

**CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS  
OF  
THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND COUNCIL  
OF  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS  
OF FLORIDA  
Organized: January 13, 1858**

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**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS  
OF FLORIDA**

Organized January 12, A. Dep. 2858, A.D. 1858, and Affiliated with  
THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS INTERNATIONAL.

**ARTICLE I**

**Style, Jurisdiction, and Powers**

**Section 1; Style**

The style of this Masonic Organization is "The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida." The members of this Grand Council, and members of its Constituent Councils, may be known and recognized as "Royal and Select Masters" and "Cryptic Masons." The ceremonies, forms, and teachings of this organization shall be known as "The Rite of Cryptic Masonry".

**Section 2; Jurisdiction Generally**

The Grand Council is a legal, independent body and has jurisdiction over all of its Constituent Councils and supreme authority over the Rite of Cryptic Masonry within the boundaries of the State of Florida

**Section 3; Concurrent Jurisdiction**

This Grand Council freely concedes to Councils in States adjoining it the privilege of receiving petitions and the conferring of the Cryptic Degrees upon citizens of Florida whose residence shall be nearer to such Councils than to any Council in Florida; provided said Councils in the States adjoining Florida are chartered by a Grand Council with whom it is in fraternal correspondence; and further provided that the same privileges are extended to the Councils of Florida by said Grand Jurisdictions.

**Section 4; Powers Generally**

This Grand Council may enact and enforce laws and regulations for the government of the Craft and its Constituent Councils, and alter, amend, or repeal the same; it may constitute new Councils by Dispensation and Charters, and may suspend, amend, or recall the same; it may establish and preserve a uniform Code of Work; it may assess and collect from its Constituent Councils, annually, such sums of money as it may find necessary for its maintenance and support; it may hear and determine all disputes between Constituent Councils, and all appeals from charges against any of its officers and members; inflict punishment on the guilty; and generally exercise all such powers and perform all such acts as are usually exercised and performed by the Grand Council within the landmarks and customs of the Craft.

**ARTICLE II**

**Grand Officers, Members, and Titles**

**Section 1; Grand Officer**

This Grand Council shall have the following Grand Officers:

A. Elected annually at the Annual Grand Assembly

1. Grand Master
2. Deputy Grand Master
3. Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
4. Grand Treasurer
5. Grand Recorder

B. Appointed annually by the Grand Master, and serving at his pleasure, but considered to be part of the Progressive Grand Line

6. Grand Captain of the Guard
7. Grand Conductor of the Council
8. Grand Steward
9. Grand Sentinel

C. Additionally, the Grand Master shall annually appoint One District Deputy Grand Master from each Cryptic District; a Grand Chaplain; Grand Marshal; who shall all serve at the pleasure of the Grand Master, but they shall not be considered a part of the Progressive Grand Line. (Effective May 20, 1998)

### **Section 2: Members**

This Grand Council shall be composed of the following members: all Grand Officers during their tenure in office; all Past Grand Masters, all Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work, or their Proxies, while representing their Councils in Grand Council; all Past Illustrious Masters of Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction; all Past Illustrious Masters of other Grand Jurisdictions who have affiliated by demit with a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction and have been elected to membership in this Grand Council. Provided, however, that no Cryptic Mason shall be considered a permanent member of this Grand Council, not entitled to its honors, unless he shall have been elected and installed as Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council (except Grand Chaplain). Moreover, none shall be accorded membership in this Grand Council save those who are actual members of Constituent Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction; provided, however, that Honorary Membership may be conferred by a majority vote of this Grand Council upon distinguished Cryptic Masons regardless of affiliation.

### **Section 3: Temporary Members and Proxies**

Any Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, or Proxy--who is not a Past Illustrious Master--while representing his Council in Grand Assembly is recognized as a temporary member only, and only while acting in such representative capacity. Each Proxy must be a Past Illustrious Master or an Elected Officer of the Council he is appointed to represent in Grand Assembly.

### **Section 4: Titles**

Titles of honor in this Grand Jurisdiction are "Most Illustrious" for the Grand Master; "Right Illustrious" for the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, and District Deputy Grand Masters; "Illustrious" for all other Officers of this Grand Council (with the exception of the Grand Chaplain who need not have passed the Chair) and all installed Illustrious Masters of Councils. All Titles of Honor shall be retained for life. Provided, however, that Cryptic Masons from other Grand Jurisdictions may be recognized by such Titles of Honor as may be appropriate to their Grand Jurisdiction.

### **Section 5: Elective and Appointive Officers**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Recorder shall be elected officers of this Grand Council. All other Grand Officers shall be appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, and serve at his will and pleasure.

### **Section 6: Vacancies in Office, How Created**

Vacancies in the three elective offices of Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work of this Grand Council may only occur by:

- a. Death;
- b. Permanent removal from the jurisdiction;
- c. Suspension or expulsion by any prerequisite body;
- d. Suspension or expulsion; or
- e. Permanent disability or mental incapacity.

In addition, remaining elective officers not heretofore named in this section, and appointive officers, may resign.

### **Section 7: Vacancies in Office, How Filled**

All vacancies in office (save only the office of Most Illustrious Grand Master, which is never vacant, as set forth hereinafter) as may occur shall be filled by appointment of the Most Illustrious Grand Master for the un-expired terms of such office.

### **Section 8: Absence or Incapacity of Most Illustrious Grand Master**

It is the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist the Most Illustrious Grand Master in the discharge of his Official Duties, and in his absence to preside. In the event of the Most Illustrious Grand Master's death or disability--from any cause-- preventing him from performing the duties of his Office, all the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Most Illustrious Grand Master devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master until the next Annual Grand Assembly. The office of Most Illustrious Grand Master is never vacant; succession is instanter, and there is no interim. In the event of question as to incapacity or permanent disability of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Official determination shall be made by five available members of the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Council, but this provision shall not be construed as relieving the Deputy Grand Master from taking essential action on matters of importance pending such determination.

## **ARTICLE III Grand Assemblies**

### **Section 1; Grand Assembly; Time, Place, and Duration**

The Annual Grand Assembly of this Grand Council shall be held in a Grand York Rite Convention together with the other two Grand York Rite Bodies at a time and place determined by the persons who are expected to be the three Grand Presiding Officers at the time of that Convention. The order of meeting shall be on a rotating basis. Nothing herein shall prevent the Most Illustrious Grand Master from convening Special Grand Assemblies as hereinafter provided.

### **Section 2; Emergency Changes; Special Assemblies**

In case of any emergency, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may change the time and place of Grand Assembly or Call any Special Grand Assembly he may deem necessary for the welfare of this Grand Council. At a Special Called Assembly of the Grand Council by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, no business may be transacted except as previously specified in the Notice of that Special Assembly. Due and timely notice of any Special Assembly shall be given to all members and Constituent Councils.

### **Section 3; Quorum**

The quorum necessary to open any Grand Council shall be the qualified Representatives of at least three Constituent Councils. It is recognized that this Grand Council, having been established under the usual Masonic customs and Laws of Cryptic Masonry, shall continue to exist as long as it shall have members enough, permanent and duly qualified, to enable the Grand Council to legally open.

### **Section 4; Presiding Officer; Order of Preference**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall preside when present. In his absence, the Deputy Grand Master or Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, in the order named, shall preside. In the absence of all three aforementioned officers, the Junior Past Most Illustrious Grand Master present shall preside.

### **Section 5; Votes and Manner of Voting**

Each Constituent Council represented is entitled to three votes, which shall be cast by the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, or their Proxies. Each Past Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council is entitled to one vote if present to cast the same

### **Section 6; Per Diem**

Each Grand Officer and one Representative of each Chartered Council attending the Grand Assembly of this Grand Council, all members of committees, Past Grand Masters, and District Deputies, who are in attendance in no other capacity, shall be entitled to receive from this Grand Council such funds for per diem as may be recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by the delegates.

### **Section 7; Honors and Recognition**

The Presiding Officer shall, at his discretion, extend such honors and privileges to Past Grand Officers, Distinguished Capitular Companions and Sir Knights, Grand Officers of sister Grand Jurisdictions, Grand Officers of Symbolic Masonry, and other distinguished Masons as custom and circumstance require.

### **Section 8; Cost of the Annual Assembly**

The cost of the Annual Assembly shall be charged against the Budget of the Most Illustrious Grand Master who presides at the Annual Assembly, and the Grand Recorder shall draw warrants for the outgoing Most Illustrious Grand Master's signature immediately upon the closing of the Annual Grand Assembly. The outgoing Most Illustrious Grand Master shall, for this purpose only, be authorized to execute warrants to cover the cost of the Annual Grand Assembly.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Grand Officers; Election and Qualification**

#### **Section 1; Qualifications for Grand Office**

None but Illustrious Masters or Past Illustrious Masters of a Regular Council of Royal and Select Masters shall be eligible to hold any office in this Grand Council, save that of Grand Chaplain. Each Officer of this Grand Council must be a member, in good standing, of a Constituent Council at the time of his election or appointment.

