters and members of any Grand Lodge Committee in the performance of their duties when requested.

(2) To promote a cooperative plan of attendance when all the Lodges of the _____ Masonic District act as host to the M: W: Grand Master and visiting Masons when in attendance at the annual Regional or District meetings.

(3) To foster and encourage ideas and plans determined to promoting better spirit of Brotherhood and widen acquaintances among the Brethren of this District.

(4) To promote and support educational meetings designed to bring more light to all Master Masons.

**Article III.
MEMBERSHIP**

Section A - All Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Secretaries of Lodges in the _____ Masonic District shall by virtue of their respective offices be regular members of this Association. This Association may, at its option, include Junior Past Masters, Past Presidents and Past Masters as regular members. (Revised 2009)

Section B - All Past Masters and affiliated Past Masters of Lodges in the _____ Masonic District shall be honorary members of the Association.

Section C - Each regular member present shall be entitled to one vote in the transaction of business. Honorary members shall have no vote in the transaction of business, but may offer suggestions for consideration, and may serve on committees when properly appointed.

**Article IV.
OFFICERS**

Section A - The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. All of whom shall be elected from the regular membership and by a majority vote of the regular members present. The office of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined at the discretion of this Association.

Section B - No President shall succeed himself in office.

Section C - In case of the death, resignation, inability or refusal to serve of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of that office until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time that office shall be filled by election. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, the President may appoint a pro tem officer until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time that office will be filled by election.

**Article V.
MEETINGS**

Section A - Not less than four meetings shall be held per annum.

Section B - The regular meetings of this Association shall be held on _____.
(Adopted 1961)

Section C - The election of officers shall be held at the first regular or called meeting after June 24th and prior to August 1st.

Section D - Called meetings may be held at any time on written notice mailed to all regular members by the President at least five days prior to such meeting.

Section E - Any business proper to be transacted by this Association may be transacted at either a regular or called meeting, except amendments to these By-Laws.

Section F - All meetings of this Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article VI.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section A - The order of business at regular or called meetings shall be as follows, unless otherwise ordered by the President:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer | 6. New Business |
| 2. Roll Call of Lodges | 7. Announcements |
| 3. Reading Minutes of Preceding Meeting | 8. Program |
| 4. Reports of Committees | 9. Closing Prayer |
| 5. Unfinished Business | |

Article VII.

COMMITTEES

Section A - The President may appoint such committees as he deems desirable and necessary to carry out the various activities of the Association.

Article VIII.

FINANCE

Section A - The work of this Association shall be carried on only by voluntary contributions, in a manner to be determined by the Association.

Article IX.

AMENDMENTS

Section A - No amendments to the By-Laws, either by alteration or addition, shall be made, unless in the following manner:

(1) The proposed amendment must be in writing, signed by the proposers, and presented and read at a regular meeting of this Association, at which time it may be discussed and amended, if necessary.

(2) At the next regular meeting of this Association, it shall again be considered and voted upon without further amendment and approved by a two-thirds majority of the regular members present.

(3) With approval of the Grand Lodge, the proposed amendment shall become a part of the by-laws of this Association.

Your Committee recommends that the Grand Secretary mail to each existing Association in the Grand Jurisdiction one copy, of these By-Laws and that they in turn adopt these By-Laws if they so desire, make any necessary additions, and file the complete set of By-Laws with the Grand Secretary. Existing Association not desiring to adopt this set of By-Laws shall forward a complete set of their By-Laws to this Grand Lodge for approval. All subsequent amendments to Association By-Laws shall be submitted to this Grand Lodge for approval.

Your Committee further recommends that each Association Secretary be required to file with the Grand Secretary a list of present Association Officers no later than January 15th of each year and a list of new Association Officers no later than August 15th of each year.

(Adopted 1961)

No. 24

MINUTES OF STATED MEETING

Stated Meeting of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., held at _____, Texas, on ____, the ____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

Officers present:

_____	W.M.	_____	S.D.
_____	S.W.	_____	J.D.
_____	J.W. (If pro-tem)	_____	S.S.
_____	Treas. show which)	_____	J.S.
_____	Secy.	_____	Tiler
_____	Chap.		

For additional members and visitors present, see Register.

A Master Mason's Lodge was duly opened at _____ o'clock p.m. (or a.m.)

(Note: The regular order of business as set forth in Art. 333 and Art. XII of Form 23 shall then be followed. The minutes shall conform to all the requisites prescribed in Art. 337. When degrees are conferred the minutes shall conform to the provisions in that respect set forth in Form No. 25, Minutes of Called Meeting.)

The Lodge was then closed at _____ o'clock ____m. (To this may be added: "Peace and harmony prevailing.")

_____ Worshipful Master
Attest: _____ Secretary

No. 24-a

MINUTES OF STATED MEETING

Stated Meeting of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., held at _____, Texas, on ____, the ____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

Officers present:

_____	W.M.	_____	S.D.
_____	S.W.	_____	J.D.
_____	J.W. (If pro-tem)	_____	S.S.
_____	Treas. show which)	_____	J.S.
_____	Secy.	_____	Tiler
_____	Chap.		

For additional members and visitors present, see Register.

The Lodge was then closed at _____ o'clock ____m.

_____ Worshipful Master
Attest: _____ Secretary

No. 25
MINUTES OF CALLED MEETINGS

Called Meeting of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., held at _____, Texas, on _____, the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____, A.D. 60_____.
Officers present:

_____ W.M.	_____ S.D.
_____ S.W.	_____ J.D.
_____ J.W. (If pro-tem)	_____ S.S.
_____ Treas. show which)	_____ J.S.
_____ Secy.	_____ Tiler
_____ Chap.	

Additional members present: _____ Visitors present:

(or as per register)

A Master Mason's Lodge was duly opened at _____ o'clock p.m. (or a.m.)

The Worshipful Master stated the purpose of the Meeting as follows: (State the purpose.)

(If business other than degrees work is to be transacted it shall be recorded as provided in Art. 337.)

(If one or more degrees in one or more classes – that is E.A., F.C., and M.M. – are conferred the following form is to be used, varying it only to meet the particular situation when not all three classes are conferred. Each degree must be conferred in the Lodge of its class, and such Lodge closed before a Lodge in another class is opened. It is not necessary that any particular order be followed in conferring the different classes of degrees.)

The Master Mason's Lodge was then duly called from Labor and an Entered Apprentice Mason's Lodge duly opend, whereupon

the First Degree in Masonry (or)
the Entered Apprentice Degree (or)
the Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree

was conferred upon Mr. _____ (or separately conferred upon Messrs. _____) in due and ancient form.

The Entered Apprentice Mason's Lodge was then duly closed and a Fellowcraft Mason's Lodge duly opened, whereupon

the Second Degree in Masonry (or)
the Fellowcraft's Degree (or)
the Fellowcraft Mason's Degree

was conferred upon Bro. _____ (or separately conferred upon Bros. _____) in due and ancient form.

The Fellowcraft Mason's Lodge was then duly closed and the Master Mason's Lodge was duly called to Labor, whereupon

the Third Degree in Masonry (or)
the Master's Degree (or)
the Master Mason's Degree

was conferred upon Bro. _____ (or separately conferred upon Bros. _____) in due and ancient form.

The Master Mason's Lodge was then duly closed.

_____ Secretary _____ Worshipful Master
(The phrase "peace and harmony prevailing," may be added at the end as in Form No. 24.)

No. 25a
MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING

Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.

Called Meeting of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., held at _____, Texas, on _____, the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

Officers present:

_____ W.M.	_____ S.D.
_____ S.W.	_____ J.D.
_____ J.W.	(If pro-tem) _____ S.S.
_____ Treas.	show which) _____ J.S.
_____ Secy.	_____ Tiler
_____ Chap.	

For members and visitors present, see Register.

A Master Mason's Lodge was duly opened at _____ o'clock p.m. (or a.m.)

(Note: The regular order of business as set forth in Art. 333 and Art. XII of Form 23 shall then be followed. The minutes shall conform to all the requisites prescribed in Art. 337. When degrees are conferred the minutes shall conform to the provisions in that respect set forth in Form No. 25, Minutes of Called Meeting.)

The _____ Masons Lodge was then duly closed.

Attest:

_____ Secretary _____ Worshipful Master
(Adopted 1987)

No. 26
PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

THIS REPORT MUST BE USED IN THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF TEXAS



PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

, Texas, _____, 20_____

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS AND BRETHREN OF

Lodge No. _____ A. F. & A. M. of Texas.

The undersigned respectfully represents that, unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, he freely and voluntarily makes application for the Degrees of Freemasonry; and he herewith submits the following information regarding himself as evidence of his qualifications for acceptance into the Fraternity. (Please note - space on last page is allowed for additional information to any questions.)

1. Full Name _____ Age _____
(Please print) First Middle Surname

2. I was born at _____ City _____ State _____ on the _____ day of _____ Month and Year _____

If not born in the United States, have you been naturalized? If so, when and where? _____

3. Have you ever changed your name? _____ (Y/N). If so, give former name, when and where it was changed _____

4. A certified copy of a Birth Certificate must be attached to this petition before it can be received by the Lodge.
(Photostatic copy acceptable.)

5. Have you any maims or physical defects? _____ (Yes or No). If so, explain fully _____

6. How long have you resided in the State of Texas? _____ Years

7. How long have resided in the jurisdiction of this Lodge? _____ Years _____ Months

8. Present residence address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Cellular _____

If you do not get your mail here, give mailing address also:

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Months

9. How long have you resided at present address? _____ Years _____ Months

10. Give addresses of places where you have resided for the past 15 years.

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates: From _____ To _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates: From _____ To _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates: From _____ To _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates: From _____ To _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates: From _____ To _____

11. Present employer's name and address _____ Firm Name _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

12. My present occupation is _____
 13. Give names and addresses of your employers for the past 15 years:

Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To
Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To
Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To
Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To
Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To

14. State names and addresses of all schools attended and dates:

Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To
Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To
Name	Street	City	State	Zip	Dates: From	To

15. Do you believe in the Constitution of the United States? _____ (Yes or No)

16. Have you ever been charged with a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude? _____ (Yes or No)

If so, when and where? Give details: _____

17. Give names and locations of all organization, fraternal societies, etc., you now belong to or have ever belonged to.

(If none, state none.) _____

18. Married or single? _____

19. If married, give name and address of wife:	First	Maiden	Surname
Street	City	State	Zip

20. Have you ever been divorced? _____ (Yes or No)

21. If you have been divorced, give name of your former wife or wives and address(es):

Name	Present Address			Zip
Name	Present Address			Zip
22. Give names of all dependents:				
Name	Age	Relationship	Address	Zip
Name	Age	Relationship	Address	Zip
Name	Age	Relationship	Address	Zip

23. What is your father's full name? _____
24. Where was he born? _____
25. Where does he now reside? _____
26. Do you promise, upon your honor, to strictly adhere to and be governed by the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and by the By-Laws of this Lodge? Answer _____
27. Do you sincerely declare, upon your honor, that unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself as a candidate for the Mysteries of Freemasonry? Answer _____
28. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you are prompted to solicit the privileges of Masonry by a favorable opinion conceived of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere desire to be of greater service to your fellow man? Answer _____
29. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of Masonry? Answer _____
30. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you firmly believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the Divine authenticity of the Holy Scripture? Answer _____
31. Have you ever petitioned any Lodge of Masons for the Degrees or any of them? Answer _____
32. If you have before petitioned any Lodge of Masons, state name, number, location of Lodge, approximate date, if rejected or not, and any other particulars relating thereto: _____

33. Do you hereby agree that you will not, until after passing a satisfactory examination in esoterical work in the Master's Degree, apply for or receive any degree or be initiated in any body, order or organization, where the requirement of membership is that a person be a Master Mason? Answer _____

I hereby certify on my honor that the above answers are true and correct.

"I understand that as part of this Lodge's procedure for processing my petition, an investigative report will be prepared whereby information is obtained through personal interviews with neighbors, friends or others with whom I am acquainted. This inquiry may include information as to my character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living."

I hereby certify on my honor that the above answers are true and correct.

Signed _____
 (This petition CANNOT be accepted
 unless all questions have been answered.)
 First _____ Middle _____ Last _____
 Usual Signature _____

Drivers License No.& State _____

Recommended by members of this Lodge:

I have known Mr. _____	for _____	Years & Months _____	Signature of Recommender _____
Home Address _____	City _____	State _____	Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____
I have known Mr. _____	for _____	Years & Months _____	Signature of Recommender _____
Home Address _____	City _____	State _____	Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Please PRINT the names of references who must be Masons (Required by Art. 394):

(1)	Name	Lodge No.	Location	
	Home Address	City	State	Home Phone Business Phone
(2)	Name	Lodge No.	Location	
	Home Address	City	State	Home Phone Business Phone
(3)	Name	Lodge No.	Location	
	Home Address	City	State	Home Phone Business Phone

Three separate investigation reports must be attached to this Petition before ballot is taken. (It is not necessary for each investigator to sign all three reports.) Individual investigation shall be made.

Additional Information:

No. _____ Series _____

Petition of

Mr. _____

For the Degrees of Freemasonry

Received _____ Date _____ Year _____

Referred to Committee Consisting of Brothers:

Report Due _____ Date _____ Year _____

Date Read _____ Date _____ Year _____

Balloted _____ Date _____ Year _____

Protested _____ Date _____ Year _____

Record Book Folio _____ Date _____ Year _____

1st Optional L.S. of M.E. Reading _____ Date _____ Year _____

Date E.A. _____

Date Examined E.A. _____

2nd Optional L.S. of M.E. Reading _____ Date _____ Year _____

Date F.C. _____

Date Examined F.C. _____

3rd Optional L.S. or M.E. Reading _____ Date _____ Year _____

Date M.M. _____

Date Examined M.M. _____

Membership ID No. _____

(ASSIGNED BY GRAND SECRETARY)

No. 27

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1953, THIS REPORT MUST BE USED IN THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF TEXAS.

Lodge Name _____ No. _____ District No. _____
has officially received the application of Mr. _____
He has listed the following defects:

Note: The Master and Secretary will mark off on the graph that part of the body that is affected. After that is completed this form will be sent to the District Deputy. The District Deputy will interview the petitioner and will make his recommendation and forward it to the Grand Master.

The District Deputy Grand Master's Report

I have interviewed Mr. _____ on _____, _____
and I have certified and find the above conditions to exist and make the following recommendation:

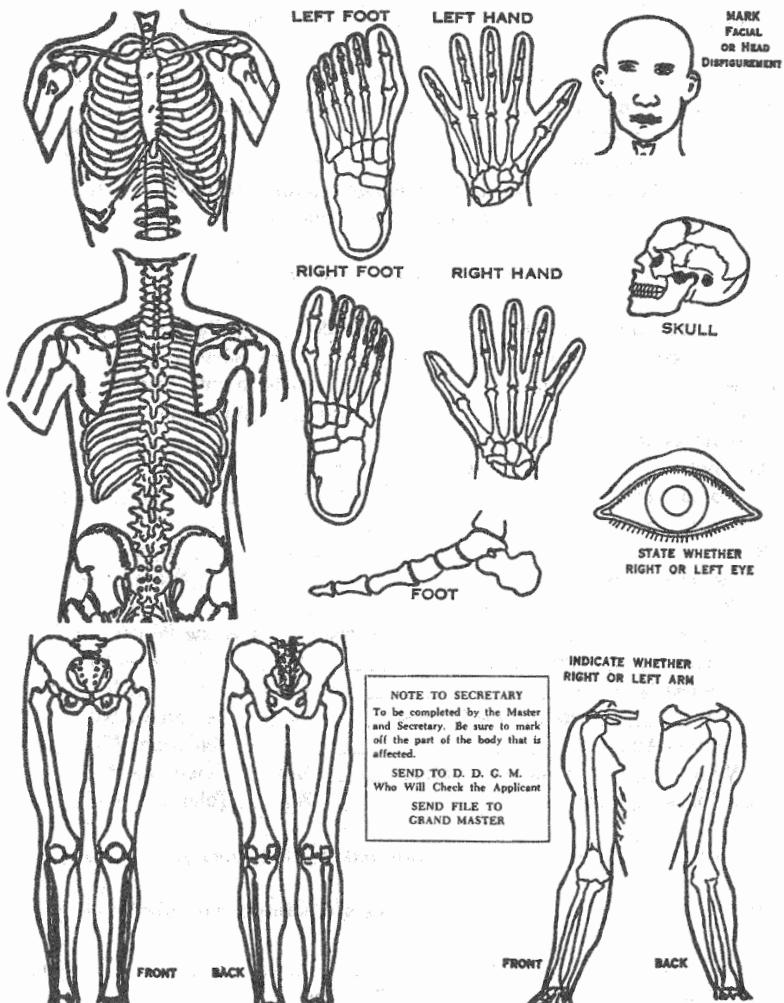
Signature _____
District Deputy Grand Master

Action of Grand Master

To: _____ Lodge No. _____
Having been informed of the facts concerning the physical defect(s) listed by Mr. _____ on his petition for the degrees of Freemasonry, permission is hereby (granted) (denied) to ballot upon said petitioner for the degrees: Special instructions of the Grand Master: (none) (as listed)

Signed: _____ Grand Master
Date: _____, 20 _____

(Reverse Side)



No. 28
INVESTIGATION REPORT

This Investigation Report must accompany petition before ballot can be taken. This report must be completed and returned to _____ Lodge No. _____, Address _____ By Day _____ Month _____ Year _____. If additional time is needed, request should be made to the Lodge. (Art. 407.)

To Secretaries: This form must be prepared in triplicate and copy delivered to each member of Investigating Committee. Brethren (1) _____ (2) _____, and (3) _____, you are appointed to investigate the character and eligibility of _____ for membership in our Lodge. (You are required to make your own personal investigation and return to Secretary of the Lodge a report as to your findings and recommendations.)

NOTE: A face-to-face interview is required by Article 412.

1. Petitioner's Full Name: First _____ Middle _____ Surname _____.
2. Present Address: Street _____ Zip _____ Res. Telephone No. _____
Cell Telephone No. _____ E-mail _____.
3. Present Employer: Firm Name _____ Position with Firm _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____.
4. Recommended by members of this Lodge:
 - (1) Name _____ Known by Recommender _____ Years _____ Months
Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Ph. _____ Bus. Ph. _____
 - (2) Name _____ Known by Recommender _____ Years _____ Months
Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Ph. _____ Bus. Ph. _____
5. The following Masons have been given as references by the Petitioner:
 - (1) Name _____ Residence Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
Business Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
 - (2) Name _____ Residence Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
Business Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
 - (3) Name _____ Residence Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
Business Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____

(The questions listed below must be answered in full by each investigator.)

6. Has petitioner changed initial address since petition was submitted?
____Yes ____No
If so, provide new information: Address _____ Zip _____
New Phone Number _____
7. Petitioner's Drivers License Number _____ State _____
8. How did the applicant learn about Masonry? (Please check one)

Friend's a Mason Family Member Shriners Open Event
 DeMolay Coworker Internet Scottish Rite Open Event
 Rainbow Girls Commercial Open Masonic Event
 York Rite Open Event Job's Daughters Other

9. Why does the petitioner want to become a Mason? _____
10. Has the petitioner ever petitioned another Masonic Lodge for the Degrees?
(Check one) Yes No
11. If so, give the name and location of such Lodge and full particulars thereof:
Lodge _____ Lodge No. _____
12. Has petitioner changed occupation since petition was submitted? Yes No
If so, provide information: Firm Name _____
Address _____ Zip _____ Work Phone _____
13. Does the petitioner have any maims or physical defects? Yes No
If so, what are they? _____
14. Has the petitioner ever been charged or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude? Yes No
15. Is the petitioner married? Yes No
If Yes, what is his wife's name? _____
16. Does the petitioner have children? Yes No
If Yes, what is(are) their name(s)? _____
—
17. Explain to the petitioner that if elected to receive the degrees in Masonry, the petitioner will be responsible to learn the work required by the Lodge upon receiving each degree. This will require some time away from home in order to be taught by a knowledgeable Brother. Ask which night and/or day during the week would be the most convenient time for him to study. Also, ask if there is a Brother that he prefers. Day of the week _____ Location _____ Time _____
Preferred Brother _____
18. Explain to the petitioner that he will be visited by a total of three Members of the Lodge. Upon completion of the investigation, the Committee will report to the Lodge and a ballot taken. If a petitioner receives three negative (unfavorable) votes from the Brothers present, he will be rejected from Masonry for a period of one calendar year. However, if a petitioner receives enough positive (favorable) votges from the Brothers present, he will be elected to receive the degrees of Masonry. Within three days after the ballot has been taken, the Worshipful Master or his designee will notify the petitioner as to the outcome.

After complete investigation I have answered all of the above questions to the best of my knowledge and believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendations: Favorable _____ Unfavorable _____. (Answer yes to one.) (Signed) _____ (Date Investigation completed) _____.

(Any correspondence you were required to have regarding the petitioner,
please attach to this Investigation Report.)

No. 29

This Certificate Issued Under the Authority

of

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Is Presented to

Brother _____

who was Raised

to the

SUBLIME DEGREE OF A MASTER MASON

In _____ Lodge No. _____

under the Jurisdiction of said Grand Lodge

In grateful acknowledgement of his having contributed the sum of

TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS

to the

TEXAS MASONIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION

In witness whereof, I, as Worshipful Master of said Lodge, have signed this Certificate and caused the Seal of said Lodge to be affixed hereto on this the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(Seal)

Worshipful Master

Secretary

No. 29-a
GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL
CONTRIBUTION CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE
Issued Under the Authority of
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas
Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

Whereas, the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. is a Life Member of The George Washington Masonic Memorial Association and did contribute to the construction of this most historic Masonic building in honor of our beloved Brother George Washington, First President of these United States of America, and has further pledged its continued support.

Therefore, the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. wishes to acknowledge that Brother _____
an Entered Apprentice Mason has contributed a portion of his initiation fee towards the continued maintenance and preservation of this beautiful Masonic edifice located in Alexandria, Virginia near Washington, D.C.

In witness whereof, I, as Worshipful Master of _____
Lodge No. ____ A.F. & A.M. under the Jurisdiction of said Grand Lodge have signed this Certificate and caused the Seal of said Lodge to be affixed hereto on this _____ day of _____ A.D. 20 ____ A.L. 60 ____.

Worshipful Master

(Seal)

Attest:

Secretary

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No. 30

CERTIFICATE OF DISMISSAL

Lodge No. _____, _____, Texas, _____, 20____

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Brother _____, an Entered Apprentice – a Fellowcraft*, of the above styled and numbered Lodge, has by a unanimous vote of the Lodge, been granted this Certificate of Dismissal under the terms and provisions of Art. 446 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas. He was initiated _____, 20____, Passed _____, 20_____. He has (has not) been examined and found proficient in the _____ Degree.

In testimony whereof, we have caused this Certificate to be issued and signed by the Worshipful Master under the seal of the Lodge this the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60_____.

Worshipful Master

(Seal)

Attest:

Secretary**Strike out Fellowcraft, if Brother is only E.A.*

No. 31
PETITION FOR ADVANCEMENT

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 3, 1959. THIS FORM MUST BE USED IN THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF TEXAS

PETITION FOR ADVANCEMENT

(THIS FORM MAY NOT BE VARIED)

Note: If another Lodge holds personal jurisdiction over petitioner, or if he is an unaffiliated E.A. or F.C. and is not domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge petitioned, waiver of jurisdiction must be obtained from the Lodge holding personal or territorial jurisdiction over him before his petition can be received. If he holds a Certificate of Dismissal, it must be attached to his petition. The word "Residence" as used in Question 8 means "domicile" and "resided" as used in Question 7 and 9 and 10 means "domiciled" as defined in Note under Art 394 (431).

Membership ID Number _____



To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of _____, Texas, _____ Date _____, 20_____
Lodge No. _____ A.F. & A.M.:

The undersigned, being desirous of Advancement in the Mysteries of Freemasonry represents that _____
Lodge No. _____ of _____, accepted his petition for the Mysteries of
Masonry and elected him to receive the Degrees on _____ day of _____ A.D. _____;
that he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice by said Lodge on _____ day of _____ A.D. _____;
(and Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft in said Lodge on the _____ day of _____ A.D. _____)

Wherefore, the undersigned prays that he may be advanced by this Lodge to the Degrees of _____,
and he herewith submits the following information regarding himself as evidence of his qualifications for Advancement:

1. Full Name _____ (Please Print) First _____ Middle _____ Surname _____ Age _____
2. I was born at _____ on the _____ day of _____ A.D. _____
If not born in the United States, have you been naturalized? _____ If so, when and where? _____
3. Have you ever changed your name? (Yes or No). If so, give former name, when and where changed _____
4. A certified copy of a Birth Certificate must be attached to this petition before it can be received by the Lodge, unless it is accompanied by the original petition. (Photostatic copy is acceptable.)
5. Have you any mains or physical defects? (Yes or No). If so, explain fully _____
6. How long have resided in the State of Texas? _____ Years _____ Months
7. How long have you resided in the jurisdiction of this Lodge? _____ Years _____ Months
8. Present residence address _____ Street _____ City _____ Phone _____
Cellular Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____
9. How long have you resided at present address? _____ Years _____ Months
10. Give addresses of places you have resided for the past 15 years:

Street	City	State	Dates: From	To
Street	City	State	Dates: From	To
Street	City	State	Dates: From	To
Street	City	State	Dates: From	To

Form No. 31 - Revised 2011 (Arts. 394, 407, 430, 434a)

Street	City	State	Dates: From	To
11. Present employer's name and address:				
Firm Name	Address	Zip	Phone	
12. My present occupation is _____.				
13. Give names and addresses of your employers for the past 15 years.				
Name	Address	Zip	From	To
Name	Address	Zip	From	To
Name	Address	Zip	From	To
Name	Address	Zip	From	To
Name	Address	Zip	From	To
14. State names and addresses of all schools attended and dates:				
Name	Address	Zip	Dates	
Name	Address	Zip	Dates	
Name	Address	Zip	Dates	
15. Do you believe in the Constitution of the United States? _____ (Yes or No)				
16. Have you ever been charged with a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude? _____ (Yes or No). If so, give details _____.				
17. Give names and addresses of all organizations, fraternal societies, etc., you now belong to or have ever belonged to. (If none, state none). _____ _____ _____				
18. Married or single? _____.				
19. If married, give name and address of wife. _____ First _____ Maiden _____ Surname _____ Address _____				
20. Have you ever been divorced? _____ (Yes or No)				
21. If you have been divorced, give name of your former wife or wives and addresses:				
Name	Present Address			Zip
Name	Present Address			Zip
22. Give names of dependents:				
Name	Age	Relationship	Address	Zip
Name	Age	Relationship	Address	Zip
Name	Age	Relationship	Address	Zip
23. What is your father's name? _____				
24. Where was he born? _____				
25. Where does he now reside? _____				

Form 31 - Revised 2011 (Arts. 394, 407, 430, 434a)

26. Do you promise, on your honor, to strictly adhere to and be governed by the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and by the By-Laws of this Lodge? Answer _____.
27. Have you ever petitioned for advancement in any other Lodge of Masons? _____
If so, give name, number, and location of Lodge, approximate date, if rejected or not, and any other particulars relating thereto: _____
28. Do you hereby agree that you will not, until after passing a satisfactory examination in esoterical work in the Master's Degree, apply for or receive any degree or be initiated in any body, order or organization, where the requirement of membership is that a person be a Master Mason? Answer _____.
I hereby certify on my honor that the above answers are true and correct.

(This petition CANNOT be accepted unless all questions have been answered. Signed _____
 _____ First _____ Middle _____ Last
 Usual Signature _____)

Recommended by members of this Lodge:

I have known Mr. _____ for _____ Yrs. & Mos. _____ Signature of Recommender

I have known Mr. _____ for _____ Yrs. & Mos. _____ Signature of Recommender

References (Required by Article 394; must be Masons in good standing in a duly recognized Lodge by this Grand Lodge):

Name	Residence Address	Zip	Phone No.
Business Address	Zip	Phone No.	Cellular Phone
Name	Residence Address	Zip	Phone No.
Business Address	Zip	Phone No.	Cellular Phone
Name	Residence Address	Zip	Phone No.
Business Address	Zip	Phone No.	Cellular Phone

(Three names and address)

Date Read _____

Date Examined E.A. _____

Date F.C. _____

Date Examined F.C. _____

Date M.M. _____

Date Examined M.M. _____

Three (3) separate investigation reports must be attached to this petition before ballot is taken. (It is not necessary for each investigator to sign all three reports.) Individual investigation must be made.

Petition for AdvancementReceived _____
Date _____RECOMMENDED BY

_____REFERRED TO

_____MEMORANDA

Form 31 - Revised 2011 (Arts. 394, 407, 430, 434a)

This edition must be used after December 31, 2011. (Arts. 394, 403, 452)
(Revised 2010)

No. 32
INVESTIGATION REPORT – ADVANCEMENT

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 3, 1959, THIS REPORT MUST BE USED IN THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF TEXAS

INVESTIGATION REPORT - ADVANCEMENT



This Investigation Report must accompany petition before ballot can be taken.

This report must be completed and returned to _____ Lodge No. _____
Address _____ By _____
Zip _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

If additional time is needed, request should be made to the Lodge. (Art. 407)

To Secretaries: This form must be prepared in triplicate and copy delivered to each member of Investigating Committee.

Brethren (1) _____, (2) _____, and
(3) _____, you are appointed to investigate the character and eligibility
of _____ for Advancement in Masonry. (You are required to make
your own personal investigation and return to Secretary of the Lodge a report as to your findings and recommendations.)

NOTE: A face to face interview is required by Article 412.

1. Petitioner's Full Name	First	Middle	Surname	ID No.
			Cellular Phone _____	E-mail address _____
2. Present Address	Street		Zip	Res. Phone No.
3. Present Employer	Firm Name	Position with Firm		
	Street	City	State	Zip
4. Recommended by members of this Lodge				
(1) Name	Known by Recommender. _____ Years _____ Months			
Home Address	City, State	Cellular Phone No.	Home Telephone No.	Business Phone No.
(2) Name	Known by Recommender. _____ Years _____ Months			
Home Address	City, State	Cellular Phone No.	Home Telephone No.	Business Phone No.
5. The following Masons have been given as references by the Petitioner.				
(1) Name	Known by Recommender. _____ Years _____ Months			
Home Address	City, State	Cellular Phone No.	Home Telephone No.	Business Phone No.
(2) Name	Known by Recommender. _____ Years _____ Months			
Home Address	City, State	Cellular Phone No.	Home Telephone No.	Business Phone No.
(3) Name	Known by Recommender. _____ Years _____ Months			
Home Address	City, State	Cellular Phone No.	Home Telephone No.	Business Phone No.
Petitioner received the Entered Apprentice Degree in _____	Lodge No. _____			
on _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____	Fellowcraft Degree in _____ Lodge No. _____			
on _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____	allowed his time to lapse (or was rejected).			

Form No. 32 - Revised 2011 (Art. 386)

(The questions listed below must be answered in full by each investigator.)

6. How long has applicant resided in the State of Texas? _____

7. How long has applicant resided in the jurisdiction of this Lodge? _____

8. Has he made application for Advancement in any other Lodge? _____
If so, give name and location of such Lodge and full particulars thereof:

9. What is his age? _____ What is his occupation? _____

10. Is he married or single? _____ Has he ever been divorced? _____

11. Give residence addresses for the past 15 years: _____

12. Has he any maims or physical defects? _____ If so, what are they? _____

13. Does he use profane language? _____. Has he any immoral habits? _____

14. Has he ever been charged or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude? _____

15. Does he possess the mental and physical ability to earn his own living? _____

16. Can he read and write? _____.

After complete investigation I have answered all the above questions to the best of my knowledge and believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendation.

Favorable _____ Unfavorable _____
(Answer Yes to One)

I.D. No. _____

Date investigation completed _____ Signed _____

Please attach any correspondence you were required to have regarding the petitioner to this Investigation Report.
(Reports from all three Investigators must be attached to the Petition before the Lodge can ballot on it.)

From No. 32 – Revised 2011 (Art. 386)

No. 33
APPLICATION FOR DIMIT

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of _____
Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.

The undersigned, a Master Mason, and Member in good standing in your Lodge, respectfully asks to withdraw from membership, and that a Certificate of Dimission be issued to him certifying such fact.

My Lodge dues have been paid for the period ending _____, A.D. 20_____.

Dated _____, 20_____.

Signed: _____
 Address: _____

No. 34
CERTIFICATE OF DIMISSION

_____ Lodge No. _____ (A.F. & A.M.)
 Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas
 _____ Texas, _____, A.D. 20_____

To Whom It May Concern, Greetings:

This is to certify that Brother _____ (write name in full) whose name, written by himself, appears on the margin hereof, is a Master Mason, and was a member of the above named Lodge in good standing until the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____. On said date a dimit was granted to him in conformity with the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and this certificate of Dimission is issued as evidence thereof.

RECORD

He was born at _____, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____. He was initiated on the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____. passed _____, raised _____ in _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, State of Texas. Dimitted on the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____. He has (has not) been examined and voted proficient in the Master's Degree.

In testimony whereof, we have caused this Certificate of Dimission to be issued and the seal of _____ Lodge No. _____ to be impressed thereon, this the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____, A.L. 60_____.