#### **Section 2; Election; Order and Manner**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Recorder shall be elected in that order and by confidential ballot and by a majority of all votes cast at each Annual Assembly. Only one Office shall be balloted on at a time. Provided, however, that a nomination may be made from the floor for each office and, where there is no objection, a member may be designated to cast the unanimous ballot of the Grand Council for the member nominated for such office. All other Grand Officers shall be appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect and shall serve at his will and pleasure and for his term of office. All Grand Officers, including District Deputy Grand Masters, shall be installed before the close of each Grand Assembly or as soon thereafter as possible.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **District Deputy Grand Masters**

#### **Section 1; Appointment and Duties**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint a District Deputy Grand Master for each Cryptic District. The duties of such District Deputies, as stipulated and adopted in the Three Year Plan, 1962, are:

a. District Deputies, while in office, are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

b. The honorary title of a District Deputy is Right Illustrious and his official title is District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council.

c. A District Deputy may hold a District Festival without Dispensation. But any Council opened at such Festival must be opened under the auspices of a council in the district, and any Degrees conferred must be upon a Candidate first regularly elected by a Constituent Council.

d. When the three Presiding Officers of a Constituent Council are absent, that Council may be opened by the District Deputy, provided the necessary quorum is present.

e. A District Deputy shall visit every Constituent Council in his District, at a Stated or Called Assembly of that Council, at least once during his term of office. He shall give a Constituent Council due notice of his intention to visit, in writing and prior to his visit, to the Presiding Officer and the Recorder.

f. A District Deputy shall inquire into the condition of each Council under his jurisdiction, point out errors he may observe in the condition or manner of working (including a check of the records of the Treasurer and Recorder for proficiency and compliance with Regulations), and instruct the Council in every particular wherein he may conceive it to require information.

g. A District Deputy shall (insofar as it is proper to be done) submit a full, written report of his activities and of the state of each Council under his jurisdiction and forward same to the Most Illustrious Grand Master. All such reports must be made within thirty days after each visit to the assigned Councils in his district.

h. Whenever a District Deputy answers a question on Cryptic Law, his answer is advisory only and must be referred to the Most Illustrious Grand Master for confirmation.

i. A District Deputy shall, upon request, aid the Grand Recorder in obtaining reports and replies from the Constituent Councils under his jurisdiction.

j. A District Deputy, when unable or unwilling to attend to his duties, shall resign his Office, in which event the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Cryptic Law.

k. A District Deputy shall make himself proficient in the Work of the Grand Council, under the direction of the Committee on Work, so that he may instruct each Council in his District as to introductions, esoteric Work and protocol.

l. In all matters concerning joint meetings of the three York Rite Bodies in a District such as District Joint Festivals, etc., the three District Deputies may elect a Chairman to take charge of promoting and developing the meeting, such Chairman to be assisted by his fellow Deputies of that particular York Rite District; the District Deputy Grand Master shall cooperate with his counterparts in the other Grand York Rite Bodies toward the harmony and success of such joint enterprise.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Duties of Grand Officers**

#### **Section 1; Most Illustrious Grand Master**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall exercise a careful supervision of the Constituent Councils in this Jurisdiction. He shall take such measures as may be necessary to stimulate interest and promote Cryptic Masonry. He shall have such other powers and prerogatives of Office within this Grand Council as by Ancient Masonic Custom devolve upon one Inducted into a Grand Oriental Chair.

#### **Section 2; Most Illustrious Grand Master's Annual Report**

At the Annual Grand Assembly, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall report all of his official acts and make such recommendations as he may deem of value to the Grand Council. Of the subject matter of the Most Illustrious Grand Masters' Annual Report, the portion printed in the Proceedings shall include only the introductions, number of dispensations granted, number of Bylaws approved, number of visitations within the State and without the State; none of the foregoing shall be itemized, though a true copy of the entire Report shall be given to the Jurisprudence Committee and Grand Recorder. A detailed Report, however, shall be incorporated of Fraternal Dead, decisions, rulings, disbursements of monies (voucher number, to whom drawn, and amount), State of the Cryptic Rite, and conclusions.

#### **Section 3; Most Illustrious Grand Master; Grand Representatives**

Exchange of Grand Representatives is authorized and the Most Illustrious Grand Master may effect the Appointment or Nomination of such; but each such Representative may resign or be removed by action of the Grand Council, and another appointed or nominated in his stead when he shall have been absent from two consecutive Annual Assemblies or has been negligent.

#### **Section 4; Grand Treasurer**

The Grand Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all funds and property of the Grand Council and render an accounting at each Annual Assembly or when required by this Grand Council or the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

a. He shall deposit all funds of this Grand Council in the name of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Florida.

b. He shall pay out moneys only on warrants drawn and signed by the Grand Recorder and approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

c. He shall transfer funds from one account to another, or cash certain bonds when funds are needed, only after approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, upon the Most Illustrious Grand Master's finding of necessity therefore, while the Grand Council is in recess.

d. He shall furnish the Grand Council a bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or an amount equal to the average yearly sum of moneys under his care, issued by an acceptable surety company (whose name appears on the Federal Treasury list and licensed to do business in the State of Florida) for the faithful performance of his duties; the cost of such bond to be borne by the Grand Council.

e. The Grand Treasurer's salary shall be set by the Grand Council by proper vote at a regular Annual Assembly. Said salary to be paid in increments set by the Grand Master and in arrears of the period for which payment is made. (2011)

f. The books of the Grand Treasurer shall be audited annually by a qualified Public Accountant at the expense of the Grand Council.

g. The Grand Treasurer, in his capacity as chief Financial accounting officer for the Grand Council of Florida, shall provide a monthly Consolidated Statement of Income to the other four elected Officers. This Consolidated Income Statement, in addition to the monthly Income and Expense report showing actual expenditures versus budget line items, shall provide detailed visibility of assets producing income. Readily available access to revenue generated by all assets shall provide the Grand Council leadership with investment information critical to fiscal decision making with respect to long-term objectives, goals and the investment guidelines.

### **Section 5; Grand Recorder**

The Grand Recorder shall keep a record of all transactions and proceedings of this Grand Council, attend to the correspondence, collect the income of this Grand Council and transmit the same to the Grand Treasurer.

a. He shall furnish the Grand Council a bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or an amount equal to the average yearly sum of moneys under his care, issued by an acceptable surety company (whose name appears on the Federal Treasury list and licensed to do business in the State of Florida) for the faithful performance of his duties; the cost of such bond to be borne by the Grand Council.

b. The Grand Recorder's salary shall be set by the Grand Council by proper vote at a regular Annual Assembly. Said salary to be paid in increments set by the Grand Master and in arrears of the period for which payment is made. (2011)

c. The books of the Grand Recorder shall be audited annually by a qualified Public Accountant at the expense of the Grand Council.

d. The Grand Recorder shall maintain a list of other Grand Councils, and Grand Representatives both far and near, with whom this Grand Council is in fraternal accord, and publish this list in every edition of the annual Proceedings of this Grand Council.

e. The Grand Recorder shall receive Monthly Reports from Constituent Councils and compile the data therein for the Grand Council; he shall maintain a Recorder's File for all matters concerning each Constituent Council, including an up-to-date copy of the Bylaws of each Council.

f. The Grand Recorder shall keep an up-to-date Digest Record of all the Enactments of the Grand Council that are currently in force and state the year that each item was adopted; such Record shall include other subjects pertinent to Cryptic Masonry. Said Digest shall be kept under subject headings, alphabetically arranged; it shall show the source of each item, its disposition, and its location through the use of the Reference Index. Such Digest may be examined by all Companions, upon reasonable notice, and at reasonable times.

g. The Grand Recorder shall forward one copy of each new printing of this Constitution and General Regulations to each Grand Line Officer, each Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, each District Deputy Grand Master, and to the Illustrious Master and Recorder of each Constituent Council.

h. The Grand Recorder shall furnish the immediate Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, for his review, the Grand Council Proceedings for his year prior to the publication of the same. Said immediate Past Most Illustrious Grand Master shall have fifteen days (15) to edit and return such copy to the Grand Recorder, failing which, the Proceedings shall be published as submitted.

### **Section 6; Other Grand Officers**

All other Grand Officers of this Grand Council shall perform such duties as are assigned them by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, in addition to such duties as are prescribed by the installation charges and the customs of Cryptic Masonry.

### **Section 7; General Duties Regarding Unity**

The Grand Council further evidences its belief in York Rite unity by appointing the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, and Grand Recorder to join together with like appointees of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar to form a Grand York Rite Association.

a. The Association shall meet quarterly or as may be necessary for the furtherance and betterment of York Rite Masonry in Florida.

b. A sum shall be provided in the Annual Budget for per diem to be paid each of the above appointees attending these York Rite Association meetings.

### **Section 8; Southeastern Area Meetings**

The National Commission on Unity having recommended that the Three National Grand Bodies of the York Rite, viz; General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council, and Grand Encampment join together in holding joint meetings of the three Grand Bodies in each of several areas of the Nation; the Grand Council of the State of Florida is included as a member of the Southeastern area of the Nation.

a. The three principal Grand Officers of this Grand Council, and the Grand Recorder, shall attend, in their official capacities, all Southeastern area meetings.

b. A sum shall be placed in the Annual Budget toward defraying the expense of each such Officer attending area meetings.

### **Section 9; Proceedings, Approval (2009)**

Prior to printing the proceedings, the Grand Recorder is directed to mail, by certified mail, a draft of the proceedings to the Presiding Grand Master and the Junior Past Grand Master for their review and corrections. If these proceedings have not been return to the Office of the Grand Recorder within fifteen (15) days from the date of mailing, the Grand Recorder shall proceed with printing the proceedings in the original form.

### **Section 10; General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International, Triennial Assembly and Triennial Assembly Expenses (2009)**

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, Grand Recorder and all past Grand Masters shall be allowed travel expenses up to four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) each to attend the Triennial Session of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International. Funds for such expenses shall be appropriated by the Budget and Finance Committee each Triennial year from the Special Triennial Assembly Fund and included in the Budget for each Triennial year. No expenses shall be allowed for Wives or family members. Request for reimbursement shall be made by the Companion not later than December 1 of said Triennial year to be honored.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Grand Council Committees**

#### **Section 1: Most Illustrious Grand Master to appoint**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint Standing Committees of the Grand Council immediately after the installation of the Grand Officers at each Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. He shall appoint such Special Committees as may be necessary at his discretion, to administer the affairs of the Grand Council.



## **Section 2: Standing Committees**

The Standing Committees are:

- a. Jurisprudence
- b. Finance
- c. Budget
- d. Audit
- e. Per Diem
- f. Returns and Credentials
- g. Necrology
- h. Work
- i. Investments

### **Section 3: Composition; Generally**

All Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters and the Grand Recorder shall be members of the Committee on Jurisprudence. The composition of all other Committees shall be at the discretion of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. The first named Companion of each committee will serve as the chairman.

### **Section 4: Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee shall furnish the Budget Committee a financial statement prior to preparing the Annual Budget.

### **Section 5: Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee shall: (2009)

a. Prepare a proposed budget in accordance with the wish and direction of the Grand Council and Cryptic Law. The proposed budget along with a narrative statement of the general financial condition of the Grand Council shall be sent to each Constituent Council and Grand Line Officer at least sixty (60) days prior to the Grand Council Annual Grand Assembly.

b. Present the proposed Budget with any amendments thereto to the Grand Council at the Annual Grand Assembly. Upon the final adoption of the Budget by the Grand Council, the Budget shall control all expenditures and shall have the effect of fixed appropriations and shall not be amended, altered or exceeded as provided for herein. Transfers between accounts *or* sub-accounts shall be made upon Executive Order of the Grand Master.