(Seal)

Signature of dimitted member

Secretary

Worshipful Master

Waco, Texas, _____, A.D. 20____

This is to certify that _____ Lodge No. ____, located at _____, Texas, is a regular subordinate Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas (A.F. & A.M.)

Witness my hand and seal of the Grand Lodge of Texas, on this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(Seal)

Grand Secretary

----- PERFORATION -----

_____ _____ _____, A.D. 20____

To Brother _____, Grand Secretary, Waco, Texas.

This is to certify that Brother _____, late a member of _____ Lodge No. ____, located at _____, Texas, to whose Certificate of Dimission this form was attached, was duly elected to membership in _____ Lodge No. ____, located at _____, State of _____, by affiliation on the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____.

His Certificate of Dimission issued by _____ Lodge No. _____ of _____, Texas, is dated the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____.

(Seal)

Secretary

_____ Lodge No. ____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of _____, located at _____, State of _____.

Note: The Secretary of the Lodge with which the attached Certificate of Dimission is filed, will please detach this form, fill it out and forward same to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco, Texas, promptly, after election of petitioner for affiliation.

He was Initiated _____, 20____, Passed _____, 20____, Raised _____, 20____, in _____ Lodge No. _____, at _____, State of _____ (or) Affiliated with this Lodge on _____ day of _____, 20____, by Dimit from _____ Lodge No. _____ at _____, State of _____.

This dimit cancelled by his election to membership in _____ Lodge No. _____ at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

(Seal)

Secretary

(The Lodge Secretary, before issuing this Certificate of Dimission to the Brother named herein, will please fill in his historical data.)

No. 35

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION – UNAFFILIATED MASON

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 3, 1959, THIS REPORT MUST BE USED IN THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF TEXAS

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION - UNAFFILIATED MASON

(THIS FORM MAY NOT BE VARIED)



Art. 385 (421, 422). Requisites of Petition. The petition for affiliation must be in writing and signed by the petitioner personally; be recommended by two members of the Lodge petitioned; and be presented at a stated meeting.

It must state the name, age, and place of birth, and domicile of the petitioner, and must be accompanied by his Certificate of Dimission from the Lodge of which he was last a member, or a certificate of good standing as provided for in Art. 392 or satisfactorily reasons shown for the absence of either of such certificates. A certificate of life membership in a Lodge of another recognized jurisdiction will be accorded the same effect as a Certificate of Dimission, when accompanied by a certificate of present good standing in the Lodge which issued such life certificate.

Form No. 35 (Arts. 384, 385) Revised 2010

 <p>PETITION FOR AFFILIATION UNAFFILIATED MASONS</p>																																											
<p style="text-align: right;">_____, Texas, Zip _____, Month _____, Day _____, 20_____ <i>To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.</i></p> <p>The undersigned, a former member of _____</p> <p>Lodge No. _____, at _____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____, respectfully petitions for membership in your Lodge, if found worthy. He pledges himself to a cheerful obedience to all requirements of your By-Laws, and to the ancient usages of Freemasonry, if admitted among you. He submits the following information regarding himself as evidence of his qualifications for membership. A Dimit or Certificate of Good Standing is attached hereto for your satisfaction.</p> <p>1. Full Name _____ (Print or type) First _____ Middle _____ Surname _____ Age _____ Membership ID No. _____</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Res. Phone _____</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Cellular Phone _____</td> <td style="width: 34%;">E-mail _____</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. I was born at _____ on the _____ day of _____ Month _____ Year _____</p> <p>3. Where do you now reside? _____ City _____ Street Address or RFD No. and Box _____ Zip _____ If you do not get your mail here, give mailing address also. _____</p> <p>4. How long have you lived at this address? _____ Give addresses of places where you have resided for the past 10 years.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">From _____, _____ to _____, _____</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Town or City _____</th> <th style="width: 34%;">Address _____</th> <th style="width: 34%;">Zip _____</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>5. What is your present occupation? _____</p> <p>6. Give name and address of your employer for the past 10 years:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">From _____, _____ to _____, _____</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Name of Employer _____</th> <th style="width: 34%;">Address _____</th> <th style="width: 34%;">Zip _____</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From _____, _____ to _____, _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Res. Phone _____	Cellular Phone _____	E-mail _____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	Town or City _____	Address _____	Zip _____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	Name of Employer _____	Address _____	Zip _____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____	From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____
Res. Phone _____	Cellular Phone _____	E-mail _____																																									
From _____, _____ to _____, _____	Town or City _____	Address _____	Zip _____																																								
From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____																																								
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From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____																																								
From _____, _____ to _____, _____	_____	_____	_____																																								

Form 35 (Art 384, 385) Revised 2010

7. In what Lodge did you receive the Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry?

Lodge No. _____ at _____

8. What other Masonic Lodges have you been a member of? Name, Number and Location

9. Have you ever petitioned a Lodge for affiliation and been rejected? _____. If you have ever petitioned and been rejected, give name, number and location of Lodge, with full particulars.

10. Give names and locations of all other Fraternal Societies or other organizations (other than Masonic) to which you do belong or have belonged.

11. Are you married or single? _____. If married, give address of your wife. _____

12. Have you ever been charged with a felony or other criminal offense?
All of the statements I have made in this petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____
First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

REFERENCES (MUST BE MASONS) Names and addresses to be given by the petitioner:

Name	Address	Zip	Phone No.
------	---------	-----	-----------

Name	Address	Zip	Phone No.
------	---------	-----	-----------

Name	Address	Zip	Phone No.
------	---------	-----	-----------

Recommended by (Must be members of this Lodge):

We hereby certify that we are acquainted with Brother _____
and do hereby recommend him for membership in our Lodge.

I have known Bro. _____ for _____ years _____ months _____
Signature of Recommender

Home Address	City, State	Zip	Home Phone No.	Business Phone	Cellular Phone
--------------	-------------	-----	----------------	----------------	----------------

I have known Bro. _____ for _____ years _____ months _____
Signature of Recommender

Home Address	City, State	Zip	Home Phone No.	Business Phone	Cellular Phone
--------------	-------------	-----	----------------	----------------	----------------

<hr/> <p>No. _____ Series _____</p> <hr/> <p>Petition of</p> <p>Bro. _____</p> <p>for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Affiliated-Unaffiliated Mason</p> <p>Received _____, 20 _____</p> <p>Referred _____, 20 _____</p> <p>To Committee Consisting of Brothers:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Balloted _____, 20 _____</p> <p>and the Petition _____</p> <p>Record Book Folio _____</p>	
Form 35 (Arts. 384, 385) Revised 2010	

No. 36
INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR MEMBERSHIP OF
NON-AFFILIATE BY AFFILIATION

This Investigation report must accompany petition before ballot can be taken. This report must be completed and returned to _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F.&A.M., by: Day _____ Month _____ Year _____.

If additional time is needed, request should be made to the Lodge. (Art. 407).

To Secretaries: This form must be prepared in triplicate and copy delivered to each member of Investigating Committee.

Brethren (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____, you are appointed to investigate the character and eligibility of _____ for membership by affiliation in our Lodge. (You are required to make your own personal investigation and return to Secretary of the Lodge a report as to your findings and recommendations.)

1. Petitioner's Full Name: First _____ Middle _____ Surname _____
2. Present Address: Street _____ Res. Telephone _____
3. Present Employer: Firm Name _____ Position with Firm _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Telephone No. _____

4. Recommended by members of this Lodge:

(1) Name _____ Known by Recommender _____ Years _____ Months
Home Address _____ City, State _____

Home Ph. _____ Bus. Ph. _____

(2) Name _____ Known by Recommender _____ Years _____ Months
Home Address _____ City, State _____

Home Ph. _____ Bus. Ph. _____

5. The following Masons have been given as references by the Petitioner:

Name _____ Residence Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
Business Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____

Name _____ Residence Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
Business Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____

Name _____ Residence Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____
Business Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone No. _____

(The questions listed below must be answered in full by each investigator.)

6. How long has applicant resided in the State of Texas? _____. 7. How long has applicant resided in the jurisdiction of this Lodge? _____. 8. What is his age? _____. What is his occupation? _____. 9. Is he married or single? _____. Has he ever been divorced? _____. 10. Give residence addresses for the past 15 years _____. 11. Does he use profane language? _____. Has he any immoral habits? _____. 12. Has he ever been charged or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude? _____. 13. Does he possess the mental and physical ability to earn his own living? _____. 14. Can he read and write? _____.

After complete investigation I have answered all of the above questions to the best of my knowledge and believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendations: Favorable ____ Unfavorable _____. (Answer yes to one.)

(Signed) _____ (Date Investigation completed) _____.

(Any correspondence you were required to have regarding the petition, please attach to his Investigation Report.)
(Revised 1997)

No. 37

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

Membership ID No. _____

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____, Texas Date _____, _____
Lodge No. _____, located at _____, State of _____:

I hereby apply to your Lodge of which I am a member for a Certificate of Good Standing for the purpose of:

Transferring my membership to _____ Lodge No. _____
located at _____, State of _____.

Obtaining a plural membership in _____ Lodge No. _____
located at _____, State of _____.

Transferring my membership to a new Lodge, petition for which I expect to sign, located at _____, State of _____.

Fraternally yours,

Signature _____ Print or type name _____ Phone _____

(Art. 392) Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

No. 38
 (THIS FORM MAY NOT BE VARIED)
 CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

(THIS FORM MAY NOT BE VARIED)
CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

Membership ID No. _____

Dated _____, 20 _____



To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____,
 located at _____ in the State of _____:

(Or)

To (the Most Worshipful Grand Master) or (the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas):
(Strike out the words not applicable.)

This is to certify that Brother _____, whose name appears in the margin of this
 Certificate, written by himself, is a Master Mason, and is a (single) (parent) (plural) member in good standing
(Strike out the words not applicable.)

in this _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, under the
 jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. In case of plural membership, Only Parent Lodge has authority to act.

He has applied for and has been granted this Certificate in order that he may

- Check One: transfer his membership to another Lodge
 apply for plural membership to another Lodge
 sign a petition for a new or restored Lodge

and we do commend him to your favorable regard.

He was:

Born on the _____ day of _____, A.D. 19____ and

Initiated _____, in _____ Lodge
 No. _____, located at _____, State of _____

Passed _____, in _____ Lodge
 No. _____, located at _____, State of _____

Raised _____, in _____ Lodge
 No. _____, located at _____, State of _____

NOTE: Issuing Lodge should provide complete Masonic history, if possible, to accompany this certificate.

He now resides at _____ in _____, Texas _____

Dues have been paid to the _____ day of _____, 20_____

This Certificate expires automatically on the _____ day of _____, 20_____
 unless on or before that date the Brother (files with your Secretary his application for membership in your Lodge
 by affiliation) (signs a petition for a new or restored Lodge) with his Certificate attached.
(Strike out the words not applicable.)

(SEAL) _____, Worshipful Master

Attest: _____, Secretary

**THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS APPLY, IF THE CERTIFICATE
IS ADDRESSED TO A LODGE**

If the Brother to whom this Certificate is issued is elected to and affiliates with the Lodge to which this certificate is addressed, the Secretary of the Lodge is required to detach the two forms, fill out and forward, one to the Secretary of the Lodge issuing the Certificate and the other to the Grand Secretary.

If the Brother's application for affiliation is rejected, the Secretary of the rejecting Lodge shall at once return the Certificate to the issuing Lodge for cancellation, with an endorsement thereon signed by him as Secretary and under the Seal of the Lodge, certifying such rejection.

All of the above requirements are imperative, in order that a correct record may be kept by each Lodge affected and by the Grand Secretary.

**THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS APPLY IF THE CERTIFICATE IS
ADDRESSED TO THE GRAND MASTER OR GRAND LODGE**

If the petition for a new or restored Lodge is granted, notice thereof shall be promptly given to the Secretary of the issuing Lodge, and of any other Lodge which the holder is a member. If the petition is denied, the Certificate shall be returned to the issuing Lodge for cancellation.

Membership ID No. _____

To the Secretary of _____ Lodge No. _____ Located at _____

City _____ State _____

This is to Certify that Brother _____, to whom your Lodge issued a Certificate of Good Standing, was on the _____ day of _____, 20_____, affiliated with _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____ City _____ State _____, as authorized by Article 392 of the Statute Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas as a (single) (plural) member of this Lodge.
(Strike out words not applicable.)

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Lodge, this _____ day of _____, 20_____

(SEAL)

Secretary

Membership ID No. _____

To the Hon. _____ Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas:

This is to Certify that Brother _____, a member of _____

Lodge No. _____, located at _____ City _____, State _____, to whom a

Certificate of Good Standing was issued by said Lodge was, on the _____ day of _____

20_____, elected and affiliated as a (single) (plural) member of _____ Lodge No. _____
(Strike out words not applicable.)

located at _____ City _____, State _____.

(SEAL)

Secretary of _____ Lodge No. _____

No. 39
PETITION FOR AFFILIATION
BY CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING



PETITION FOR AFFILIATION BY CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

, Texas Month _____, Day _____, Year _____

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____

The undersigned respectfully requests affiliation with your Lodge as a (single) (plural) member. He represents that he was born on

Month _____, Day _____, Year _____, at _____, City _____, State _____;

that he was made a Master Mason at _____ Lodge No. _____, working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____; and that he is now a member in good standing in:

_____, Lodge No. _____ located at _____

_____, Lodge No. _____ located at _____

_____, Lodge No. _____ located at _____

(and other Lodges shown on the reverse side).

A copy of his current dues card(s) is attached hereto. Also attached is a Certificate of Good Standing from his parent Lodge and/or from his Grand Lodge stating he is eligible for plural membership.

He further represents that he has lived in this Grand Jurisdiction _____ months _____ years, in the jurisdiction of this Lodge for _____ months _____ years, and he has last lived before coming to this Grand Jurisdiction at _____.

Petitioner's Name (Print) _____ First _____ Middle _____ Surname _____

Present Address _____ Street _____ City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cellular Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Present Employer _____ Name _____ Business Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature (Full Name)

Texas ID # _____

Recommended by:

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hall of _____ Lodge No. _____

_____, _____ Date Year

Your Committee to whom was referred the petition of Bro. _____

ID # _____

for affiliation by plural membership find in answer to the following:

1. What is his age? _____

2. Is he married or single? _____

3. If married, is he living with his wife? _____

4. What is his occupation, and where is he employed? _____

5. What is the character of his associates? _____

6. Does he gamble? _____

7. Does he habitually use profane language? _____

8. Has he licentious or immoral habits? _____

9. Is he a law-abiding citizen? _____

10. Has he been domiciled within the jurisdiction of this Grand and Subordinate
Lodge for the time required by the laws of the Grand Lodge? _____11. What is the opinion of the Secretary of the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he
last resided as to his character and conduct while there? _____

We report _____ on the application.

Given under our hands this Date: _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

(The above must be filled out by the Investigating Committee and read at the time of balloting.)

No. 39-a
INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR AFFILIATION



INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR AFFILIATION

This Investigation Report Must accompany petition before ballot can be taken.

This report must be completed and returned to _____ Lodge No. _____

by _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ Brethren (1) _____, (2) _____, and (3) _____,

You are appointed to investigate the character and eligibility of Brother _____ for affiliation with our Lodge. (You are required to make your own personal investigation and return to Secretary of the Lodge a report as to your findings and recommendation.)

Brother's Full Name _____ First _____ Middle _____ Surname _____

Present Address _____ Street _____ Res. Phone _____
Cellular Phone _____ E-mail _____

Present Employer _____ Firm Name _____ Bus. Phone _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Recommended by:

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

1. What is his age? _____
2. Is he married or single? _____
3. If married, is he living with his wife? _____
4. What is the character of his associates? _____
5. Does he gamble? _____
6. Does he habitually use profane language? _____
7. Has he licentious or immoral habits? _____
8. Is he a law-abiding citizen? _____
9. Has he been domiciled within the jurisdiction of the Grand and Subordinate Lodge for the time required by the laws of the Grand Lodge? _____
10. What is the opinion of the Secretary of the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he last resided as to his character and conduct while there? _____

I report: FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE on the application.
Given under my hand this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(The above must be filled out by the Investigation Committee and read at the time of balloting.)

No. 40
PETITION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

PETITION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

To the Secretary of _____ Lodge No. _____

I hereby petition for withdrawal from (plural) (parent) membership in your Lodge, and attach hereto my receipt card showing dues paid to the _____ day of _____, 20 _____.
This card is to be canceled upon granting this petition.

My (plural) (parent) membership is in:

_____ Lodge No. _____, _____, _____
City State

_____ Lodge No. _____, _____, _____
City State

_____ Lodge No. _____, _____, _____
City State

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

Print Name

ID #

Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Form 40 - Revised 1996 (Art. 355)

No. 41

CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that Brother _____, ID # _____,
 a (plural) (parent) member of this _____ Lodge No. _____,
 at _____, _____, who also holds membership in
 City _____ State _____
 _____ Lodge No. _____, at _____ City _____ State _____
 _____ Lodge No. _____, at _____ City _____ State _____
 _____ Lodge No. _____, at _____ City _____ State _____

has on this date withdrawn from his said membership in this Lodge.