### **Section 6: Jurisprudence Committee**

The Jurisprudence Committee shall examine the Annual Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and report their findings and recommendations to the Grand Council. Provided, however, that the Recommendations of a Grand Master are not subject to the review of the Committee; but are to be voted on separately by the Grand Council. The Committee shall render their report or advisory opinion upon any other matter as shall be referred thereto by the Most Illustrious Grand Master at such time as the same may be required.

### **Section 7: Investment Committee**

The Investment Committee shall be composed of three Cryptic Masons in good standing in Florida Councils. The committee will work in concert with the Investment Committees of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida should those committees be authorized and formed. The members of the committee shall be men of experience in the management and investment of funds or members qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and investment of funds, including but not limited to bankers, public accountants, lawyers, financial counselors and men of similar training and experience. Initial implementation shall be by appointment by the Grand Master of one member for a term of three years, one member for a term of two years, and one member for a term of one year. Each incoming Grand Master shall make one appointment to this committee. No person while a member of this committee, of for a period of two (2) years

after serving on this committee, may, directly or indirectly, gain any economic benefit by reason of bidding, providing or contracting to provide financial services to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida. Any attempt to circumvent this regulation will be *prima facie* evidence of un-masonic conduct and will be punished as such.

The committee shall make recommendations to the Grand Master and Treasurer in respect to the following matters:

(a) Selection of Registered Investment Advisor(s) to manage, or Registered Representative(s) broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian for such portions of the Grand Council Funds as shall be entrusted to such Registered Investment Advisor(s) or Registered Representative (s) broker-dealer or its clearing firm by written contract/document with the Grand Council.

(b) The terms of contract with the Registered Investment Advisor(s) or Registered Representative(s) broker-dealer for management and custodianship of the Grand Council's funds.

(c) The means, methods, and standards for evaluation of the services of the Registered Investment Advisor(s) or Registered Representative(s) broker-dealer managing and investing the Grand Council's funds.

(d) The Committee shall comply with the foregoing in respect to the Life/Perpetual Membership Plan, as well as operating funds and funds held in trust by the Grand Council. (2009)

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Degrees**

#### **Section 1; Cryptic Degrees**

The Degrees recognized and controlled solely by the Grand Council are those of Royal Master, Select Master, and all parts, sections, and phases of Super Excellent Master. All must be conferred in the order named and only upon Royal Arch Masons in good standing and only in a properly constituted Council, or by the Grand Council.

#### **Section 2; Order of the Silver Trowel**

The Grand Council holds authority over and recognizes the Florida Council of Anointed Kings, which may confer the Order of the Silver Trowel upon all present or past Illustrious Masters of Constituent Councils under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Council.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Formation of Constituent Councils**

#### **Section 1; Dispensation to Organize**

The Most illustrious Grand Master may issue a Dispensation to not less than twenty-five (25) Select Masters to form a Council, to be Under Dispensation during the recess of the Grand Council.

a. A Council formed Under Dispensation must be constituted, and its officers installed, by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his authority, before proceeding to Work.

b. The Dispensation shall be in force and effect at the pleasure of the Most Illustrious Grand Master until the next Annual Assembly, at which time the Grand Council may extend the Dispensation, terminate the same, or authorize a Charter.

c. No Charter may be issued except by action of the Grand Council.

#### **Section 2; Application for Dispensation**

The Application for Dispensation to organize a new Council shall include the names, addresses, and signatures of the applicants, together with the Council name, number, and location of the Council where the applicant is presently a member.

#### **Section 3; Council U.D., to exemplify Degrees**

A new Council under Dispensation is required to exemplify the Opening and Closing of the Council and the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master to the Most Illustrious Grand Master or to his Authority.

#### **Section 4; Members of Councils U.D.**

All Companions who are members of a Council under Dispensation when a Charter is granted may become members of the newly Chartered Council by signing the Application for a Charter, but this is not compulsory.

a. Those members of Chartered Councils who do not sign the Application for Charter retain uninterrupted membership in their regular Councils.

b. A Select Master Greeted in a Council U.D., becomes a Charter Member of a newly Chartered Council automatically if and when the Charter is granted and does not have to sign the Application for Charter.

c. Upon the granting of a Charter, the first monthly report of such newly Chartered Council to the Grand Recorder will show full name and birth date of Charter Members, and the name, number, and location of the Councils from which those Charter Members transferred.

#### **Section 5; Transfers to New Councils; Duty of Recorders**

Recorders of Councils from which Companions have signed an Application for Charter from a Council U.D. will:

a. Show on the monthly reports to the Grand Recorder the full name, birth date and date of transfer (Date of Transfer shall be the date of Charter).

b. Forward to the newly Chartered Council all dues from the Companion being transferred received for the year transferred.

c. Will not be responsible for paying per capita tax to the Grand Council for the member transferred for the year transferred.

d. Will assure that the transferring Council's records will show members being transferred to a newly Chartered Council dropped from membership as of the date the Charter is granted and will also enter the same information in the Minutes of their next Stated Assembly.

e. Will forward to the newly Chartered Council each such member's history of full name, birth date, degree dates, offices held, affiliations, suspensions, and reinstatements.

#### **Section 6; Fees and Properties**

a. The fee for the Dispensation to organize a new Council shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00), and shall be paid when application is made for Dispensation.

b. A fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) shall be paid for a Charter and must accompany the application.

c. The Council U.D. must pay all Greeting fees on all Greeted in their Council and per capita tax for the year they receive their Charter.

d. Members transferring to a newly Chartered Council after it has received its Charter will have their per capita tax for the year of transfer paid by the Council of which they were a member prior to transferring and their annual dues for the year of transfer remain the property of their former Council.

e. In the event any Council U.D. is not granted a Charter, any funds, equipment, or paraphernalia accumulated during the period of its existence shall revert to the Grand Council.

### **ARTICLE X**

#### **Affiliation**

##### **Section 1; Procedures**

Transfers of Membership or Affiliations shall be accomplished as follows:

a. A Member in good standing in a Constituent Council of this Jurisdiction may apply for Affiliation in another Constituent Council of this Grand Jurisdiction by Transfer of Membership without securing a Demit provided he makes application for such Transfer on approved forms which include a Certificate of Good Standing and a form for reporting the completion of the Transfer.

b. Such a member remains a Member of his original Council until the Transfer is acted upon by the Council petitioned and he is accepted and reported to his original Council. When his acceptance is reported, the original Council will mark its records accordingly and its jurisdiction over him shall cease.

c. Affiliation by transfer without Demit shall be allowed regarding members from other Grand Jurisdictions, provided those Grand Jurisdictions recognize such procedure.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Real Estate and Debt**

#### **Section 1; Construction, Acquisition, or Debts**

Before proceeding with the construction of any new building, purchasing any existing building; when repairing, remodeling, or making additions to any building where the same involves indebtedness of a Constituent Council; or when financing or re-financing any debt; Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction shall give a complete financial statement, and plan for financing the indebtedness to be incurred, to the Grand Council in Annual Assembly, or--when in recess-- to the Most Illustrious Grand Master for approval. The Grand Council shall not be made responsible for any obligations of its Constituent Councils.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Recognition of Longevity**

#### **Section 1; Fifty-Year Pin**

A York Rite member who has been Greeted fifty years or more in the past is entitled to wear the Florida Official 50-year Lapel Pin which is available from the Grand Recorder.

#### **Section 2; Fifty-Year Certificate**

If a Fifty-Year Certificate is requested by or for a Companion, the request must be supported by evidence from the Recorder of his Constituent Council and confirmed by the Grand Recorder.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Concurrent Masonic Laws**

#### **Section 1; Concurrent Masonic Laws**

The Constitution and Regulations of "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida" shall govern in all matters so far as practical and when not in conflict with the spirit and plain intent of the Constitution and Regulation and Landmarks established by this Grand Council.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Amendments**

#### **Section 1; Procedure**

The Constitution and General Regulations governing Cryptic Masonry in Florida may be amended, revised, or changed:

a. A Resolution for Amendment must be presented to the Right Illustrious Grand Recorder in writing not later than sixty (60) days prior to the next Annual Grand Assembly.

b. The Grand Recorder shall cause said proposal to be duplicated and a copy mailed to each Grand Council Officer, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, District Deputy, and to the Recorder of each Constituent Council at least forty-five (45) days prior to the next Annual Grand Assembly. Email delivery shall fulfill this requirement and in addition the Grand Recorder shall cause a copy of the proposal to be posted on the Grand York Rite website. (2011)

c. The Recorder of each Constituent Council shall cause the proposed amendment to be read and discussed at the first Regular Assembly of that Council after receipt of the same; the Council, after consideration, shall express its collective opinion and may instruct its Representatives on how to vote at the time proposed amendments are presented at the next Annual Grand Assembly.

d. A majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at the Annual Grand Assembly shall be required to adopt the resolution.



## **ARTICLE XV**

### **Conflicting Laws Repealed**

#### **Section 1; Repealing Clause**

All Constitutions or parts of Constitutions, Edicts, Resolutions, and all Bylaws and Rules of the Order, heretofore adopted by the Grand Council inconsistent with this Constitution are hereby repealed.

**LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS**  
**of the**  
**GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT**  
**MASTERS OF FLORIDA**

**CHAPTER ONE--TRADITION AND POLICY**

**1.01 Supreme Cryptic Law**

The Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, as set forth and contained in this document, are hereby adopted, ratified, confirmed, and declared to be the Supreme Cryptic law of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**1.02 Traditions and Landmarks**

The Traditions and Landmarks of Ancient York Masonry, as set forth in the Regius Manuscript, and as evolved there from through the ages by necessity, are adopted by this Grand Council, provided, however, that the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and the enactments of this Grand Council, shall govern wherein conflict therewith.

**1.03 Rulings and Decisions**

The Rulings and Decisions of the Grand Masters of this Grand Council, when approved by the Grand Council in Grand Assembly convened, and as printed in its Proceedings, are declared to be in full force and effect, and binding, unless contrary to later-enacted Laws of this Grand Council or further Rulings and Decisions of a Most Illustrious Grand Master.