The only purpose of this certificate is to evidence such withdrawal of membership from this Lodge. It is not a demit and cannot be used as a certificate of good standing to apply for affiliation in any Lodge.

(Seal) Given under my hand and the Seal of the Lodge this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Secretary

Form No.41 - Revised 1989

To the Secretary of _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, _____
 City _____ State _____
 This is to certify the Brother _____ ID # _____, who is a (plural) (parent)
 member of your Lodge, has on this day withdrawn his (plural) (parent) membership from this _____
 Lodge No. _____, located at _____, Texas, as authorized by Article 392 of the Laws of the
 Grand Lodge of Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Lodge this _____ day of _____, 20_____
 (Seal)

Secretary

To the Hon. _____, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas:
 This is to certify that Brother _____ ID # _____, a
 (plural) (parent) member of this _____ Lodge No. _____, located at
 _____, _____, has on this date withdrawn from his said membership in this Lodge.
 City _____ State _____
 He holds (plural) (parent) membership in _____ Lodge No. _____, located at
 _____, _____, _____, _____
 Given under my hand and the seal of the Lodge this _____ day of _____, 20_____
 (Seal)

Secretary

No. 42
APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

_____, Texas, _____, 20____

To the Worshipful Master and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____
Mr./Brother _____ who resides at _____
_____, Phone: _____ requests to us that

He wishes to make application for the degrees in this Lodge and that he is domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of your Lodge, **and has never before made application for Freemasonry in any Lodge.**

He wishes to make application for advancement in this Lodge and that he

was rejected on _____ for a period of _____ years,
month day year

was protested before receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree on
_____ for a period of _____ years.
month day year

is an Entered Apprentice Mason of your Lodge.

is a Fellowcraft Mason of your Lodge,

and requests that all further jurisdiction over him be waived by your Lodge as provided by law.

(Seal)

Fraternally yours,

_____, Secretary
_____, Lodge No. _____
_____, Texas

(Revised 1983)

No. 42a
REPORT OF COMMITTEE
(On Request for Waiver of Jurisdiction)

REPEALED 1987

No. 43
WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

_____ , Texas _____, 20____

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____, _____, Texas.

This is to Certify That:

On the _____ day of _____, 20____, _____ Lodge No. _____, located at _____, State of _____, granted a waiver of all jurisdiction over (Mr.)
(Bro.) _____ in favor of your Lodge.

(If applicant has received a degree in granting Lodge the following blanks should be filled in):

Brother _____ was elected to receive the degrees in _____ Lodge No. ____, on _____ day of _____, 20____, was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in said Lodge on the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, (and passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft in said Lodge on the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____), and at his request all further jurisdiction over him has been waived by said Lodge, as provided by law.

The fee for the degrees in this Lodge is \$_____, divided as follows:
E.A. \$_____, F.C. \$_____, M.M. \$_____, of which he has paid \$_____.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the Lodge, and by order of the Lodge, this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(Seal) _____, Secretary

----- PERFORATION -----

To _____, Grand Secretary, Waco, Texas:

I hereby Certify that _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., located at _____, Texas, under the authority granted by a waiver of jurisdiction, by _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., located at _____, Texas, conferred degrees upon Bro. _____, as follows: Entered Apprentice _____, Fellowcraft _____, and Master Mason _____

Date Date Date

The Fee for these degrees in _____ Lodge No. _____
(Lodge granting waiver)
is \$_____.

The Fee for these degrees in _____ Lodge No. _____
(Lodge conferring degrees)
is \$_____.

Herewith Fees due the Grand Lodge, as per Art. 464. \$_____.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Lodge this _____ day of
_____, A.D. 20____.

(Seal) _____ Secretary,

Lodge No. _____

(Detach and mail to the Grand Secretary when degrees are conferred.)

----- PERFORATION -----

To _____, Texas, _____, 20_____
Grand Secretary, Waco, Texas:

I hereby Certify that _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.,
located at _____, Texas, under date of _____, 20_____, granted to
_____ Lodge No. ____, located at _____, Texas, a waiver
of jurisdiction over (Mr. or Bro.) _____ for the degrees
of (E.A., F.C., and M.M.; or F.C. and M.M.; or M.M.) The fees for these degrees in
_____ Lodge No. _____, are:
(Lodge Granting Waiver)

E.A. \$_____, F.C. \$_____, and M.M. \$_____.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Lodge, this _____ day of
_____, A.D. 20_____.

(Seal) _____ Secretary,

Lodge No. _____

(Detach and mail to Grand Secretary promptly)

No. 44
PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT



To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____, Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.: _____

The undersigned, _____, once a Master Mason in good standing, but now under sentence of suspension (or expulsion), prays to be reinstated to membership in this Lodge, promising cheerfully to conform to all the established usages, and to yield a cheerful obedience to all the requirements of the Lodge.

Recommended by members of said Lodge (list below):

1. _____
2. _____

Petitioner Signature _____

Membership ID No.	Home Phone	Work Phone	Cellular Phone
-------------------	------------	------------	----------------

Place of Business _____

Business address _____

Residence address _____

Signed and dated at _____, Texas _____
City Zip Month Day Year _____, 20_____

INTERROGATORIES

Date Suspended (or expelled) _____ Cause _____

In for N. P. D., how much did you owe for dues at time of suspension? \$ _____

Has this amount been paid? _____ or remitted? _____

Are you now in position to continue to pay dues? _____

What is the state of your health? _____

When were you born? _____ day of _____ Month _____ Year _____

What is your occupation? _____

If for other than non-payment of dues give all facts, date and cause of suspension _____

Form No. 44 – Revised 2011 (Arts. 324, 327, 658)

PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

Received _____, 20 _____

Recommended By

_____Referred to

_____Memoranda

No. 44-a

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

**Report of Committee on
Petition
FOR REINSTATEMENT**

_____, 20____

_____, Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M. _____, Texas

The undersigned member of a committee appointed to investigate the Petition for Reinstatement of:

ID No. _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Cellular Phone _____

Residence Address: _____

report as follows:

1. Age of petitioner: _____
2. Married or single: _____
3. If married, is he living with his wife? _____
4. If not, why not? _____
5. Occupation and employment: _____

6. What is the character of his associates? _____
7. Does he gamble? _____
8. Has he licentious or immoral habits? _____
9. If so, explain: _____
10. Does he possess the mental and physical ability to earn his own living? _____

After complete investigation I have answered all above questions to the best of my knowledge and I believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendation:

_____Favorable _____Unfavorable (Answer Yes to One)

Signed _____

Date Investigation Completed _____

(Any correspondence you were required to have regarding the petitioner, please attach to this Investigation Report.)

No. 45
PETITION FOR RESTORATION



To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

_____, Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.:

The undersigned, _____, once a Master Mason in good standing in _____
Lodge No. _____, located at _____ but now under sentence of suspension (or expulsion)
by this Lodge, prays to be restored to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry as an unaffiliated Mason, promising
cheerfully to conform to all the established usages, and yield a cheerful obedience to all the requirements of the Lodge.
Recommended by members of said Lodge (listed below):

1. _____

2. _____

Petitioner Signature

Membership ID No.

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cellular Phone

Place of Business _____

Business address _____

Residence address _____

Signed and dated at _____, Texas _____
City Zip Month Day Year

INTERROGATORIES

Date Suspended (or expelled) _____ Cause _____

If for N. P. D., how much did you owe for dues at time of suspension? \$ _____

When were you born? _____ day of _____ Month _____ Year

What is your occupation? _____

Give all facts, date, and cause of expulsion _____

Form No. 45 (Arts. 327, 658) Revised 2011

PETITION FOR RESTORATION

Received _____, _____

Recommended By

Referred To

Memoranda

Form No. 45 (Arts. 327, 658) Revised 2011

No. 45-a
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITION FOR RESTORATION

**Report of Committee on
PETITION FOR RESTORATION**

_____, 20____

Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.

, Texas

The undersigned member of a committee appointed to investigate the Petition for Restoration of

_____, ID No. _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Cellular Phone _____

Residence Address: _____

report as follows:

1. Age of petitioner: _____
2. Married or single: _____
3. If married, is he living with his wife? _____
4. If not, why not? _____
5. Occupation and employment: _____

6. What is the character of his associates? _____
7. Does he gamble? _____
8. Has he licentious or immoral habits? _____
9. If so, explain: _____
10. Does he possess the mental and physical ability to earn his own living? _____

After complete investigation I have answered all above question to the best of my knowledge and I believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendation:

_____ Favorable _____ Unfavorable (Answer Yes to one)

Signed _____

Date Investigation Completed _____

(Any correspondence you were required to have regarding the petitioner, please attach to this Investigation Report.)

No. 46

REQUEST TO CONFER DEGREES BY COURTESY

_____, Texas, _____, 20 ____

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.:

You are hereby fraternally requested by _____ Lodge No. _____ of the Grand Jurisdiction of _____ to confer the Degree of Entered Apprentice (or Fellowcraft or Master Mason) on _____ for this Lodge, he having been duly elected by this Lodge to receive the same, and to lecture and examine him in the work of said degree and to vote on his proficiency therein.

He should be required to pay _____ dollars for such Degrees.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Lodge, and by order of the Lodge, this _____ day of _____ A.D. 20 _____

(SEAL) _____ Secretary

(As soon as the work has been completed in accordance with the above request, the Secretary should report the fact to the Lodge making the request, giving the dates when the work was done, and remitting the fees collected.)

No. 47

NOTICE OF ELECTION

(To Candidate)

_____, Texas, _____, 20 _____

To _____

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to inform you that at a Stated Communication of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., held _____, 20 _____, you were elected

to receive the Degrees of Freemasonry in this Lodge. Please present yourself on _____, 20 ____, at _____ o'clock. Should your religious belief be based upon other than the Holy Bible, please bring the "Book of Faith" appropriate to your religious persuasion when you appear for the conferral of your degrees.

to (single) (plural) membership with this Lodge. Our dues are \$ _____ per Masonic year and your dues for the remainder of this Masonic year are \$ _____. Our Stated Communications are held _____ and we look forward to your attendance and active participation.

for advancement. Please present yourself to the Lodge on _____, 20 ____, at _____ o'clock for further instructions.

(SEAL)

Respectfully yours,

_____, Secretary
_____, Phone

No. 48
NOTICE OF REJECTION
(To Candidate)



NOTICE OF REJECTION

_____, Texas, _____, 20_____

To _____

Dear Sir:

It is with regret that I have to inform you that at the Stated Communication of _____

Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., held _____, 20_____,

rejected your application in this Lodge for a period of _____ years

- to receive the Degrees of Freemasonry.
- for advancement.

Respectfully yours,

Signed: _____
Worshipful Master

(seal)

Attested by: _____
Secretary

Copy: Grand Secretary

Form No. 48 (Art. 413)

No. 49

NOTICE NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Dues to a Masonic Lodge are NOT DEDUCTIBLE as
charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.

_____, Texas, _____, 20____

To Brother _____

You are hereby notified that you are indebted to _____ Lodge No.
_____, A.F. & A.M., for dues for the current year in the sum of \$_____.

This notice is given in compliance with Art. 319 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas (copied in full below) by the terms of which you are hereby notified that unless these dues are paid on or before June 23, 20____, you will be automatically suspended from membership in this Lodge.

If you hold plural membership in any other Texas Lodge, you are hereby further notified that under the provisions of Art. 351 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas (also copied in full below) your suspension from membership in this lodge will automatically suspend you from membership in your other Texas Lodge or Lodges.

Given under my hand, and the seal of said Lodge this _____ day of
_____, A.D. 20____

(Seal) _____ Secretary.

Art. 319. (354). Automatic Suspension. Lodge dues are due and payable one year in advance on January 1st of each year (unless otherwise exempt) and if not paid on or before that date a member shall be in arrears for his dues; and on or before thirty days before the last stated meeting of the Lodge held before June 24th of each year, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify each member, in writing, who may be in arrears for any dues, and if such member fails to pay such dues on or before June 23rd of such year, he shall stand automatically suspended for non-payment of dues without action by the Lodge, and such suspension shall be recorded in the minutes at the first subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge.

Art. 351. (387). Effects of Suspension or Expulsion in One Lodge.

A. When a Brother who holds membership in any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, is suspended or expelled for any reason from any Lodge, he is automatically suspended or expelled from all other Lodges in which he might hold membership, without further action than noting the fact in the minutes. The Secretary of the Lodge inflicting such penalty shall immediately report the fact to the other Lodge or Lodges and to this Grand Lodge.

B. When a Brother who holds his parent or plural membership in another Grand Jurisdiction and his other membership in this Jurisdiction is suspended or expelled in this Jurisdiction, such fact shall be immediately reported to the Secretary of his Lodge in the other Jurisdiction. (For Suspension or Expulsion for other than non-payment of dues in another Grand Jurisdiction see Art. 641). (Arts. 319,351)

**FORM 49A
INVESTIGATION
MEMBERS IN ARREARS**

**FORM 49A
INVESTIGATION
MEMBERS IN ARREARS**

This form should be used to investigate the reason for a member being in arrears and possibly being suspended for Non-Payment of Dues. Upon completion and final disposition, a copy of this form is to be placed in the member's file.

**PART I
RECORDS**

To be completed by the Secretary:

Date: _____ / _____ / _____ Lodge No. _____

Name: _____

I.D. No.: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel. No. R: _____ - _____ - _____

Tel. No. B: _____ - _____ - _____

Date Raised: _____ / _____ / _____

Date of Affiliation: _____ / _____ / _____

Plural Member Lodge: _____

Recommenders: _____, _____, _____

Secretary's Comments: _____

**PART II
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Every effort should be made to make personal contact!

Contact: Personal:

Phone:

Letter:

Comments: _____

Committee Recommendation: _____

Remission:

Dimmission:

Suspension:

Signature: (Chairman): _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

**PART III
DISPOSITION**

To be completed by the W.M.

Remission:

Dimmission:

Suspension:

Comments: _____

Signature: (W.M.): _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

No. 50
**FINAL NOTICE
 NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.**

To Brother _____
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____

By the terms of Article 319 of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, you are hereby notified that unless your dues are paid on or before June 23rd following this notice you shall stand automatically suspended for non-payment of dues. Your Brethren will greatly regret it, if you permit this to happen, and urgently request you to promptly pay same.

Amount of dues unpaid \$_____.

No. 51.
NOTICE TO FORMER MEMBERS – SUSPENDED N. P. D.

To Former Members of _____ Lodge No. _____
who were suspended for N. P. D.:

This Lodge earnestly desires to have its members, suspended for non-payment of dues, restored to good standing among your Brethren. The Lodge has authorized me to advise you that for payment of \$_____ you will be issued a dues card which will show your dues paid up to _____, and again be in good standing.

You may be automatically reinstated by payment of the above amount.

You are fraternally invited to reinstate at once.

By order of the Lodge.

(Seal) _____ Secretary.

(Revised 1998)

No. 52.
SPECIAL SUMMONS.

Hall of _____ Lodge No. _____ A.F. & A.M.
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____.

You are hereby summoned to attend a _____ meeting of this Lodge, to be held on the _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock ___ M., at the usual place of meeting.

This Communication is called for the purpose of _____.

By order of the Master.

(Seal) _____ Secretary.

(Revised 1998)

No. 53
NOTICE OF LODGE MEETINGHall of _____ Lodge No. _____ A.F. & A.M.
_____, Texas.

Brother _____

A _____ Meeting of this Lodge will be held at
its hall on _____ Evening, _____ for business and work in _____
Degree, at which you are requested to be present.

By order of the Worshipful Master.

(Seal) _____ Secretary.

No. 54
VISITORS' CARDHall of _____ Lodge No. _____ A.F. & A.M.
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____. Name of Visitor _____ Residence _____ (full address) Visitor's
Lodge _____ No. _____ Jurisdiction _____ Rank or Title _____
Chairman of Examining Com. _____ Date of Visitation _____.

(Note: To be filled out by Tiler for information of the Master.)

No. 55
NOTICE OF VISITATION_____ Lodge No. _____ A.F. & A.M.
_____, Texas, _____, 20_____. To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of _____ Lodge No.
_____, A.F. & A.M., Brothers:At a Meeting of this Lodge held on _____ we had the pleasure of meet-
ing Brother _____ of your Lodge, who favored us with a visit.We would be pleased to meet any of your members who may have occasion
to stop in our city.

Fraternally,

_____ Secretary.

No. 56-a
STANDARD UNIFORM DUES RECEIPT

E.A. (DATE) _____	\$ _____	ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF TEXAS		
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT BROTHER:				
FEES:	F.C. (DATE) _____	\$ _____	NAME: _____ IS AN E.A., F.C., TEMP. M.M. IN GOOD STANDING OF	
	TEMP. M.M. (DATE) _____	\$ _____	LODGE _____	NO. _____
NAME: _____	ID#:	DEGREE DATE _____		
FEES/DUES PAID TO: DATE: _____	SECRETARY _____			
FEES/DUES PAID TO: DATE: _____	ID#:			
MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____				
Dashed line for Member's Signature				

Grand Lodge of Texas, A. F. & A. M.

This is to certify that the Lodge named on the reverse of this Certificate is a regular and legally constituted and Chartered Lodge under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.



Jimmy D. Bent
Grand Secretary

Reverse side of Card

To issue dues card to Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Members, use beige dues card with the last degree properly noted. Examples shown on Page 291b and 291c.

No. 56-b
 STANDARD UNIFORM ENTERED APPRENTICE CARD

E.A. (DATE) <u>Mo/Day/Yr</u>		\$ <u>100.00</u>	ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF TEXAS THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT BROTHER:	
FEES:	F.C. (DATE)	\$	NAME: <u>Adam Q. Mason</u>	
TEMP. M.M. (DATE) <u>Mo/Day/Yr</u>		\$	IS AN E.A., <u>xxx</u> 'xxxxxx'. IN GOOD STANDING OF	
NAME: <u>Adam Q. Mason</u>			LODGE <u>Sample</u> NO. <u>1</u>	
FEES / xxxxxxxx		DATE: <u>Mo/Day/Year</u>	ID#: <u>111111</u>	DEGREE DATE <u>Mo/Day/Yr</u>
			SECRETARY <u>Hand-signed by Sec'y</u>	
			MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: <u>Hand-signed by Member</u>	
<p align="center">Grand Lodge of Texas, A. F. & A. M.</p> <p>This is to certify that the Lodge named on the reverse of this Certificate is a regular and legally constituted and Chartered Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.</p> <p align="right"><i>[Signature]</i> <i>D. J. Dunn</i> Grand Secretary</p> 				

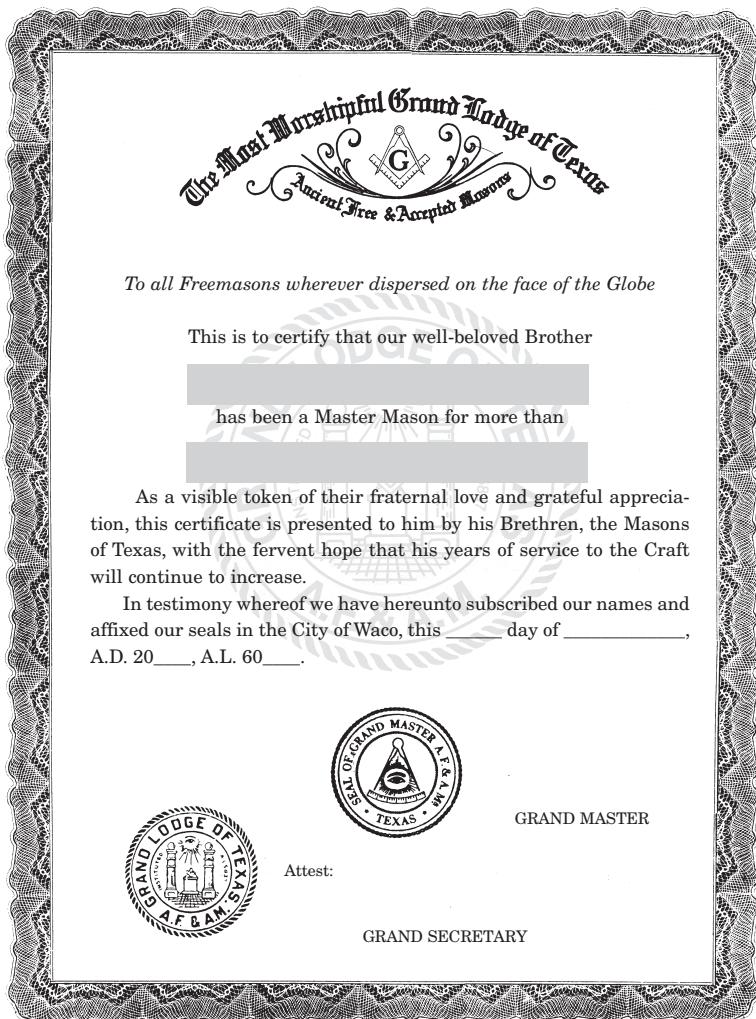
Reverse side of Card

No. 56-C
STANDARD UNIFORM FELLOWCRAFT CARD

E.A. (DATE)	<u>Mo/Day/Yr</u>	<u>100.00</u>		<small>ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF TEXAS THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT BROTHER:</small>	
FEES:	F.C. (DATE)	<u>Mo/Day/Yr</u>	\$ <u>100.00</u>	NAME:	<u>Adam Q. Mason</u>
TEMP. M.M. (DATE)		\$ _____	IS A X XX , F.C., XXXXXX IN GOOD STANDING OF	LODGE	<u>Sample</u>
NAME: <u>Adam Q. Mason</u>		ID#:	<u>111111</u>	NO.	<u>1</u>
FEES: <u>XXXXXXXXXX</u> , DATE: <u>Mo/Day/Year</u>		SECRETARY	<u>111111</u>	DEGREE DATE	<u>Mo/Day/Yr</u>
		MEMBER'S SIGNATURE:			
<p>Grand Lodge of Texas, A. F. & A. M.</p> <p>This is to certify that the Lodge named on the reverse of this Certificate is a regular and legally constituted and Chartered Lodge under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: -100px;">   <i>D. J. Duff</i> <i>Grand Secretary</i> </div>					

Reverse side of Card

No. 56-d
50-60-65-70-75-80 YEAR CERTIFICATES



NOTE: Shaded area to reflect appropriate names, dates and years of service.

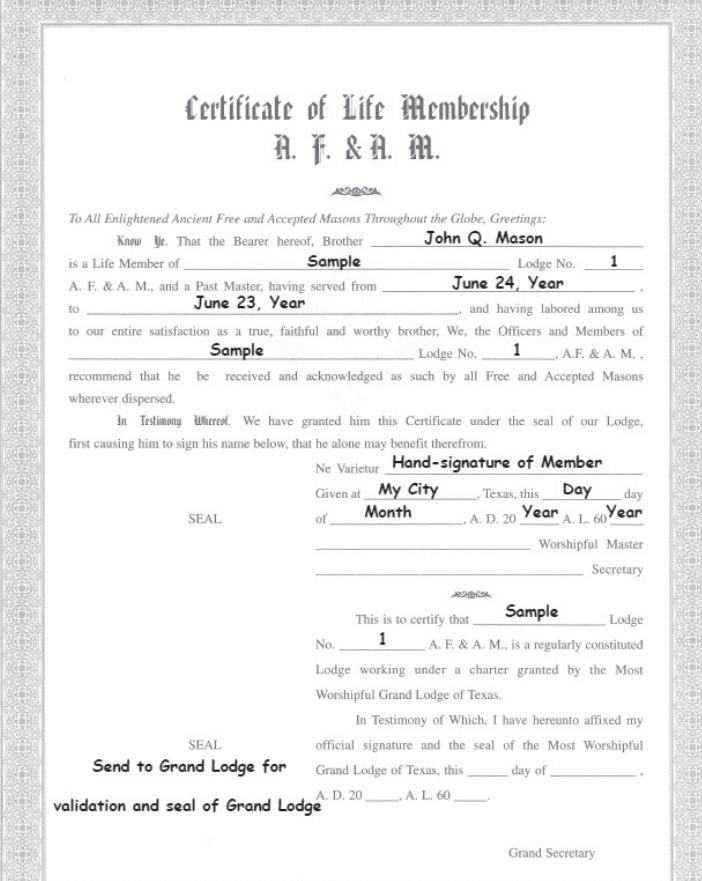
No. 56-f
25-40 YEAR CERTIFICATES

<p><i>This Certifies That Brother</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] has been a Master Mason in good standing for</p> <p>We recommend him to all Masons wherever dispersed for his earnestness and zeal for the Craft.</p> <p>Given under our hands and seal of this Lodge on the</p> <p>ATTEST,</p> <p><i>Secretary</i> <i>Worshipful Master</i></p>	
---	--



NOTE: Shaded area to reflect appropriate names and years of service.

No. 57
 CERTIFICATE OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP (Past Master)
 A.F. & A.M.

 <p>Certificate of Life Membership A. F. & A. M.</p>	
<p><i>To All Enlightened Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Throughout the Globe, Greetings:</i></p> <p>Know Ye, That the Bearer hereof, Brother <u>John Q. Mason</u> is a Life Member of <u>Sample</u> Lodge No. <u>1</u> A. F. & A. M., and a Past Master, having served from <u>June 24, Year</u> to <u>June 23, Year</u>, and having labored among us to our entire satisfaction as a true, faithful and worthy brother, We, the Officers and Members of <u>Sample</u> Lodge No. <u>1</u>, A.F. & A. M., recommend that he be received and acknowledged as such by all Free and Accepted Masons wherever dispersed.</p> <p>In Testimony Whereof, We have granted him this Certificate under the seal of our Lodge, first causing him to sign his name below, that he alone may benefit therefrom.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ne Varietur <u>Hand-signature of Member</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Given at <u>My City</u>, Texas, this <u>Day</u> day of <u>Month</u>, A. D. 20 <u>Year</u> A. L. 60 <u>Year</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Worshipful Master _____ Secretary</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ This is to certify that <u>Sample</u> Lodge No. <u>1</u> A. F. & A. M., is a regularly constituted Lodge working under a charter granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">In Testimony of Which, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, this _____ day of _____, A. D. 20 _____, A. L. 60 _____.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Grand Secretary</p>	

No. 57-a

CERTIFICATE OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP (Not a Past Master)
A.F. & A.M.

To all Enlightened, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Throughout the Globe,
Greetings:

Know Ye, that the Bearer hereof, Brother _____, is a life member of
____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., and having labored among us
to our entire satisfactions a true, faithful and worthy Brother, we the officers and
members of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., recommend
that he be received and acknowledged as such by all Free and Accepted Masons
wherever dispersed.

In testimony whereof, we have granted him this Certificate under the seal of our
Lodge, first causing him to sign his name, below, that he alone may benefit therefrom.

Ne Varieture

Given at _____, Texas, this ____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.
(Seal) _____ Worshipful Master
_____ Secretary

This is to certify, That _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M.,
is a regularly constituted Lodge working under a Charter granted by the Most
Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

In testimony of which, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the
Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas this ____ day of _____,
_____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(Seal) _____ Grand Secretary

No. 57-b

PAST MASTER CERTIFICATE
THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
A.F. & A.M.**PAST MASTER**

This Certifies That Brother

IS A PAST MASTER OF

Lodge No. _____

Located at _____
Having Served for the Year Ending A.D. 20____

and as Such Is Recommended to the Craft

Wherever Dispersed

In Testimony Whereof

I Have Hereunto Subscribed My Name

and Affixed the Seal of

The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.

in the City of Waco, This

Day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____

Attest:

(Seal)

Grand Secretary

No. 58
TRAVELING CERTIFICATE

To all Free and Accepted Masons throughout the Globe – Greetings:

Know ye, that the bearer hereof, Brother _____ has been regularly initiated an Entered Apprentice, passed Fellowcraft, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason; and having worked among us to our entire satisfaction, as a true, faithful and worthy Brother, we, the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., recommend that he be received and acknowledged as such by all Free and Accepted Masons, wherever dispersed.

His dues have been paid to the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20 _____. After which date this certificate becomes out of date.

In Testimony whereof, we have granted him this certificate, under the Seal of our Lodge, first causing him to write his name in the margin, that he alone may have the benefit thereof.

Given at _____, Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ___, A.L. 60 ___.
(Seal) _____ Secretary.

This is to Certify That _____ Lodge No. ___ is a regularly constituted Lodge, working under a charter granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

In testimony of which, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ___, A.L. 60 _____.
(Seal) _____ Grand Secretary.

No. 59
WIDOWS AND ORPHANS CERTIFICATE

To all Free and Accepted Masons Throughout the Globe – Greetings:

We do hereby certify that our lamented Brother _____ was a worthy member of our Lodge, in good standing at the time of his death. We do, therefore, commend his widow, _____ and his orphan children, to the brotherly affection and kind consideration of all the household of the faithful. We thus commit the widow and orphans of our late Brother, under the Providence of the Grand Master of the Universe, to the care and protection of all true Masons.

Witness our hands and the seal of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., at _____, Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ___, A.L. 60 _____.
(Seal) _____ Worshipful Master

Attest: _____ Secretary.

This is to Certify That _____ Lodge No. ___ is a regularly constituted Lodge, working under a charter granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

In testimony of which, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ___, A.L. 60 _____.
(Seal) _____ Grand Secretary

No. 59-a
WIDOW'S CERTIFICATE

To all Free and Accepted Masons throughout the Globe – Greetings:

We do hereby certify that our lamented Brother _____ was a worthy member of our Lodge, in good standing at the time of his death. We do, therefore, commend his widow, _____, to the brotherly affection and kind consideration of all the household of the faithful. We thus commit the widow of our late Brother, under the Providence of the Grand Master of the Universe, to the care and protection of all true Masons.

Witness our hands and the seal of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., at _____, Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ____, A.L. 60 ____.

(Seal) _____ Worshipful Master

Attest: _____ Secretary.

This is to Certify That _____ Lodge No. ____, is a regularly constituted Lodge, working under a charter granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

In testimony of which, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ____, A.L. 60 ____.

(Seal) _____ Grand Secretary

No. 59-b
ORPHAN'S CERTIFICATE

To all Free and Accepted Masons Throughout the Globe – Greetings:

We do hereby certify that our lamented Brother _____ was a worthy member of our Lodge, in good standing at the time of his death. We do, therefore, commend his orphan child, _____, to the brotherly affection and kind consideration of all the household of the faithful. We thus commit the orphan of our late Brother, under the Providence of the Grand Master of the Universe, to the care and protection of all true Masons.

Witness our hands and the seal of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M., at _____, Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ____, A.L. 60 ____.

(Seal) _____ Worshipful Master

Attest: _____ Secretary.

This is to Certify That _____ Lodge No. ____, is a regularly constituted Lodge, working under a charter granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

In testimony of which, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, this ___ day of _____, A.D. 20 ____, A.L. 60 ____.

(Seal) _____ Grand Secretary

No. 60.
MEMBERS AND VISITORS REGISTER.

Lodge No. _____ A. F. & A. M.

Date	Name	Lodge	No.	Location

No. 61.
LOOSE LEAF SECRETARY'S ACCOUNT BOOK.

Cash Paid to Treasurer Lodge No. A. F. & A. M.

DATE			NAME	Ledger Page	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Day	Month	Year				

BOUNDED SECRETARY'S ACCOUNT BOOK.

(Left hand page.)
Secretary

DATE			NAME	Ledger Page	Dues	Fees	Other Sources	Total
Month	Day	Year						

(Right hand page.)

Cash Paid to Treasurer

Orders Drawn

Date	Name of Treasurer	Amount	Date	No.	For Whom Drawn	Amount

No. 62.
TREASURER'S ACCOUNT BOOK.

Lodge No. _____, A. F. & A. M.

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS				
Date of Treasurer's Receipt	Amount Received	Date of Order		No. of Order	For whom Drawn	Amount

No. 63
MEMBERS LEDGER

Name _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M.
Date Petition Received _____, Elected _____, Occupation _____,
Residence _____, Date of Birth _____, Where Born _____,
Date affiliated _____, Affiliation on Dimit from _____ Lodge No. ____,
located at _____, Received Degrees in _____ Lodge No. ____,
located at _____.
Initiated _____, Passed _____, Raised _____, Examined in M.M.
Degree _____, Suspended-N.P.D. _____, Suspended-U.M.C. _____,
Expelled _____, Reinstated _____, Dimitted _____, Died _____.

	DEBITS					CREDITS					DEBITS					CREDITS			

No. 64
WARRANT

Cleburne Lodge No. 315, A.F. & A.M.
(WARRANT)

TO _____ Authorized _____, 20_____
Treasurer

Following authorization by the Lodge, you are hereby directed to pay the
following account:

TO _____ DR.

Date	Description of Claim	Amount

Worshipful Master

Secretary

No. 65
CHECK

No. _____ \$ _____ 20
 To _____
 For _____
 Amount Brought Forward \$ _____
 Amount Deposited \$ _____
 Total Amount of this Check \$ _____
 Carried Forward \$ _____

This check is issued as Directed in Warrant No. _____	No. _____
Cleburne, Texas, _____ 20_____	
Pay To The Order of _____	\$ _____
Dollars	
Cleburne Lodge No. 315, A.F. & A.M.	
TO: Cleburne National Bank Cleburne, Texas	Worshipful Master
	Treasurer
	Secretary

No. 66
FORM OF BOND

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
 COUNTY OF _____

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, _____,* (Secretary-Treasurer) of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., of _____, Texas, as principal, and _____ and _____, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto said _____ Lodge No. _____, in the penal sum of _____ Dollars to the payment of which well and truly to be made we hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents:

DATED this the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____.