**1.04 Grand Lodge Laws--Effect**

Wherever not in direct conflict with the spirit and plain intent of the Constitution, Laws, Regulations, and Landmarks of this Grand Council, the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge--as published from time to time in its Digest of Masonic Law--shall govern in all matters of Cryptic Law. Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall imply that this Grand Council presumes any control or jurisdiction over any element of Ancient Craft Masonry, save those particular traditions and legends contained in the Cryptic Degrees and over which the Grand Lodge asserts no jurisdiction.

**1.05 Grand Lodge Defined**

Wherever reference is made herein to the "Grand Lodge," such term shall signify the "Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida," as incorporated by Chapter 4281, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1893; in reference to any Grand Lodge outside the State of Florida, said term shall mean a Grand Lodge of Freemasons in fraternal accord with--and recognized by--the aforementioned Grand Lodge.

**1.06 Non-Profit Policy**

The declared policy of this Grand Council is that it is neither a profit-making business nor profit-making organization, and should not--and will not--engage in a profit-making activity neither for itself nor for its membership. No solicitations of a non-Masonic or non-charitable character shall be made, except upon the authority of this Grand Council and by specific vote of the members thereof in Grand Assembly convened. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent support of programs of a generally charitable and benevolent nature, such as the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, Inc.

**CHAPTER TWO--GRAND COUNCIL NAME AND STYLE**

**2.01 Name and Style**

The Official name and style of this Grand Council shall be set forth in Article I of its Constitution, and as set forth in Chapter 28324, Laws of Florida, and Acts of 1953. Provided, however, that the term "Cryptic" may be substituted for "Royal and Select" with propriety in all save strictly legal documents.

## **CHAPTER THREE--GRAND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

### **3.01 Grand Council Membership**

Membership in this Grand Council shall be as set forth in its Constitution; Honorary Membership or Rank conferred pursuant to Regulation or Bylaw shall not confer the right to vote on matters before the Grand Council.

## **CHAPTER FOUR--GRAND COUNCIL JURISDICTION AND POWERS**

### **4.01 Jurisdiction and Powers**

This Grand Council shall have such jurisdiction and powers as set forth in its Constitution and these Regulations.

### **4.02 Jurisdiction over Degrees**

This Grand Council holds exclusive control and jurisdiction over the Masonic Degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, Super Excellent Master, and Order of the Silver Trowel within the borders of the State of Florida; provided, however, that the Florida Council of Anointed Kings shall have subordinate jurisdiction and control over the Order of the Silver Trowel. The Grand Council has other jurisdiction and powers as set forth in its Constitution.

## **CHAPTER FIVE--GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS**

### **5.01 Grand Council Officers**

The Officers of this Grand Council shall be as set forth in its Constitution.

## **CHAPTER SIX--MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER**

### **6.01 Chief Executive Officer**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall be the Chief Executive Officer of this Grand Council, with such powers, duties, and prerogatives as set forth in its Constitution and these Regulations.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN--DEPUTY GRAND MASTER AND GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF WORK**

### **7.01 Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of Work**

The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of Work shall preside in the absence of the Most Illustrious Grand Master; they shall have such powers and duties as its Constitution and these Regulations provide.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT--GRAND TREASURER**

### **8.01 Chief Financial Officer**

The Grand Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of this Grand Council, and shall have such powers and duties as its Constitution and these Regulations provide.

## **CHAPTER NINE--GRAND RECORDER**

### **9.01 Chief Clerical Officer**

The Grand Recorder shall be Chief Clerical officer of this Grand Council, and shall have direct supervision of all clerical staff; he shall have such other powers and duties as its Constitution and these Regulations provide.

### **9.02 Fees, Reports, Donations, Registrations**

All fees, reports, donations (except donations to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation), and all registrations shall be sent through the Grand Recorder's office, who shall keep a proper record thereof and provide copies to the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the necessary Grand Council Committees as required.



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## **CHAPTER TEN--CRYPTIC DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS**

### **10.01 Cryptic Districts**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall divide this Grand Jurisdiction into such number of Cryptic Districts as to him may seem desirable and appoint a Deputy to each of said Districts. Such Deputies shall be present or Past Illustrious Masters of a Council under this Grand Jurisdiction, and shall be charged to use all proper effort to increase the interest in Cryptic Masonry in their respective Districts. The Deputies shall make such reports and at such times as the Most Illustrious Grand Master may direct.

### **10.02 District Deputies' Allowances**

District Deputies may be allowed the same mileage for the use of their automobiles in the performance of their duties as allowed by Grand Council when attending a Grand Assembly. They shall render their expense accounts to the Most Illustrious Grand Master for approval, who in turn shall send them to the Grand Recorder for payment.

### **10.03 Retaining Deputy's Aprons**

The District Deputy Grand Master may retain the Apron used during his tenure of office, provided that the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Florida is reimbursed for the cost, and provided, further, that the Grand Council may designate the type and mode of designating the year of use.

## **CHAPTER ELEVEN -- SUBORDINATE GRAND OFFICERS**

### **11.01 Subordinate Grand Officers**

The Subordinate Grand Officers of this Grand Council shall be as provided in its Constitution and these Regulations together with the powers and duties therein provided.

## **CHAPTER TWELVE--GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES AND PROCEEDINGS**

### **12.01 Assembly and Proceedings**

The Grand Assembly of this Grand Council shall be holden as provided in its Constitution and these Regulations, and its Proceedings recorded and published in accordance therewith.

### **12.02 Per Diem**

Per Diem shall be governed by the following

#### **a. General Provisions**

(1) Each Grand Officer and one Representative of each Chartered Council attending the Grand Assembly of this Grand Council, all members of Committees, Past Grand Masters, and District Deputies, who are in attendance in no other capacity, shall be entitled to receive from this Grand Council such funds for per diem as may be recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by the delegates. If on any occasion the Grand Chapter and/or Grand Commandery should meet on the same day as the Grand Council when per diem is usually paid, and a Companion is also entitled to per diem from either of the other bodies, the one day's per diem shall be divided equally by the respective bodies. In no event shall any Companion of this Grand Council receive more than 1 day's per diem for any single calendar day.

(2) The Grand Council may advance an amount equal to one-half any annual allowance to the Most Illustrious Grand Master upon his installation, and after spending same, he shall receive the balance. He shall not be required to account for these funds to the Grand Council.

### **12.03 Proceedings, Council Reference**

The names of elected officers of Councils and the post office address of Recorders thereof, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, are required to be printed in the Annual Proceedings.

### **12.04 Past Grand Officers**

The Grand Recorder is required to annex to the proceedings a list of all Past Grand Officers living, with correct post office address.

### **12.05 Representatives of Constituent Councils**

It is the duty of the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of Work to attend the Grand Council Assemblies personally, if possible, and if not, then by proxy. They are the representatives of

each and all Constituent Councils, who together make up the Body of the Grand Council for the conducting of the business which comes before it.

#### **12.06. Proceedings; Approval and Adoption (2009)**

a. The Grand Council being convened at the time appointed for each Annual Assembly, the printed PROCEEDINGS of the preceding Annual assembly, and any intervening Annual Assembly, shall be ready for adoption, unless a motion prevails that the reading be dispensed with and that the proceedings be adopted as printed and distributed. The minutes shall be read for approval at the resumption and conclusion of business at each successive sitting of an Annual conclave, provided any one or more such readings may be dispensed with by order of the Grand Master

b. Final reports and other such material of record to be included in the Proceedings shall be submitted to the Office of the Grand Recorder no later than 30 days following the conclusion of the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

c. That the proceedings be printed and distributed to the proper Companions no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> following the Annual Assembly.

### **CHAPTER THIRTEEN--GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES (GENERAL PROVISIONS)**

#### **13.01 Committees**

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint such Committees as are required by the Constitution of this Grand Council and such other Committees as may be required for the orderly transactions of Grand Council.

#### **13.02 Return of Papers**

It shall be the special duty of the Chairman of each and every Committee of the Grand Council to return or have returned to the Grand Recorder all papers referred to his Committee.

#### **13.03 Committee on Work**

a. The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint five (5) qualified Companions to act as the Committee on Work. The Committee on Work shall issue card certificates of proficiency to qualified Select masters in good standing in a constituent Council when in the judgment of the committee the proficiency of said Companion is such as to meet the standards as set forth in this section and as further defined by said Committee. It shall also be the responsibility of this committee to maintain a list of all those Companions who have received cards of proficiency by date and category of card and to report that list at each annual Convention for inclusion in the Proceedings.

b. The Committee on Work shall issue a blue card certificate of proficiency to a Select Master when proficient in the opening and closing ceremonies of a Council of Select Masters.

c. The Committee on Work shall issue a white card certificate of proficiency with one purple stripe to a Select Master when proficient in the esoteric work of the Royal Master degree and the lecture.

d. The Committee on Work shall issue a white card certificate of proficiency with two purple stripes to a Select Master when proficient in the esoteric work of the Select Master degree and the lecture.

e. The Committee on Work shall issue a white card certificate of proficiency with three purple stripes to a Select Master when proficient in the esoteric work of the Super Excellent Master Degree and the lecture. (May 2003)

f. The Committee on Work shall issue a purple card certificate of proficiency to a Select Master when he has qualified for the blue card and one white card, and demonstrated his proficiency in giving the apron lecture.

g. The Committee on Work shall issue a silver card certificate of proficiency to a Select Master when proficient in the Circumambulation of the Royal Master Degree. (2010)

h. The Grand Master is authorized to appoint one District Instructor for each Cryptic District, which District Instructors shall not exceed the District Deputies in number, for a term of one year, to work in their respective Districts under the supervision of the Grand Council Committee on Work, subject to the approval

of the Grand Master.

1. Each District Instructor shall be found proficient in all Cryptic Ritual by the Grand Master or his designated representative. (2009)
2. The title of a District Instructor shall be "District Instructor" and the title of a Past District Instructor shall be "Past District Instructor" for life. District Instructor may be abbreviated "D.I." and Past District Instructor may be abbreviated "P.D.I."
3. Each District Instructor shall provide a written report (email is satisfactory) to the Chairman of the Committee on Work at an interval designated by the Grand Master, but not less than once per quarter. This report shall include the activities of the D.I. as to instruction within his district and be in a form approved by the Grand Master. A summary of all such reports shall be included in the report of the Committee on Work to the Craft at the annual Convention and be included in the Proceedings. (2010)

#### **13.04 Separate Bank Accounts**

No committee, except CMMRF Committee, shall maintain a separate bank account, and all moneys received by any committee shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder for proper accounting. No funds shall be expended by any Committee either created or described under this chapter except in accordance as more specifically provided in these regulations.