The condition of the above obligation is such that the said _____ duly elected and installed Secretary-Treasurer of said Lodge aforesaid shall faithfully perform the duties of his office, and account for all moneys and other property of said Lodge coming into his custody from time to time, as may be required by the Constitution and Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas, (A.F. & A.M.)

NOW THEREFORE, if the said _____, his heirs, executors or administrators shall faithfully account for all such moneys and such other property of the said Lodge coming into his custody, and well and truly pay over same as and when ordered by the Lodge, then the above obligation shall be null and void, otherwise, to be and remain in full force and effect.

*(Strike out office not covered.)

Principal _____

Sureties _____

The foregoing bond is approved this the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____.

Worshipful Master of _____
Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.

No. 67
PROXY FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN GRAND LODGE

To All whom it May Concern, Greeting:

Be it known, that at a stated meeting of _____ Lodge No. ____ held at _____, County of _____, State of Texas, on the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____, our worthy Brother _____ Id.No._____ was duly chosen as the representative of said Lodge, in the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas, at its next Grand Annual Communication, as fully appears in the minutes of our Lodge at said Stated Meeting; said proxy has not directly or indirectly solicited his appointment or election.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of our Lodge, this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(See Art. 5)

(Seal)

_____ Secretary

No. 68
COMMISSION FOR GRAND OFFICERS BY APPOINTMENT

The Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons;

To all whom it may concern:

Know ye, That I, _____, Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in and for the State of Texas, and the Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, reposing special trust and confidence in the Masonic abilities and virtues of our worthy Brother _____, do hereby nominate and appoint him by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, _____, and do hereby invest him with the power and privileges of such office and enjoin upon him the performance of the duties thereof.

The officers and members of Lodges under our jurisdiction, and the Fraternity in general, are exhorted to recognize, respect and obey him, the said Brother _____ as our _____.

In testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge and signature of our R:W: Grand Secretary to be affixed, this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

(Seal) _____ Grand Secretary _____ Grand Master

No. 69
SPECIAL DEPUTATION

In the name and by the authority of the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. – To whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, _____ (set forth purposed of appointment.)

Now, therefore, to the end that the rules and regulations of said Grand Lodge may be complied with and the ancient customs of the Craft in such matters observed, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, and reposing full confidence in the skill and ability of _____ I do hereby constitute and appoint him my Special Deputy, Granting unto him full power in the premises to

represent me as such and direct that he shall make due return of his acts, hereunder as required by the Laws of said Grand Lodge.

Given under my hand and seal of office at _____, this the _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____, A.L. 60____.

Grand Master

No. 70

CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OF JURISDICTION IN FAVOR OF
REGULAR LODGE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

The undersigned Secretary of hereafter stated Lodge, under the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M., certifies that the attached is a true original counterpart of Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction executed by _____ (Name of Applicant), residing at _____ (Town), Texas, within the jurisdiction of this Lodge, and report of Committee thereon.

The petition was duly presented to this Lodge on the _____ day of _____, 20____, and on said date read at Stated Meeting of this Lodge; that said petition was referred to investigation committee, and report of such investigating committee was presented to Stated Meeting of this Lodge on _____ day of _____, 20____. At such time such Lodge duly voted to grant such Waiver.

Given under my hand and seal of this Lodge this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Secretary

(Seal of Lodge)

Lodge No. _____
under the jurisdiction of The Grand
Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.

PETITION FOR WAIVER OF JURISDICTION IN FAVOR OF
RECOGNIZED MASONIC LODGE WITHIN THE
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., _____, Texas:

The subscriber respectfully states that he is desirous of applying for membership in some regular Lodge within the Republic of Mexico, operating under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas, and here enters his petition praying that _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., located at _____, Texas, waive such jurisdiction as it now holds over him in favor of _____ Lodge No. _____, located in the city of _____, Mexico.

He further states that his answers to the following questions are true as he believes:

(1) Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you believe in God and the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures? Answer _____

(2) Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that unsolicited by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself a candidate for the Mysteries of Freemasonry? Answer _____

(3) Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you are prompted to solicit the privileges of Masonry by a favorable opinion conceived of the institution, a desire of knowledge, and a sincere wish of being serviceable to your fellow-creatures? Answer _____

(4) Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you will cheerfully conform to all the ancient Charges, and established usages and customs of the Fraternity? Answer _____

(5) Do you declare, upon your honor, that you have never before petitioned for initiation in any Lodge of Masons? Answer _____. If the answer is NO, give name, number, location and approximate date and any other particulars.

Petitioner further states that he is _____ years of age, and was born on the _____ day of _____, ____, in the city of _____, county of _____, that he now resides at _____, Texas, and is employed by _____ located at _____ with occupation as that of _____.

Signed: _____
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

We do hereby certify that we are personally acquainted with Mr. _____ and propose him as worthy of membership in the Masonic Fraternity.

(Members of this Lodge)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. ____, A.F. & A.M.:

We, your Committee to whom was referred the petition of Mr. _____ for Waiver of Jurisdiction to a Regular Lodge within the Republic of Mexico, find in answer to the following questions:

1. Is he married or single? _____
2. If Married, is he living with his wife? _____
3. What is his occupation and where is he employed? _____

4. Is he physically qualified for Initiation? _____
5. What is the character of his associates? _____
6. Is he a law-abiding citizen? _____
7. Does he have sufficient education and intelligence to appreciate the value, doctrines and tenets of Freemasonry? _____
8. Does the candidate meet the qualifications as set out by Article 466, Grand Lodge Laws? _____

We report _____ on this petition.

No. 71
MINIMUM AUDIT FORM

Completing Form 71

The Form 71 should be completed covering the Masonic year, beginning June 24 of the previous year and ending on June 23 of the current year.

Heading: The heading is self-explanatory and should be completed in total.

Receipts and Disbursements: Cash on hand at the beginning of the current year must agree EXACTLY with the ending cash on hand for the preceding year from Last year's Form No. 71.

Current Year Receipts: Receipts includes all income, donations, interest, dividends and other sources of funds received by the Lodge. Any amount listed under "Other" must be explained in detail. Use extra sheet if necessary.

Current Year Disbursements: Any money that leaves the Lodge funds should be categorized and entered on an appropriate line. Any disbursement amount not listed above should be entered under "Other Disbursements" and must be explained in detail. Use extra sheet if necessary.

Assets: Ending Cash from the Receipts & Disbursements section should be entered as the first item under Assets. All other holdings such as certificates of deposit, mutual funds, stocks, land, building & fixtures should be entered at the appropriate value. Any amount listed under "Other" must be explained in detail. Use extra sheet if necessary.

Endowed Membership Units: should be included under Assets, using the current unit value as determined by the Investment Committee each year. This amount is available from the Grand Secretary as soon as available in July and is included with your Endowed Membership check. The number of units as of June 23 of the current year is multiplied by the current unit value and is shown under the Assets.

Liabilities: The remaining balances of any mortgages or credit purchases of the Lodge should be shown under Liabilities. Any loans to individuals or other entities must also be listed as separate line items under Assets. Any amount listed under "Other" must be explained in detail. Use extra sheet if necessary.

Annual Charitable Activities: This report is the total dollar value of all charitable activities of your Lodge for the Masonic year, which should be kept on monthly records in your Lodge. Include all cash gifts and the estimated value of non-cash gifts. Mileage is computed at .40 cents per mile, and volunteer charitable hours are calculated at minimum wage (\$7.25 per hr) for each hour worked. The portion of the per capita paid to Grand Lodge that is distributed to charities, (which is \$7.25 of the \$14.25) is reported by multiplying the number of Members subject to the per capita fee times \$7.25. Do not include 50 year or suspended Members. Also report the \$25.00 paid for each MM Degree and the \$5 for each EA Degree conferred in the Masonic year.

Form 71 should be completed by the Treasurer of the Lodge, who will present the completed form, the Lodge check book and validated balance statements from banks, mutual funds or brokerage houses for savings and investments to the Lodge Audit Committee for their annual audit. Investment accounts should be itemized individually.

The new incoming Master shall appoint an Audit Committee at his 1st meeting. They should, that day, ask the Treasurer for a completed Form 71, along with the checkbook and all bank statements so that they can perform the audit on time. The Lodge Audit Committee should draft a report to the Lodge stating their findings and whether or not Form 71 and its accompanying document accurately reflect the financial condition of the Lodge.

The Lodge Secretary must read the Audit Report during a stated meeting and enter the report as part of Lodge minutes. The original of the signed and audited Form 71 must be forwarded to the Grand Secretary no later than September 15 of that Masonic year. See Grand Lodge Article 284. Be sure to retain a copy for the Lodge's permanent files. The District Deputy Grand Master will ask to see the copy in your files during his official visit.

MINIMUM AUDIT FORM No. 71

Due by September 15th

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Members of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., _____, Texas, District No. _____.

We, your Auditing Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 284 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas, have audited the books and records of the Treasurer and Secretary, and submit our report.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR ENDED JUNE 23, _____
Cash on hand and in bank June 23, _____ (for previous year) \$ _____

RECEIPTS:

Dues \$ _____
Fees _____
Rent _____
Endowed Disbursement check _____
Lodge Investment earnings _____
Fund Raisers _____
Donations & Gifts _____
Other: _____

TOTAL RECEIPTS Ø Ø \$ _____
TOTAL BEGINNING CASH AND RECEIPTS \$ _____

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing and Office Expense \$ _____
Newspaper Notices _____
Charity _____
Aprons & Lodge Awards _____
Salaries _____
S.S. and Other Taxes _____
Refreshments _____
Utility Bills _____
Insurance _____
Note Principal _____
Interest _____
Rent _____
Maintenance and Repairs _____
Grand Lodge & Annual Return _____
Lamar Medals & Scholarships _____
Funerals & Flowers _____
Loans _____
Other Disbursements _____

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS Ø \$ _____

CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK, JUNE 23, _____ (current year) \$ _____ *

STATEMENT OF WORTH FOR CURRENT YEAR - JUNE 23, _____

ASSETS:

Cash on hand and in Bank (current year)	\$	* Same as previous line
Land.....	
Building	
Furniture and Fixtures.....	
Endowment Value (Number of Units ____ x \$ _____)	
Loans.....	
Investments (Other Types)	
Other: _____	

TOTAL ASSETS \$ _____

LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	\$
Notes Payable.....
Taxes Payable
All Other Liabilities _____

TOTAL LIABILITIES..... \$ _____

NET WORTH (Assets less Liabilities)..... \$ _____

TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET WORTH (Current Year)..... \$ _____

ANNUAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Convert your charitable activities into a dollar value. Include all of the following:

- Cash gifts and non-cash gifts, estimated value
- Mileage vouchers, computed at .40 cents per mile
- Manpower hours, calculated at minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour) for each hour worked
- Charitable portion of the per capita paid in annual returns, calculated at \$7.25 times the number of Members subject to per capita fees. Do not include 50 year or suspended members.
- Include the \$25 for each Master Masonic Degree and \$5 for each Entered Apprentice Degree conferred

Total \$ Value of Annual Charitable Activities \$ _____

COMMITTEE:

Chairman _____

Member _____

Member _____

No. 72
CASH RECEIPTS

Date	Received From	Amount	Deposits	Dues Receipt Number	Dues	Degree Fees	Rents	Other Receipts	Amount

No. 73
CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Date	Paid To	Check or Voucher No.	Amount	Deposits	Bank Balance	Printing and Office Exp.	Newspaper Notices	Charity and Flowers	Aprons, Etc.	Salaries

Front Side

S.S. and Other Taxes	Refreshments	Utility Bills	Insurance	Note Principal	Interest	Rent	Maintenance and Repairs	Grand Lodge Annual Ret.	Other Disbursements	Amount

Reverse Side

No. 74
RECAPITULATION

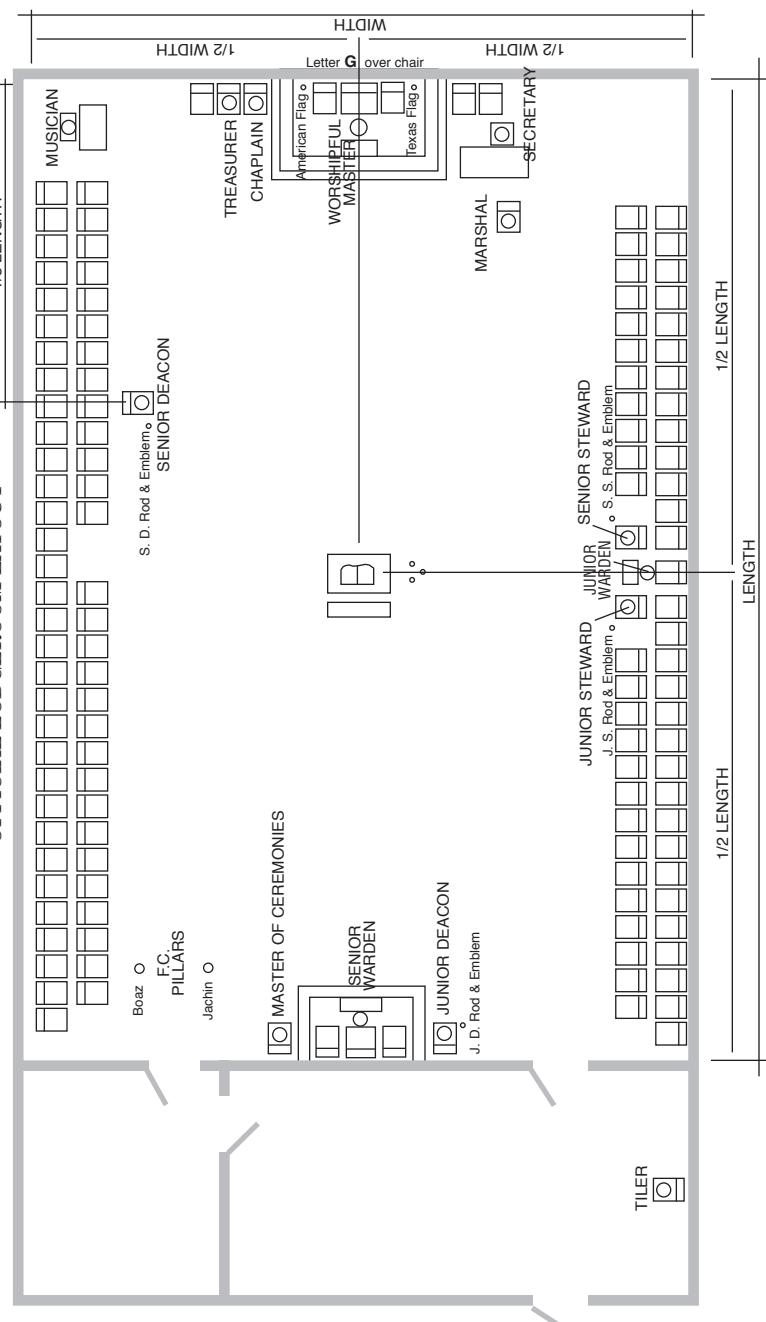
<i>Front Side</i>	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS								
	PERIOD	Dues	Degree Fees	Rents	Other	Amt.	Printing and Office Exp.	Newspaper Notices	Charity and Flowers	Aprons, Etc.	Salaries	S. S. and other Taxes
JAN. 1 - DEC. 31												
JULY												
AUGUST												
SEPTEMBER												
OCTOBER												
NOVEMBER												
DECEMBER												
JANUARY												
FEBRUARY												
MARCH												
APRIL												
MAY												
JUNE												
Totals												

June 24, 20 ____ to June 23, 20 ____

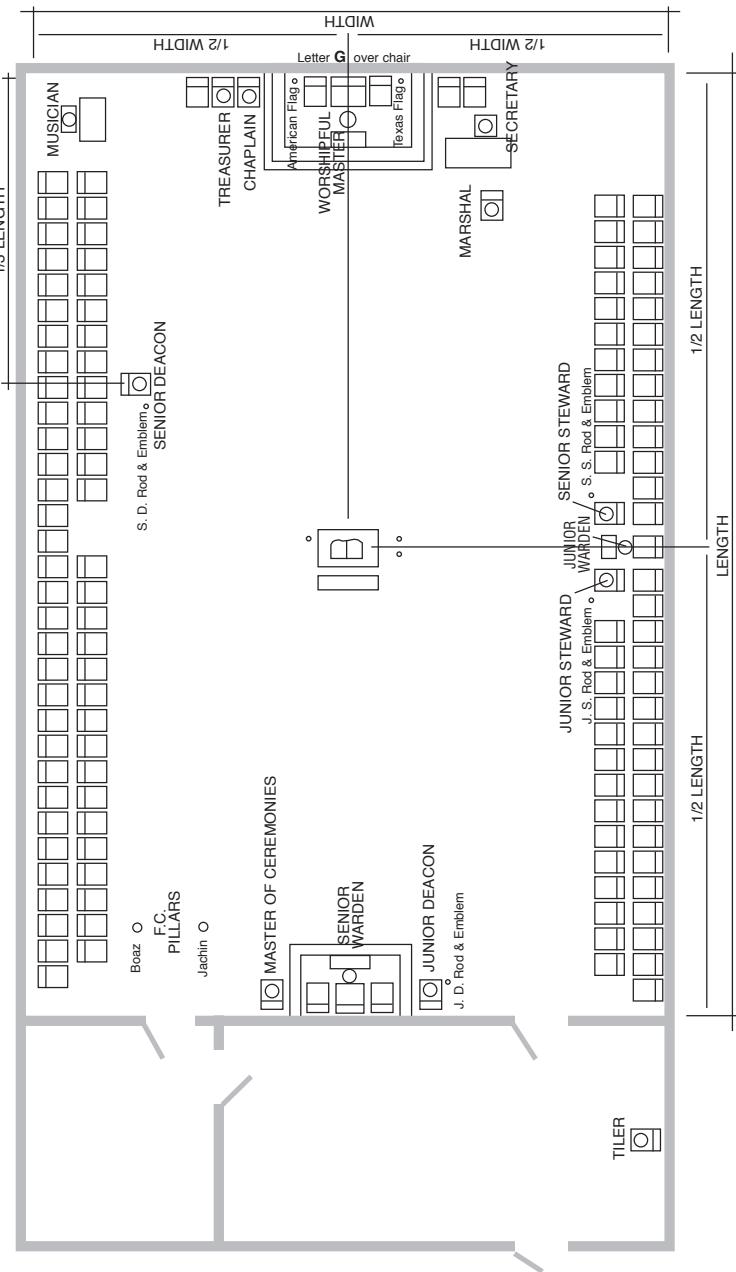
Reverse Side

Refreshments	Utility Bills	Insurance	Note Principal	Interest	Rent	Maint. and Repairs	Grand Lodge Annual Ret.	Other			Amount
								Explanation	Other	Amount	

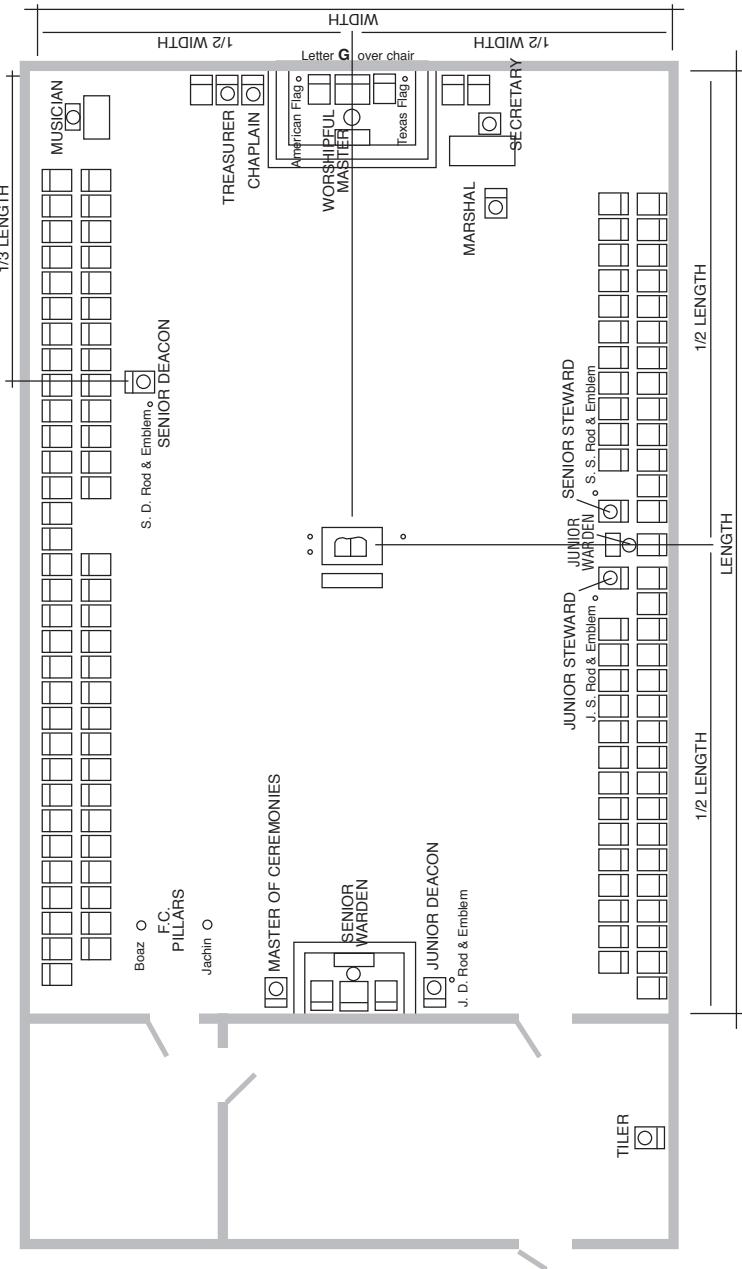
No. 75
OFFICIAL LODGEROOM LAYOUT



No. 75a
OPTIONAL PLACEMENT OF LESSER LIGHTS IN THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGRE



No. 75b
OPTIONAL PLACEMENT OF LESSER LIGHTS IN THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE



Form No. 76
FORM OF DEED

REPEALED 2005

76-a
RESOLUTIONTHE STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF _____ }

I, _____, certify I am Secretary of _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., duly chartered under the Grand Lodge of Texas, that I have in my custody, control and possession various records of said Lodge including the minutes of the meetings of said Lodge and that the following is a true, correct and compared copy of a Resolution duly adopted by said Lodge at a Stated Meeting duly held on the _____ day of _____, 20_____, in accordance with the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and the By-Laws of said Lodge; that there was present and acting throughout said meeting a quorum as required by the laws of the Grand Lodge and the By-Laws of said Lodge to act upon said Resolution, and that said Resolution has not been amended, rescinded, or superseded and is in full force and effect:

"RESOLVED that _____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M., sell and convey to _____ by Special Warranty Deed the following described property:

(Complete description of property)

for \$_____ cash and the balance, if any, payable *in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual installments of \$_____ each including plus interest at the rate of _____ percent per annum; and be it

"FURTHER RESOLVED that the Worshipful Master is authorized to execute a Deed conveying said property in the form herein prescribed, which Deed shall not be delivered until approved by the Grand Lodge and until the purchaser has complied with the terms of the sale as above set out, said Deed to be attested by the Secretary who shall affix the seal of this Lodge thereto"

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Lodge _____ day of _____, 20_____.
(Lodge Seal)

Secretary, _____ Lodge No. _____
A.F. & A.M.

*Note to Secretaries: Strike out the underlined words which are not applicable, leaving one applicable underlined word in each line.

76-b (Side 1)

**GRAND LODGE APPROVED FUNDS OF CONSTITUENT LODGES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OF
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS AND
APPLICATION AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS ON INSTALLMENT PURCHASE PLAN**

**GRAND LODGE APPROVED FUNDS OF CONSTITUENT LODGE
FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OF
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS AND
APPLICATION AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS ON INSTALLMENT PURCHASE PLAN**

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS TO ESTABLISH FUNDS

Permission for Lodges to establish special accounts for the purpose of assisting and encouraging those members and other authorized persons who wish to purchase Endowed Memberships on an installment plan by making regular, systematic and regulated contributions to such special fund for the purpose of accumulating the fee required to purchase an Endowed Membership is authorized by Article 318-a (7) of Grand Lodge Law. The following rules and requirements apply to such special funds.

1. Any plan of a Lodge to permit a member (or other person authorized under the provisions of Article 318-a) to purchase Endowed Memberships on an installment basis must first be approved by the Lodge at its regular Stated Meeting, and such action by the Lodge shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting, and the Grand Secretary shall be promptly notified of such action by the Lodge.
2. The written agreement on the reverse side of this form shall be executed in duplicate, and copy shall be placed in the files of the Lodge.
3. All monies of such fund shall be placed in an account separate and apart from the Lodge general fund, and the depository shall be a reputable financial institution whose deposits are insured and interest-bearing.
4. The principal balance of such fund shall not be used for any purpose except to purchase Endowed Memberships for those who contribute to the fund.
5. An annual accounting of the fund shall be included in the audit of Lodge funds, and the fund shall be designated as "Installment Purchase Fund for Endowed Memberships".
6. The maximum period of time allowed to accumulate the required purchase price of an Endowed Membership shall not exceed five (5) years.
7. Any principal amount less than the required fee remaining to the credit of any depositor at the end of five (5) years shall be returned to the depositor, but such depositor, his heirs or legal representatives may donate any such remaining balance to the Lodge at any time, and the Lodge may either leave the balance in the fund or transfer same to the Lodge general fund.
8. All interest earned from deposits to the fund shall accrue to the credit of the Lodge, and any such earned interest may be transferred to the Lodge general fund on an annual basis, but no interest shall be charged Purchaser by Lodge.
9. Any owner of any amount less than the required fee in the fund, his heirs or legal representatives may withdraw such principal balance at any time upon written notice given thirty (30) days in advance of such withdrawal; in any of the following instances:
 - a. should the owner of any such balance request that his funds be returned to him, or
 - b. should the member or the person making the deposits die, or
 - c. should the member of the Lodge remove his membership from the Lodge, or
 - d. should the member be suspended for non-payment of his Lodge dues, or
 - e. should the member be either suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons.
10. This agreement shall not be voided or the purchase price adversely affected if the Lodge later increases the endowed Membership purchase price in compliance with Article 318-a (2).

NOTE: Lodge and Purchaser to complete form on reverse side in duplicate

76-b (Side 2)

**APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP ON INSTALLMENT PURCHASE PLAN**

**APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT
TO PURCHASE ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP
ON INSTALLMENT PURCHASE PLAN**

COMPLETE FORM IN DUPLICATE

This agreement is entered into between _____
hereinafter referred to as "Purchaser" and _____ Lodge
No. _____ A.F. & A.M. located at _____, Texas, hereinafter
referred to as "the Lodge".

It is agreed by Purchaser and the Lodge that the total cost of an Endowed Membership is \$ _____
as prescribed by Article No. 318-a (2) of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and that Purchaser desires to purchase an Endowed Membership on the Installment Purchase Plan as approved by the Lodge in accordance with the rules and requirements to establish such fund as listed on the reverse side of this agreement.

It is agreed by both parties that upon payment by the purchaser of the amount of \$ _____ that the Lodge will forward the full amount to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, who will issue an Endowed Membership certificate and card in the name of the person designated by the Purchaser.

The Endowed Membership is to be issued in the name of _____
ID No. _____ (please print) and was

- Purchased as his own.
- Purchased in memory of Brother _____ who was a member in good standing of _____ Lodge No. _____ at the time of his death.
- Purchased in honor of Brother _____ who is a member in good standing of _____ Lodge No. _____.

*Purchaser and Lodge agree that those Rules and Requirements listed on reverse
hereof shall constitute a part of this agreement.*

Purchaser: _____ ID No. _____ (print name)

Signed: _____ on this _____ day of _____, _____ Year

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In the event of my death or inability to act with regard to this matter, please contact:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

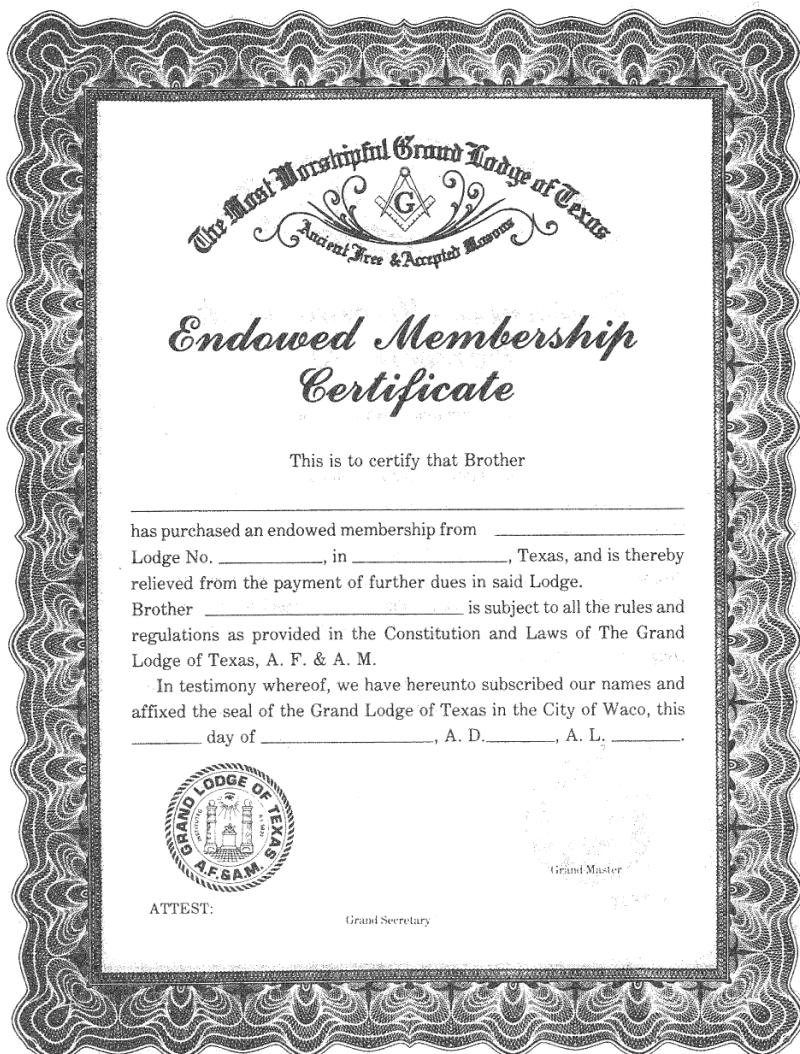
Telephone: () _____

For the Lodge _____ (print)

Signed: _____ on this _____ day of _____ Year

Office Held: _____

No. 76-c
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE, BROTHER



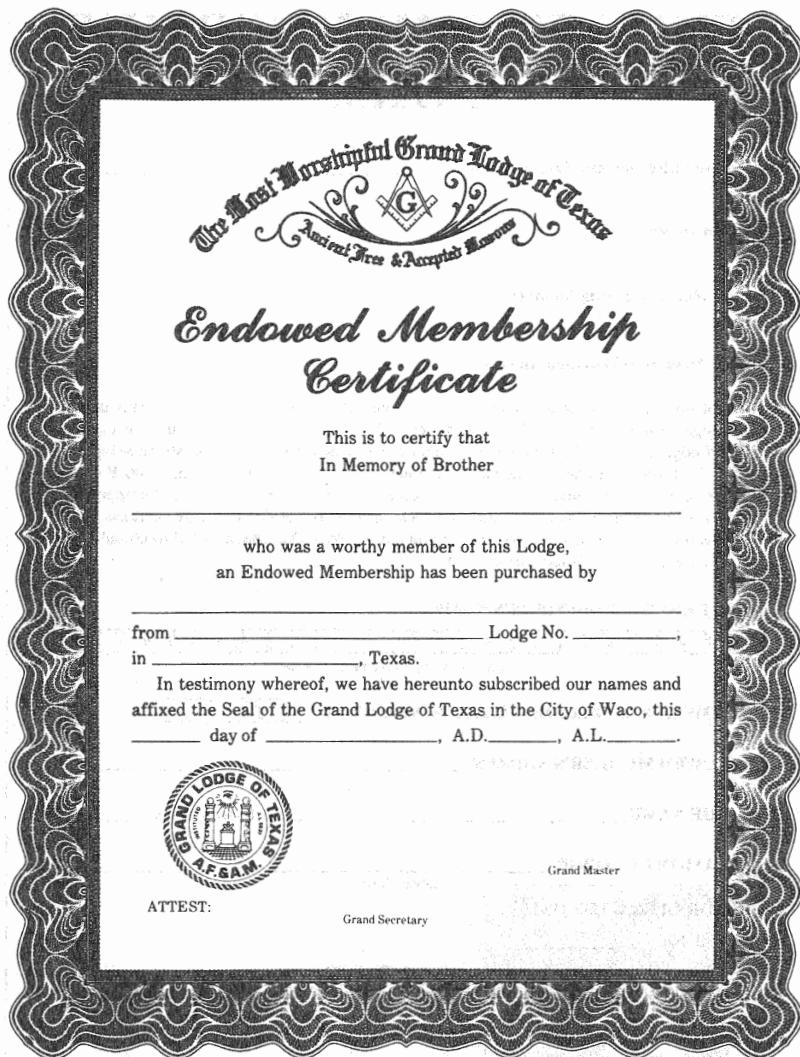
No. 76-d

ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE, IN HONOR OF



No. 76-e

ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE, IN MEMORY OF



No. 77
ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP FORM

ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP FORM

Endowed Membership Purchased by: _____

For Myself

50+ Member or Life Member (\$500.00)

In Honor of Living Member

In Memory of Deceased Member (\$500.00)

Cost of this Endowed Membership is _____ times \$100 = \$_____. This depends on Lodge By-Laws and must be in multiples of \$100 with a \$500 minimum. For example, if the Lodge amended their By-Laws to require their subsequent Endowed Memberships to be \$700, the form would be completed as "7 times \$100 = \$700" (A Fifty-plus Year Mason or a Life Member at the rate of \$500.00). All existing \$500 Endowed memberships of the Lodge will remain in place and the Lodge will receive the appropriate returns for these endowments. Make check payable to The Grand Lodge of Texas. Extra Certificates are \$2.00 each and **MUST be paid by a SEPARATE check**. Mail to Grand Lodge of Texas, P.O. Box 446, Waco, Texas 76703.