#### **13.05 Joint York Rite Convention Board**

There shall be a Joint York Rite Convention Board (hereafter referred to as the Board) established for planning, promoting and managing the annual York Rite Convention.

a. Duties and Responsibilities – It shall be the duties and responsibilities of the Board to insure that the Hotel selected by the Time and Place Committee will meet our requirements, and negotiate and sign a contract with the Hotel; and, insure the timely and efficient management of the convention to include, but not be limited to, such activities as pre-convention planning and scheduling; promoting convention attendance; promoting a convention souvenir program; and managing the functions and activities at the convention.

b. Membership – The Board shall be comprised of 5 members; those three Officers, who will be the Grand Presiding Officers at the time of the convention; the Grand Secretary/Recorder, and one additional member, jointly appointed by those Officers, who shall serve as Convention Manager. The Board shall designate a Chairman (other than the Convention Manager).

c. Convention Manager – The Convention Manager shall be a York Rite Mason who is a current or retired professional in the hospitality industry. He shall have extensive knowledge and experience in hotel and/or meeting planning management. The Convention Manager will act as an advisor to the Board and will serve in an administrative capacity as the "single point of contact" between the hotel and the Grand York Rite during the convention. In addition, he will also serve as an advisor to the Convention Board on matters pertaining to the negotiation of a best value contract of the annual Grand York Rite convention.

d. Convention Assistance Committee – The Board will appoint members who shall assist in setting up the meeting rooms, assist other committees if requested by their committee chairmen, help the Ladies with the Hospitality Room, the Grand Secretary's Office and such other duties as required by the Convention Board.

e. Convention Souvenir Program Committee – The Board will appoint one member for each body to develop, plan, promote, sell advertising, obtain voluntary donations, and print a souvenir program for the convention. The Board will set advertising rates at sufficient and reasonable amounts. Promotions for the souvenir program will be made through the Office of the Grand Secretary/Recorder. The Board will select an appropriate publishing company to print the program. The Board will determine the quantity to be printed based on previous years' records.

f. Accountability for Income –The Grand Secretary/Recorder shall receive and handle all income for the convention (including registration and program advertising revenue), make a proper accounting thereof, and turn it over to the Grand Treasurer.

g. Accountability of Expenses–The Grand Treasurer shall receive all monies collected for the convention from the Grand Secretary/Recorder, make a proper accounting thereof and deposit said funds in the convention account. Only the account specifically established for the convention by the Grand Treasurer

shall be used for expenditure of convention funds (with the exception of per diem and VIP's which are separate accounts). He shall not issue any checks drawn on the convention account without proper warrant.

## **CHAPTER FOURTEEN--GENERAL COUNCIL REVENUE AND FINANCE (GENERAL PROVISIONS)**

### **14.01 General Provisions**

The administration of revenue and finances shall be as provided in the Constitution of this Grand Council, and as more specifically provided in these Regulations.

### **14.02 Administrative Endowment Fund**

There is hereby established a Grand Council fund to be designated the Grand Council Administrative Endowment Fund of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof shall not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment. The income there from may be expended for the use of the Administrative Budget of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida. The administration and investment/ reinvestment of this fund shall be under the direction and supervision of the Finance committee.

This amendment shall become effective upon approval. (May 2003)

## **CHAPTER FIFTEEN--RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

### **15.01 Statement of Policy**

Consistent with the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Council, it is the policy of this Grand Council to maintain fraternal accord with all regular Grand Jurisdictions of Cryptic Masons, agreeable to requirements of the General Grand Council and the Ancient Usages of Cryptic Masonry.

## **CHAPTER SIXTEEN--SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, CONSOLIDATION AND MERGER**

### **16.01 Consolidation of Councils**

Two or more Councils having concurrent jurisdiction or established in adjoining jurisdictions may be consolidated into one Council, provided that the request for such consolidation shall be presented at a Regular Assembly of each Council, which request shall be acted upon at a subsequent Regular Assembly, notice of which shall be mailed to all members of each Council at least ten (10) days prior to such Assembly. Such consolidation cannot be effected if nine (9) or more members of either Council vote against consolidation. A majority vote of those present shall be necessary to adopt the resolution for consolidation, if the vote against consolidation being less than nine (9).

### **16.02 Retention or Replacement of Officers**

Two or more Councils having been thus consolidated may unite under the Charter of any one of the said Councils, retaining the Officers thereof, or they may elect new Officers under the authorization of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

### **16.03 Disposition of Assets and Members**

The title of all property and effects of the consolidated Council shall vest in the new Council and the new Council shall be liable for all indebtedness of the several Councils consolidating. All members of the consolidated Councils shall immediately become members of the new Council.

## **CHAPTER SEVENTEEN--SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, CHARTERS**

### **17.01 Charter and Operating Laws**

Each Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction shall exist under, and in conformity to, its Charter or Dispensation, the Constitution, and these Regulations; together with such Bylaws as necessity shall require.

### **17.02 Charters and Dispensations**

The Grand Recorder is required to record the Charter or Warrant heretofore issued to any Council in This Jurisdiction upon request of the Council, on being furnished with such Charter or Warrant or a copy thereof certified under the seal of the Council. All Charters or Warrants hereafter issued from this Grand

Council or its authority shall be recorded by the Grand Recorder in a book to be procured and kept by him for that purpose; a column to be added on a page in the Proceedings under the heading of Directory of Council, showing date of Charter of each Council.

**17.03 Petitions for Charters, Deadline**

Petitions for Charters must be filed in the office of the Grand Recorder at least ten (10) days prior to the opening of the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

**17.04 Charters, Fees**

A fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) shall be paid to Grand Council with the Petition for Charter.

**17.05 Dispensation, Fee**

The fee for Dispensation to form a new Council shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to be paid to the Grand Council with the Petition.

**17.06 Councils not to be Instituted**

No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for instituting Councils of Royal Masters or Super Excellent Masters independent of a Council of Cryptic Masons; nor for a Council of Anointed Kings in addition to, or working under, the Florida Council of Anointed Kings.

**17.07 Dormant Councils**

A Council failing to hold at least four (4) Regular Assemblies, one in each calendar quarter, in any one Cryptic year shall be considered to be in a dormant state of existence, not meeting with the approval of the Grand Council. The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall charge the Officers of such Council with their duty and responsibility of immediately restoring such Council to active duty, under penalty of forfeiture of Charter, as hereinafter provided.

**17.08 Forfeiture of Charter**

A Council failing to convene in at least four (4) Assemblies, one in each calendar quarter, each Cryptic year (dormant), or to make returns to Grand Council of levies and impositions, forfeits all right to retain its Charter, and the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall order the Charter Arrested, and such Charter, records, and effects of such Council sent to the Grand Recorder unless activity or regularity in actions is restored.

**17.09 Surrender of Charter**

Any Council may surrender its Charter at any Regular Assembly, after written notice to all members and to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, after lying over for at least one (1) month, by a majority vote of its members.

**17.10 Grand Council Certificate**

If a Council has surrendered its Charter or if the Charter has been Arrested and Grand Council Certificates have been issued to any who were members at the time of its surrender or arrest, a Petition for Restoration of Charter must be accompanied by the Grand Council Certificates of the Petitioners. If no Grand Council Certificate has been issued to a Companion who is shown by the Grand Council records to have been a member of the Council at the time of the loss of Charter and who signs the Petition for Restoration, no such Certificate is required to be filed.

**17.11 Councils to have Seals**

Every Constituent Council must procure a Seal to be kept in the custody of the Recorder and used by him on all official documents.

**17.12 Copies of Charter**

Immediately upon receipt of its Charter, a Constituent Council shall have made two exact duplicate copies. Should the original Charter become lost or defaced to an extent rendering it unfit for use, a duplicate copy shall be displayed in lieu of the original. The Council shall retain its duplicate copy in a secure, fireproof place and forward the second copy to the Grand Recorder for retention in his files.

## **CHAPTER EIGHTEEN --SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, JURISDICTION**

### **18.01 Jurisdiction** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #10) (2009)

A Constituent Council shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all Petitioners residing within the corporate limits of the municipality in which it is located; except, where two or more Councils are located in the same municipality, they shall have exclusive concurrent jurisdiction within said corporate limits. All Councils shall have concurrent jurisdiction over all Petitioners outside the corporate limits of a municipality having a Council of Royal and Select Masters, or over Petitioners residing within a municipal corporation having no Council domiciled therein.

### **18.02 Work Commenced by Defunct Council**

When a Petitioner shows satisfactorily that he has taken one or more of the Degrees in a Regular Council which has become defunct or dormant, the Council within whose jurisdiction he resides and to which he Petitions, may confer the remaining Degrees.

## **CHAPTER NINETEEN--SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, OFFICERS**

### **19.01 Council Officers**

Each Constituent Council of Royal and Select Masters shall be composed of Royal and Select Masters in good standing, with the following Officers:

- Master (whose Title is "Illustrious")
- Deputy Master
- Principal Conductor of the Work
- Treasurer
- Recorder
- Chaplain
- Captain of the Guard
- Conductor of the Council
- Steward
- Sentinel

Whose powers and duties shall be as provided by the Constitution and these Regulations.

### **19.02 Election**

There shall be an election of Officers each year, at a regular Stated Assembly of each Constituent Council.

a. The election shall be held on or after the last Stated Assembly in November and by December 27th. December 27th may be used by any Council for a Stated Assembly date if due and timely notice is given to its members.

b. The first five Officers, namely: Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work, Treasurer, and Recorder, shall be elected by a majority Ballot of all those present and voting.

c. The election shall be held without nomination and by secret written ballot except that, by unanimous consent, the rules may be waived, nominations made, and a member designated to cast the unanimous vote of the Council for the nominee.

d. The remaining Officers and all Committees shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master-elect.

### **19.03 Installation**

All of the Officers shall be installed at a Stated or Special Assembly, on or after December 27, but not later than the 28th of January.

a. Later installations may only be held under Dispensation granted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

b. In case of Public Installation, the Officers shall collectively assume the Vow of Office; the Illustrious Master-Elect shall answer the ten questions, and at the proper time, he shall be presented to his Companions, but will not be tendered Grand Honors in public.

c. Constituent Councils may convene a Special Assembly to hold public Installations or joint

Installations with other York Rite Bodies at the site of their domicile without securing a Dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master; but only if the ceremony can be conducted well and with dignity and honor for the York Rite.

d. Installations held at locations other than as designated in their Charter, may only be held under Dispensation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and in the presence of the Charter.

#### **19.04 Jewels of Office**

The Jewels of Office for Constituent Councils consist of an equilateral triangle, attached by a small ring to either a horizontal bar provided with a pin for fastening the Jewel to the Dress over the left breast, or a suitable cord or ribbon to place around the neck; within the triangle the distinguishing emblems of the particular Office are rigidly fastened, and are as follows:

The Square and Compasses joined with the Trowel, for the Illustrious Master.

The Level joined with the Trowel, for the Deputy Master.

The Plumb joined with the Trowel, for the Principal Conductor of the Work.

The Crossed-Keys joined with the Trowel, for the Treasurer.

The Crossed-Pens joined with the Trowel, for the Recorder.

The Open Book; for the Chaplain.

The Battle-Ax joined with the Trowel, for the Captain of the Guard.

The Scroll joined with the Trowel, for the Conductor of the Council.

The Crossed-Swords joined with the Trowel, for the Steward.

The Sword joined with the Trowel, for the Sentinel.

The Jewels for the remaining active members may be an equilateral triangle, similar in size and form to that for Officers of Constituent Councils, but having a Trowel only, fastened rigidly within the triangle.

#### **19.05 Dual Members; Eligibility**

A Dual Member with primal membership in a Council in Florida may hold Office in more than one Constituent Council at one and the same time. A Dual or Plural Member, having primal membership in any other Grand Jurisdiction shall not be eligible to hold Office in a Council in Florida.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY--ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER**

#### **20.01 Committees**

The Illustrious Master of a Council shall appoint such committees as may be required by the Laws of this Grand Council, the Bylaws of his Council, or as he may otherwise deem necessary to the business of his Council. With particularity, the Illustrious Master shall appoint an Audit Committee (composed of three qualified Companions) and a Finance Committee (composed of three Companions); and such other committees as needed. The Audit Committee shall audit the records of the Treasurer and Recorder and submit their report at the first Assembly after December 27th.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE--DEPUTY AND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR THE OF WORK**

#### **21.01 Powers and Duties**

The Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work of a Constituent Council shall, together with the Illustrious Master, constitute the Principal Officers of the Council and its ex-officio representatives of that Council to all coordinate committees of the several York Rite Bodies of their domicile; they shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Council, and the Bylaws of the Council, and Ancient Usage.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO--TREASURER AND RECORDER**

#### **22.01 Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall receive from the Recorder all the moneys collected by him on account of the Council. He shall keep a correct account of the same and duly pay all orders drawn on him by the authority of the Council. He shall make regular entries both of receipts and disbursements, and have his books and

vouchers always ready for examination, when called upon for that purpose. He shall also report to the Council the state of the funds yearly and more often as required. he shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Council and the Bylaws of his Council.

#### **22.02 Recorder**

It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep a regular list of the members and record the transactions of the Council which are proper to be converted to writing. He shall receive all moneys paid into the Council and shall promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer. He shall give due notice when directed, by advertising or otherwise, of the time of each Assembly. He shall make an Annual Report to the Council, at the Regular Annual Assembly, of the state of the funds of the Council, embracing an account of the receipts and expenditures, for the preceding year up to and including the Regular Assembly preceding the 27th of December, and more often as required. He shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Council and the Bylaws of his Council.

#### **22.03 Disbursing of Funds**

Withdrawal of Funds belonging to a Constituent Council shall be by check, signed by the Treasurer, countersigned by the Illustrious Master and supported by a voucher issued by the Recorder upon the Orders of the Council. Provided, however, a voucher may be drawn by the Recorder, countersigned by the Illustrious Master, authorizing the Treasurer to draw the check.

#### **22.04 Bonds Required**

The Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Council shall be bonded with a Bonding Company listed in the Federal Treasury List in an amount set by Regulation or Order of the Grand Council; such bond is to be filed in the Grand Recorder's office.

#### **22.05 List of Members Not Supplied**

It is improper for the Recorder of a Council or any member thereof to furnish a list of names of the members of the Council to any person for commercial or political purposes, or to any civic or fraternal organization other than other Regular Masonic Bodies.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE--APPOINTED COUNCIL OFFICERS**

#### **23.01 Illustrious Master to Appoint**

The Illustrious Master of each Constituent Council shall appoint such Officers as are provided for in the Constitution of this Grand Council, which Officers shall serve their appointed terms at the will and pleasure of the Illustrious Master. Vacancies in such offices shall be filled by further appointment of the Illustrious Master, who shall Install such appointees; vacancies so filled shall be reported to the Grand Recorder by the Recorder of the Council, and under its Seal.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR-- SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, BYLAWS**

#### **24.01 Bylaws or Amendments**

A Council has full power and authority to enact bylaws for its own government in conformity with the Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Council. No bylaws or amendments thereto shall be in force until approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or by his authority, but the same will be effective on the date of approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

#### **24.02 Council Approval of Bylaws** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #21) (2009)

Proposed Bylaws or any change in or amendment to existing Bylaws shall be submitted in writing at a regular Assembly, and-- if approved by a majority vote -- shall lie over for one month, or to the corresponding regular Assembly in the following month, during which time due and timely notice of such proposal shall be given to the members of the Council. If two-thirds of all the members of the Council then present vote in favor thereof, such change or amendment is adopted and will go into effect upon approval by Most Illustrious Grand Master or by his authority.

#### **24.03 Most Illustrious Grand Master; Approval of Bylaws** (2009)

Proposed Bylaws or amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Most Illustrious Grand Master in quadruplet all four copies to be signed by the Illustrious Master and the Recorder and under the Seal of



the Council, giving the dates when such Bylaws or amendments were first submitted and approved and when adopted by the Council. When approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, he shall send all copies to the Grand Recorder for attestation, and then the copies will then be distributed as follows:

- a. Original to Council, for its archives.
- b. One copy retained by Grand Recorder.
- c. One copy to the Most Illustrious Grand Master
- d. One Copy to the Chairman on Jurisprudence Committee (2009)

Should the Most Illustrious Grand Master disapprove the proposals, he shall return the same to the Constituent Council with his reasons for such action.

#### **24.04 Optional Bylaw for Emeritus Members**

Constituent Councils may incorporate in their Bylaws Articles reading as follows:

a. This Council may, by two-thirds vote at a Regular Assembly, create as an Indigent Emeritus Member such Companions as from age, infirmity, or misfortune have been incapacitated and unable to pay dues, thereby exempting such members from annual dues to the Council and the Grand Council. The Recorder shall file with the Grand Recorder each year a certificate setting forth the full name and address of the member and a complete statement of the reasons for creating such Indigent Emeritus Membership.

b. The honorary title of Emeritus Member may be conferred by two-thirds vote at a Regular Assembly on a deserving member for long membership and for distinguished service to the Cryptic Rite. This Council shall pay to the Grand Council all annual dues, taxes and assessments of such member.

#### **24.05 Uniform Code**

Except as otherwise provided in these Regulations, all Councils shall adopt and conform to the Uniform Code of Bylaws for Subordinate Councils set forth in Appendix A of these Regulations; upon amendment or revision of same by this Grand Council, subordinate Councils will amend existing Bylaws in conformity to such Grand Council action. Amendment pursuant to this Regulation shall require only notice to the members of the Council of the change in the Uniform Code, entry on the Minutes of the Council prior to inclusion in the Bylaws of the Council, and notice to the Grand Recorder that such amendment has been made; no vote of the Council is required. Copies of this uniform code may be obtained from the Grand Recorder.

#### **24.06 Bylaws Binding**

A Constituent Council shall not suspend nor waive its Bylaws or any part of them once the same have been adopted and approved; changes in bylaws may be effected only by Amendment.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE--SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, ASSEMBLIES AND BUSINESS**

#### **25.01 Quorum for Business and Work**

A Constituent Council of Royal and Select Masters shall not be opened, unless there be present at least nine (9) Select Masters, six of which shall be members of that particular Council, except that at a Regular Assembly date, time and place if there be at least six (6) Select Masters four (4) of which are members of that particular Council, but not enough to open in ritualistic form, as described above, then a "Business Communication", may be opened, by declaration, and empowered to act for certain limited purposes, including: Authorizing the payment of bills, Setting dates for special events, Receiving and acting on petitions for the Degrees, Election of Officers. However, no form of degree work may be performed without opening in ritualistic manner, with the required minimum Select Masters. (2011)

#### **25.02 Form of Opening**

The Council shall always be Opened and Closed with its own peculiar ceremonies. When the Council is duly Opened and it is necessary to Open a Council of Royal or Super Excellent Masters, such may be Opened with its own ceremonies or declared open by the Illustrious Master without further ceremony; but, such having been declared open must be Closed in full form.

### **25.03 United States Flag**

Every Council in this Grand Jurisdiction must display the Flag of the United States of America in the East at all Assemblies of the Council; immediately before the Opening, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag shall be given.

### **25.04 Presiding Officer**

The Illustrious Master shall preside at all Assemblies of the Council; in case of his absence, the Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, or a Junior Past Illustrious Master present, in the order of rank, may preside.

### **25.05 No Appeal to Council**

No appeal to the Council can be taken from the decision of the Illustrious Master.

### **25.06 Assemblies on Sundays**

A Council cannot lawfully meet or work on Sunday except for funerals or Attendance For Religious Purposes.

### **25.07 Call to Refreshment, Misuse**

It is improper for Assemblies of Councils to be called to Refreshment from time to time with unlimited discretion, neither shall a Council recess from one Assembly to the next Assembly. Each Assembly shall be formally Opened and regularly Closed when the business of the Assembly is finished.

### **25.08 General Rights**

Constituent Councils shall enjoy all the Rights provided by their Charters and Bylaws as authorized by the Constitution and these Regulations, so long as a Standard equal to that required to obtain a Charter is maintained. The three Principal Council Officers shall be zealous to supervise and attend to all matters affecting the welfare of the Council and its members and work for the advancement of the Cryptic Rite.