PRINT ENDOWED MEMBER'S NAME:

(As it is to be shown on the Certificate)

ENDOWED MEMBER'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER _____

**ENDOWED MEMBERS
ADDRESS** _____

LODGE NAME AND NUMBER _____

LOCATION OF LODGE _____
City or Town _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Check No. _____

Amt. _____

Duplicate _____

Check No. _____

Amt. _____

Art. 318a. Endowed Membership.

1. Any member in good standing in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction whose dues are paid to date may purchase an endowed membership for the benefit of such Lodge (hereinafter referred to as the "Endowed Lodge"), and be thereby relieved from the further payment of dues in the Endowed Lodge, effective as of the date of purchase. The member shall be issued annually a regular dues card or the member holding the endowed membership certificate at the same time other dues cards of the Lodge as may be issued.

2. (a) The purchase price for an endowed membership shall be fixed annually by the Endowed Lodge as may be determined by a majority vote of the members present; provided that such purchase price shall be a multiple of \$100 (\$100 being the par value of an endowment unit) and shall be not less than \$500 (5 endowment units). The vote to fix the purchase price for an endowed membership shall be had at the time provided by Article 292 and any change in the purchase price shall be effective June 24.

(b) A deceased Master Mason may be honored in a Texas Lodge with the purchased of an Endowment in his name at the rate of \$500.00 (5 endowment units) or at the current lowest rate of the Texas Grand Lodge Endowment program.

(c) A Fifty-plus Year Mason or a Life Member may purchase an Endowment for himself or be honored with the purchase of an Endowment in his name at the rate of \$500.00 (5 endowment units) or at the current lowest rate of the Texas Grand Lodge Endowment program.

(d) The increase of an endowed membership purchase price shall not void or adversely affect any previously agreed upon installment purchase plan established under Article 318-a(7).

(e) An Endowed member who wishes to support his Lodge by adding to what he has previous paid for his Endowment may do so in units of \$100 or multiples. (Revised 2013)

3. The purchase price collected by an Endowed Lodge for endowed memberships shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary so as to be received by him on or before the next succeeding June 23 in order to qualify for an income distribution under Paragraph 4 hereof. Funds received by an Endowed Lodge for the purchase of endowed memberships may be invested by the Endowed Lodge in an insured interest bearing account in a reputable financial institution, and all such funds except as provided under Paragraph 7 hereof, shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary no later than the next succeeding June 23rd. The Grand Secretary shall cause all monies received by his office for the purchase of endowed memberships to be promptly deposited into the Endowed Membership Fund and shall provide a monthly summary of such deposits to the Grand Lodge Trustees and to the Committee on Investments.

4. (a) The Endowed Membership fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the supervision of the Grand Lodge Trustees.

The Grand Lodge Trustees shall take action as they may determine necessary to protect the Endowed Membership Fund for the benefit of the Lodges, including, without limitation, the formation of Trusts, Limited Liability Partnerships, corporations, or any other appropriate entity as may be determined by the Trustees.

(b) For accounting and investment purposes the endowed Membership Fund shall be composed of endowment units with an initial value of \$100 each. The net asset value of an endowment unit may vary from one investment period to the next. For the purposes of computing the net asset value of an endowment unit, interest and dividends received, any net realized capital gain or loss and the distribution required by this Article, the investment period shall begin July 1 and end the following June 30. All endowment units shall be credited and allocated to the Endowed Lodges.

(c) Annually, not later than the first day of August, Endowed Lodges shall receive a distribution from the endowed Membership Fund computed as follows:

- (1) An amount equal to the interest and dividends received.
- (2) An additional percent (5%) of the net realized capital gain received; provided, the additional distribution may be reduced so that the additional distribution shall not cause the net asset value of an endowment unit to be less than \$100 after the additional distribution.

No distribution shall be paid for any endowed membership unit until August 1 of the 2nd calendar year after such endowment membership unit is received by the Grand Secretary.

(d) An administrative fee not to exceed five percent (5%) of the annual distribution paid to the Endowed Lodges may be deducted from the distribution before payment is made to the Endowed Lodges. (Revised 2012)

5. The Grand Secretary shall issue to the member in whose name an endowment has been created for the benefit of an Endowed Lodge an Endowed Membership Certificate under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary. Replacement duplicate certificates may be obtained from the Grand Secretary, by the endowed member, a family member of a deceased endowed member, the Endowed Lodge upon payment of the current fee established by the Grand Lodge Trustees.

6. Endowed memberships are not transferable with Lodge membership, and remain to benefit the Endowed Lodge where such memberships are purchased. Endowed memberships purchased by members and endowed memberships purchased in any part in honor or memory of a member, or endowed memberships purchased in any part by a Lodge, organization, individual or group of individuals in the name of a member or former member and, the endowed memberships of deceased members cannot be transferred to any Lodge except as provided for consolidated or demised Lodges.

Consolidated Lodges Within 12 months after the date of consolidation of two or more Lodges, an endowed member whose endowed membership was not purchased in the surviving Lodge may, if he affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, at the time of the affiliation, transfer the endowed membership to the Lodge with which he affiliates, provided the Lodge did not purchase the endowed membership. The transfer of the endowed membership shall be effective as of the fiscal year-end of the Endowed Membership Fund following receipt by the Grand Secretary of the request to transfer the endowed membership.

Demised Lodges After the dissolution or demise of an Endowed Lodge, the holder of an endowed membership certificate therein, if he affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, transfer the endowed membership to the Lodge with which he affiliates. If the holder of an Endowed Membership certificate affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction within twelve months after the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge, any interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund for that endowed membership shall transfer to the credit of the Lodge with which he affiliates. If the holder of such an endowed membership fails to affiliate with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction within twelve months after the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge, any interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund from the date of the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge shall be added to the principal of the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership Fund until the date the holder of the endowed membership affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, from which time the interest will accrue to the benefit of the Lodge with which the holder of the endowed membership affiliated. (Revised 2012)

7. Lodges are prohibited from donating or selling endowed memberships in any other manner than as provided in this Article except Lodges may establish special accounts for the purpose of assisting and encouraging those members who wish to purchase endowed memberships on an installment plan by making regular, systematic, and regulated contributions to such account for the purpose of accumulating the necessary fee required to purchase an endowed membership. After the required fee has accumulated in the special account, the Lodge shall transmit such fee to the Grand Secretary for the issuance of the certificate. The special account shall be maintained in accordance with the rules and requirements set forth in the rules and requirements listed on Form No. 76-B of the Laws of this Grand Lodge. The funds in such special account shall be deposited in an insured interest bearing account in a reputable financial institution until such time as the funds are transmitted to the Grand Secretary.

8. Holders of endowed membership certificates are subject to all of the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and loss of membership due to suspension or expulsion may automatically terminate such endowed membership certificate, and may cause such holder to forfeit his endowed membership and any future claim to fees paid or to revenues earned from such endowed membership. The Lodge which held the endowed membership at the time of forfeiture, as provided herein, shall continue to receive the revenues earned from such endowed membership.

9. Upon the death of a holder of an endowed membership, the endowed Lodge shall continue to receive the income from the endowed membership.

No. 78
TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CERTIFICATE

 <p><i>This Certifies That Brother</i></p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p>has been a Master Mason in good standing for Twenty-five or more years</p> <p>We recommend him to all Masons wherever dispersed for his earnestness and zeal for the Craft.</p> <p>Given under our hands and seal of this Lodge on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATTEST:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; font-size: small;"> Secretary Worshipful Master </div>
--

No. 78-A
FORTY YEAR CERTIFICATE

 <p><i>This Certifies That Brother</i></p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p>has been a Master Mason in good standing for Forty or more years</p> <p>We recommend him to all Masons wherever dispersed for his earnestness and zeal for the Craft.</p> <p>Given under our hands and seal of this Lodge on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATTEST:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; font-size: small;"> Secretary Worshipful Master </div>
--

**Form No. 79
ADVISOR CERTIFICATION FORM**

**FORM NO. 79
ADVISOR CERTIFICATION FORM**

I, _____ (name), a resident of _____

County, Texas, wishing to serve as an advisor of a Youth Organization, declare that I am over 21 years of age and am fully qualified to make this statement, and under oath state that each of the following is true and correct:

1. I am a Master Mason in good standing in the Grand Lodge of _____
and each of the following Subordinate Lodges
of the Grand Lodge of _____.
_____. Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.
_____. Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.
2. I have never been arrested for, nor convicted of, any crime of moral turpitude.
3. I have never been arrested for, nor convicted of, any crime involving child abuse, child molestation, child exploitation or any other like or similar crime involving a child as same is defined by any law of the United States, a state or a municipality.
4. I am not, to the best of my knowledge, listed by the Texas Department of Human Services, or any other federal, state or local agency having responsibility for overseeing the welfare of children, as a suspicious person.
5. I understand that as part of this application, an investigative report will be prepared whereby information is obtained through personal interviews with neighbors, friends or others with whom I am acquainted. This inquiry may include information as to my character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living.

Sworn this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Applicant Signature _____ ID# _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Member I.D. No. _____

Form No. 80
CERTIFICATION OF MENTAL INCOMPETENCE

CERTIFICATION OF MENTAL INCOMPETENCE

(To be attached to Annual Return)

Member Name: _____

Membership I.D. No. _____

I, _____, a physician
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

licensed to practice medicine in the State of Texas, do hereby certify that I have examined

Mr. _____, and in my opinion, he is mentally incompetent.
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

Attest: _____ SECRETARY OF LODGE _____ SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN

LODGE NAME & NO. _____ DATE _____

SEAL
OF THE LODGE

_____ DATE

Form 81
CERTIFICATION FOR MILITARY MEMBER'S COMBAT EXEMPTION

Form 81
CERTIFICATION FOR MILITARY MEMBER'S COMBAT EXEMPTION
(To be attached to Annual Return)

Member's Complete Name _____

Membership ID No. _____ has provided a portion of a copy of his *Leave and Earning Statement (LES)* or has completed and signed the following statement:

LES, date, showing hostile fire pay for combat area _____.

OR

"I swear that I have received hostile fire pay for military service in the Country of _____ during the period of: _____ (Month, day, year to Month, day year)"

Signature: _____

LODGE AFFIRMATION

The above member is a member in good standing of _____
Lodge No. _____, (City) _____ that passed the resolution at its Stated
Meeting on (date, year) _____
to waive his per capita payments from this year's Annual Returns under Article 316. The Lodge
understands that this certification is only for the current year and must be re-accomplished in the
succeeding years, if appropriate.

Attest _____
(Secretary of Lodge) _____ DATE _____

SEAL OF THE LODGE

Under Article 316, Lodges have the authority to exempt a member that has served on active military duty in a combat area from Lodge dues and/or Grand Lodge per capita. The Member is responsible for informing the Lodge of his eligibility and the Lodge must approve the exemption at a Stated meeting for each appropriate member. The Secretary will complete Form 81 and attach it to the Annual Return to receive the deduction for per capita. If the member has received hostile fire pay for actively serving in a combat area, he is eligible but he must either provide the Lodge with a partial copy of a LES showing that he received the pay or signed this Form. One day's service in a combat area for which hostile fire pay is provided is required to be eligible for the exemption during the Masonic year. Exemptions in previous years are not permitted.
(Article 316)

2011

**Form No. 100
MEMBERSHIP CHANGE FORM**

<input type="checkbox"/> *Memb. Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> *Address Change	<input type="checkbox"/> *Name Change	<input type="checkbox"/> *Memb. Decesse	<input type="checkbox"/> *Rejection	
* Please fill in this information regardless of the change.					
DATE _____					
MEMBERSHIP CHANGE FORM					
GRAND SECRETARY					
GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS, A.F. & A.M.					
P.O. BOX 446 / WACO, TEXAS 76703					
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE					
*LODGE NAME _____		*LODGE NO. _____		DISTRICT NO. _____	
MEMBER'S I.D. NO. _____					
MEMBER'S NAME _____ (Last Name) _____, (First Name) _____, (Middle Name) _____, (Suffix) _____					
ADDRESS _____ C/O OR APT. NO. _____					
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____					
PHONE: (R) _____ (B) _____ CELL _____					
E-MAIL _____					
*DATE OF BIRTH: _____ / _____ / _____ *Required		PLACE OF BIRTH: _____ City _____ State _____ Country _____			
DATE PETITION READ: _____ / _____ / _____ *OCCUPATION: _____ *Do not list "Retired" as an occupation. If retired, list the former occupation					

GIVE DATES ON DEGREE WORK	ELECTED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	INITIATED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	PASSED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	RAISED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	PROFICIENCY _____/____/ Mo. Day Year
REASON FOR INCREASE	*SINGLE AFFILIATION _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	*PLURAL AFFILIATION _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	REINSTATEMENT _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	FROM LODGE LODGE NAME NUMBER & STATE (if other than Texas)	
* TO AVOID ERRORS - Please use the appropriate AFFILIATION blank for reporting single and plural affiliations. Also submit Tear-off Portion of Certificate of Good Standing					
REASON FOR DECREASE	WITHDRAWAL _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	TRANSFERRED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	DIMITTED* _____/____/ Mo. Day Year *Must submit Certificate of Dimission	DIED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	
SUSPENDED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	EXPELLED _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> UnMasonic Conduct	<input type="checkbox"/> MM Exam	
*WAIVER of JURISDICTION _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	TO LODGE LODGE NAME NUMBER & STATE (if other than Texas)	REJECTION _____/____/ Mo. Day Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter Number of Years of Rejection	
INSTRUCTIONS: Use One Sheet for each INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP; One Sheet for each DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP; and One Sheet for each ADDRESS CHANGE.					
On other than new member or new EA, please indicate the member's I.D. number. Grand Secretary's office will assign an I.D. number to each member. When the status of a member changes regarding his membership, rejection, suspension, death or etc. - please fill in the appropriate information and mail immediately to the Grand Secretary					

**Form No. 101
INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE LODGES OF TEXAS, A.F. & A.M.**

Form No. 101

**INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE LODGES OF TEXAS, A.F. & A.M.**

This is to certify that Brother _____ ID # _____,
(Print Full Name) _____
a member of _____ Lodge No. _____
(Name of Lodge)
located at _____, Texas, Masonic District No. _____, has met the
(City) requirements of Article 276a of the Grand Lodge Laws as follows:

1. Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Lodge

Approved by _____ Date _____
(Print Name & Number of Lodge)

(Print Name of Lodge Secretary) Signature _____ Date _____

Or:

Is a holder of current Class A, B, or C Certificate from the Committee on Work

2. Lodge Administration

L.I.F.E. Program. Certified by Chairman of L.I.F.E/A.L.L. Committee of the Lodge

(Print Name) Signature _____ Date _____

Or:

Attended a Wardens Retreat (copy of Diploma attached)

**3. Exempt - Previously served as Worshipful Master of a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of
The Grand Lodge of Texas.**

Copy of TLSR Record Attached.

Or:

Verified by _____
(Print Name of Lodge Secretary)

Signature _____ Date _____

Note to Installed Officer: It is your duty to provide a copy of this document and attachments to the District Deputy Grand Master of your District, five (5) days prior to your Installation.

A copy shall also be retained by the Lodge as a part of the minutes of the meeting at which installation was done.

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— O —

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Anct. Chrds.	Ancient Charges
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Sec.	Section
E. A.	Entered Apprentice
F. C.	Fellowcraft

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