### **25.09 General Duties of Officers**

All Officers and Members of a Constituent Council shall support and maintain the Constitution, Laws, and General Regulations of the Grand Council of the State of Florida and the Bylaws of their own Council. Two copies of the adopted Grand Constitution and General Regulations shall be kept by the Illustrious Master and the Recorder of each Constituent Council; also, one copy of the Council's individual Bylaws approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master. Each Officer shall to the utmost of his ability, discharge the duties of the Office for which he has been chosen, being guided by reference to those requirements and duties of Grand Officers, as shown in the Constitution and these Regulations, as well as those specific duties inculcated in the Legends of the Craft, the Cryptic Degrees, and the Ceremonies of Installation.

### **25.10 Domicile for Meetings** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #1) (2009)

The Constituent Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction shall hold Regular Assemblies as specified in their Bylaws and only in the place of their domicile fixed by their Charter or by an amendment to their Bylaws except that the Most Illustrious Grand Master may grant Dispensation to a Constituent Council to meet in Masonic Temples at other than their domicile. Domicile, in a Council Charter, can be in one or more municipalities.

### **25.11 Special Assemblies for Business**

With a Special Dispensation received from the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Illustrious Master may call a Special Assembly of the Council for the Transaction of Stated Business only, of which due and timely notice must be given to all members and to the District Deputy Grand Master. At a Special Assembly, no business shall be transacted except that for which it was called.

### **25.12 Special Assemblies for Work**

The Illustrious Master of any Constituent Council may call a Special Assembly for any time, except Sunday, for the sole purpose of conferring the Cryptic Degrees.

### **25.13 Assemblies; Minimum Yearly Number**

Each Constituent Council shall hold not less than four (4) stated Assemblies per year, one in each calendar quarter.

## **25.14 Constitution & Regulations, Availability**

So that the same may be readily available for study and reference, each Constituent Council shall obtain and keep two copies of the Constitution and Regulations, as revised from time to time, which copies shall be in the care of the Illustrious Master and Recorder and transmitted by them to their successors in office.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX--MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS, STATUS, AND DUES**

### **26.01 Membership in Council**

A Companion is a Member of the Council conferring the Cryptic Degrees upon him, unless it was conferred at the request of another Council, in which case he shall be a member of the Council making the request.

### **26.02 Certificate of Good Standing**

Members in good standing in Councils whose Charters have been surrendered or Arrested shall be furnished with a Certificate of Good Standing by the Grand Recorder upon payment of One dollar (\$1.00) to the Grand Council. Members who have been suspended for non-payment of dues in such Councils may obtain from the Grand Recorder Certificates of Good Standing upon the payment of Five dollars (\$5.00) to the Grand Council.

### **26.03 Life Membership Program.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #20) (2009)

Councils may incorporate in their Bylaws provisions for life members subject to the following requirements:

A. Life membership shall be of three classes:

- (1.) Life membership conferred by the Council upon payment of a fixed fee, which life membership shall only exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Council Annual Revenue, and
- (2.) Life membership conferred by the Council without payment of a fixed fee which exempts recipients from payment of grand Council Annual Revenue, and
- (3.) Life membership conferred by the Council, which does not exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Council Annual Revenue.

B. No life membership conferred for payment of a fixed fee shall exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Council Annual Revenue may be converted for a fee of less than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars, which fee, in whatever amount fixed, shall be deposited or invested as in hereinafter set forth.

C. No life membership which exempts recipient from payment of Grand Council Annual Revenue may be conferred by the Council without payment of the fixed fee, except on condition that the Council immediately set aside from its own funds for deposit or investment, as hereinafter provided, a minimum sum of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per life membership at all times.

D. All funds derived from fees for Life Memberships and all funds set aside by the Council upon conferring life membership without payment of fee, shall be invested in bonds of the United States of America or deposited in Savings Accounts in institutions where such savings accounts are insured, or in such other securities or stocks as shall be approved by the Grand Council, the interest derived from such deposit or investment to be deposited in the general fund of the Council.

E. Upon the death, expulsion, demit, or disappearance of a Life Member, the Council may withdraw the deposit provided for such member or dispose of the government bonds purchased with the proceeds, and return said funds to the general funds of the Council. Councils may confer Life Memberships which do not exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Council Annual Revenue, without requiring any payment by the Life Member or without making any deposit or investment by the Council. Each Life member of a Council shall be issued an annual dues card evidencing such Life Membership.

F. No Life Membership conferred by the Council shall exempt such Council from payment of Grand Council Annual Revenue.

G. This regulation shall be effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, A.D. 2000, A.L. 6001, but shall not effect any life membership vested previous to this date.

### **26.03.01 Perpetual Membership Program**

Perpetual Memberships are authorized by Particular Councils subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. Any member of a Constituent Council of Royal and Select Masters may participate in this plan, subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth.

B. Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in the Symbolic Lodge and in any participating constituent Council of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a perpetual member of his Council pursuant to the provisions of this section. The member shall apply to the Recorder of his Council for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Council and shall tender a minimum sum of twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Council at the time of the application, but in no event less than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars. The Council Recorder shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due, to the Grand Recorder. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Recorder certified that he received the application.

D. The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Council Recorder. The application shall not become effective until the Grand Recorder has certified the applicant's record. The application shall contain the computations upon which the perpetual membership fee is predicated. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Recorder shall return the application and fee to the constituent Council Recorder for correction and re-submission. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a Certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Council by the Grand Recorder. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Recorder to use computerized records.

E. After the perpetual membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall not be refundable, except under circumstances determined by the Grand Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for membership as of the date of the application.

F. After the applicant's perpetual membership has been accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted perpetual membership accounts (hereafter referred to as the Fund). These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Council basis, listing the amount a person paid into the Fund for both Council dues and Grand Council per capita and any assessments in effect. The Grand Treasurer shall account for the funds separately, from all other Grand Council funds. The Fund shall be audited annually.

G. A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Council of which he is a perpetual member. An annual dues card shall be issued by the Council Recorder, who shall denote perpetual membership thereon.

H. The perpetual membership fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent Council the first year's dues and per capita, to the Perpetual Membership Fund, the word Interest shall mean all net earned income of the Fund, exclusive of any net profit made from the sale of stocks, bonds or other securities; any loss resulting from the sale of stocks, bonds or other securities, and from other earned income; and the balance remaining shall be net earned income. The net profit of unallocated loss, if any, from the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities shall be allocated to a capital gains account, to remain therein, subject only to the following: The interest, less administrative costs, plus such amount from the capital gains account as shall be necessary to add to the interest so as to provide a five percent (5%) return on each perpetual member's account, shall be paid proportionately annually to each constituent Council for each perpetual member at the time of per capita billing.

I. The Grand Recorder shall, at the time of the annual interest distribution, submit a statement to the Council for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessment in effect at the time the member joined the plan. The Council shall, during the member's lifetime and thereafter, pay to the Grand Council the amount designated by the Grand Recorder's per capita statement.

J. The obtaining of a perpetual membership in one Council by a dual or plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Council or Councils to which he belongs. Dual or plural perpetual memberships are permitted.

K. When a perpetual member of this Grand Jurisdiction affiliates within this Grand Jurisdiction, the

entire perpetual membership he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Council to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire perpetual membership fee shall remain with the Council of which he is a Perpetual Member. (2009)

L. Any Certificate of Good Standing issued under Chapter 40 of the Constitution to a perpetual member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the perpetual membership fee, which shall be transferred to the particular Council in Florida with which he affiliates.

M. If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing or re-affiliates from out of state, his perpetual membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

N. If a Council consolidates, surrenders its Charter, or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to that Council in the perpetual membership fund shall follow the member according to the relevant sections of the Constitution and Laws dealing with consolidation, surrendering, and arrest of Charters.

O. A memorial perpetual membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Royal and Select Master of a Florida Council by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be two hundred (\$200.00) dollars. The total amount of interest derived there from shall be paid annually, seventy-five percent (75%) to the Council through which the applicant was processed, and twenty-five percent (25%) to the Grand Council of Florida. Interest derived there from shall be returned to the council at the time of the per capita billing.

P. A Companion, at any future time, may add any amount to his perpetual membership fee through his Council Recorder.

Q. Applications for perpetual membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Council, and the Grand Recorder shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

R. Where perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Illustrious Master shall direct the Recorder to report the names of such missing Companions to the Grand Council on the membership report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased perpetual membership, but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Council or Grand Council for that perpetual member, as set forth in subsections (G) and (H).

S. The Perpetual Membership Fund is to be operated and administered by a committee, hereafter called the Fund Committee, consisting of three Companions appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master to serve as follows: one member to serve for three years, one to serve for two years, and one to serve for one year. The Grand Recorder and the Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of this committee for advisory purposes only. The appointed members of the Fund Committee shall be bonded in the same manner as described in Article VI, Section 4, d.

T. Any matter not specifically covered by this Regulation shall be resolved by a Committee consisting of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer and the Fund Committee. The results of such meeting will be reported at the next Grand Assembly, and any changes resulting there from shall be subject to the vote of the members of the Grand Council.

#### **26.04 Emeritus Members.**

The Honorary title of Emeritus Member may be conferred by a Constituent Council upon a deserving member for long membership and for distinguished service to the Cryptic Rite. Such action, however, does not relieve the Council from having to pay the Grand Council Annual Fees for such member.

#### **26.05 Indigent Emeritus Members.**

Each year upon proper investigation and written recommendation of its elective officers, a Council may, by a majority vote, place upon the Indigent Emeritus list (and remit dues for same in such year) those members who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay dues. In order for the Council to be exempt from the per capita payment of the Grand Council Annual Revenue on such Indigent Emeritus members, the Illustrious Master and Recorder must certify on the Council Return that every Indigent Emeritus member is unable to pay dues in accord with this Regulation.

#### **26.06 Status when Demitted from Lodge.**

While it is the duty of every Cryptic Mason to be a member of some Symbolic Lodge, the fact of his holding a Demit does not affect his standing in the Council for twelve (12) months; after that time, if he fails to affiliate with a Lodge he shall stand Suspended from his Council.

**26.06 Demit.**

A member paying his dues in full and applying for a Demit prior to December 27th is not chargeable with Dues for the following year for want of action by the Council, as action thereon should have been taken on or before December 27th.

**26.07 Dual and Plural Membership.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #19) (2009)

Any member of a Council under a sister Grand Jurisdiction may apply for Dual Membership in a Constituent Council of this Jurisdiction when such sister Grand Jurisdiction permits such membership and the Bylaws of the Constituent Council similarly permit the same. Any member of a Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction may apply to and be elected to Plural Membership in any other Constituent Council or Constituent Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction, provided that such Council or Councils recognize and Permit Plural Membership in the Bylaws of the same; or any Council in another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Council and which permits Dual or Plural Membership. Involuntary termination of membership in any Constituent Council will terminate membership in all Constituent Councils in this Jurisdiction. A Plural Member with primal membership in a Council in Florida may not hold office in more than one Constituent Council at one and the same time. A Dual or Plural Member having his primal membership in any other Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to hold office in a Council in Florida. (As amended May, 1997)

**26.08 Dual and Plural Membership Defined.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #19) (2009)

Dual and Plural Membership are recognized and defined as: Dual Membership is membership in a Constituent Florida Council and a Council belonging to another Grand Jurisdiction; Plural Membership is membership in two or more Constituent Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction.

**CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN -- FINANCES, DUES, SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT, AND REINSTATEMENT**

**27.01 Suspension for Non-payment of Dues.**

Annual Dues are payable in advance as of December 27 of each year. Any member of a Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction who is in arrears for Annual Dues for six (6) months after due date specified must be notified of his delinquency; if he continues to be in arrears for twelve (12) months after due date specified in the Bylaws, he must be suspended for nonpayment of dues. However, a Council may act to relieve a worthy Companion found to be in distress. A member so suspended, after making satisfactory settlement and applying for reinstatement, may be reinstated by Ball Ballot -- which must be three-fourths favorable of the members present and voting.

**CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT--COUNCIL PROPERTY, OWNERSHIP AND USE**

**28.01 Chapter 196, F.S., and Form 990.**

All Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to comply with Chapter 196, Florida Statutes, concerning application for exemption from tax on real and personal property where applicable. All Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to comply with Federal internal Revenue Service Regulations concerning the filing of Form 990. The Recorder of the Council shall certify to the Grand Council compliance regularly.

**CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE--COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO GRAND COUNCIL**

**29.01 Council Representatives.**

The representatives of each Constituent Council to the Annual Assembly and Special Assemblies of the Grand Council shall be the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work of such Council or their lawfully authorized Proxies; the Illustrious Master or his Proxy shall receive per diem as provided herein.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY--COUNCIL RETURNS AND REPORTS TO GRAND COUNCIL**

### **30.01 Monthly Reports and Annual Returns.**

Each Constituent Council shall make monthly reports to the Office of the Grand Recorder, which reports shall be delivered to the Grand Recorder not later than the fifth day of each month. The Cryptic Year shall end on the 27th day of December of each year and each Constituent Council shall make Annual Returns for such year to the Grand Council, which Returns shall, together with a Per Capita Tax of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00), and such fees and levies as the Grand Council shall impose from time to time, be filed in the Office of the Grand Recorder on or before the first day of February of the year following. Any Constituent Council failing to make its Annual Return and to pay its required Per Capita Tax and other fees and levies, by February 15th shall be considered delinquent and shall not be entitled to representation in the Grand Council at its next Annual Assembly; if these Returns are not made as of the time the Annual Assembly convenes, the delinquent Council will be subject to Revocation of Charter, unless the Grand Council decides otherwise. [Amended May 2004; effective Dec. 2005]

### **30.02 Arrears of Reinstated Members.**

When a member suspended for non-payment of dues by a Chartered Council is reinstated, the Council shall be responsible for an account to Grand Council for that portion of arrears of such member as would be due the Grand Council for the year in which he was suspended, together with dues for the current year. This section is to apply to all members suspended for non-payment of dues during and after 1933.

### **30.03 Grand Council Levies.**

Each Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction shall pay to the Grand Council such fees and levies as the Grand Council shall impose from time to time by Constitutional and regular imposition. Provided, however, that members exempt from payment of dues by provisions of the Constitution and Regulations shall not be included and accounted for in the Returns; provided further, that the members who have membership in more than one Council during the year shall only be accounted for by the Council wherein such members had primal membership during the year, except in the case of newly-Chartered Councils. Members whose names appear upon the Returns of newly Chartered Councils shall be accounted for by such newly Chartered Councils only.

### **30.04 Remitting Arrears.**

A Council may remit arrears in dues, in whole or in part, when reinstatement is voted, but should have a regulation in their Bylaws to permit such action.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE--CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

### **31.01 Eligibility.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #17 & 18) (2009)

A candidate for the Cryptic Degrees in this Grand Jurisdiction must be a Regular Royal Arch Mason in good standing. He shall have established domicile in this Grand Jurisdiction for a period of at least one (1) year and in the Jurisdiction of the Constituent Council that he is petitioning for six (6) months immediately preceding the time of his application.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO--FEES FOR DEGREES AND REFUNDS**

### **32.01 Fees and Refunds.**

The Fee for the Degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master shall not be less than twenty dollars (\$20.00) in any Constituent Council of this Jurisdiction; of which half must be paid before receiving the Royal Master Degree and the balance paid before receiving the Select Master Degree. In no case may this Fee be waived. All fees submitted with a rejected Petition will be forthwith refunded to the Petitioner.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE--PETITIONS FOR DEGREES AND PROCEEDINGS THEREON**

### **33.01 Reception of Petitions.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #6) (2009)

Petitions shall only be received at Regular Assemblies, or with special Dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master at a Special Assembly, when at least ten (10) days notice has been given the Membership and providing that voting shall be within the domicile of the home Council where petitions are to be received. Each petition shall be referred to a committee of three (3) members of the Council being petitioned after being recommended by at least two (2) members of the Constituent Council who are acquainted with the applicant. Petitions may be acted upon at the same Assembly they are received, if the Investigating Committee reports.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR-- BALLOTING**

### **34.01 Procedure.**

After the Committee of Investigation makes its report, a Ball Ballot shall be taken; the Ballot must be unanimous in order to elect. If only one black ball or black cube shall appear, the Illustrious Master shall at once call for another Ballot; then, if there is still one or more negative ballots, the candidate shall be declared rejected, and the fee shall be returned. If the Ballot is unanimously affirmative the candidate shall be declared elected to receive the Cryptic Degrees. All balloting shall take place in the Select Master Degree, and all Degrees conferred in a Council are balloted for at one and the same time.

### **34.02 Ballot Not to Be Re-Opened.**

A dark Ballot cannot be re-opened on account of any irregularity, and no permission or authorization from the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall be granted for such purpose.

### **34.03 All Members Present Shall vote.**

Every Member of a Constituent Council present at the time a Ballot is taken for Degrees, Affiliation, or Reinstatement is required to vote.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE-- REJECTION OF CANDIDATES AND EFFECTS THEREOF**

### **35.01 Refund of Fees.**

Rejection of a Petition shall be followed by notification to the Petitioner of such action, and the refund of any and all fees accompanying such Petition.

### **35.02 Jurisdiction Retained.**

A Council retains jurisdiction over rejected material. A Petitioner rejected by a Council may not Petition another Council absent Waiver of Jurisdiction. The Waiver of Jurisdiction shall be given only by a unanimous Ball Ballot of the Constituent Council at a Stated Assembly. A rejected Petition may not be re-submitted within six (6) months of the date of its rejection.



## **CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX--INITIATION AND ADVANCEMENT**

### **36.01 Failure to Appear for Degrees.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #3) (2009)

Failure to receive the Cryptic Degrees within one (1) year after election thereto shall require the same procedure as a new applicant, except no additional fee is required unless the Bylaws require such.

### **36.02 Objection to Advancement.**

An objection to a candidate made by a Member of the Council petitioned and brought to the attention of the Illustrious Master before the election of the candidate, or before such candidate has received any of the Degrees, shall have the force and effect of a black cube. It shall stay the action of the Council for six (6) months, unless objection is sooner withdrawn. After expiration of six (6) months after such objection, or upon such objection being withdrawn, the case of such candidate may be again taken up or the petition renewed as in the case of a rejected candidate. After a candidate has been elected and has received one (1) or more Degrees and a Member of the Council objects to further progress of such candidate, such objector shall be required to present his reasons for such objection; either to the Illustrious Master in Person or to the Council; whereupon, the Illustrious Master or the Council shall take steps to investigate the matter and if such objection be well founded, further steps shall be taken to prefer charges and to try the candidate upon the alleged grounds of objection in the regular way of such proceedings. But, if it should appear to the Illustrious Master or the Council after such investigation that such objection is frivolous and not well founded, the Council may proceed as if said objection had never been made.

### **36.03 Festivals.**

There shall be selected by the Most Illustrious Grand Master (in concord with the Presiding Officers of the other Grand York Rite Bodies) a One Day Festival of all of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida which he may designate as a One Day State-Wide Class. The ritual work will be coordinated by the Committee on Work in conjunction with the Grand Officers and the assistance of the several District Deputy Grand Masters. The Grand Council may contribute a sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to help defray the expenses of the Festival.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN--FORMS AND CEREMONIES** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #9 & 15) (2009)

### **37.01 Deviation Forbidden.**

No deviation shall be permitted from the Work outlined in the ritual adopted by this Grand Council.

### **37.02 Altar Arrangement.**

At the opening of a Constituent Council, the Altar shall be arranged as follows:

a. In the Select Master Degree, the Holy Bible shall be opened, with the Square and Compasses upon it in the upper right hand, or S.E. corner, the Trowel in the lower left hand, or N.W. corner, pointing diagonally towards the Square and Compasses, and the Sword placed diagonally from the upper left hand, or N.E. corner towards the lower right hand, or S.W. corner, with the hilt in the East.

b. In the Royal Master Degree, all implements shall remain the same, except the Sword shall be removed.

### **37.03 Cryptic Aprons.**

The Cryptic Apron is white with a purple border; upon the Apron shall be emblazoned, in purple, the Emblem prescribed by the Esoteric Monitor; the Apron will be worn under the single-breasted coat when unbuttoned, but will be worn on the outside of all formal attire, double-breasted coats, and overcoats.

### **37.04 Aprons in Degrees.**

Workmen and candidates in Cryptic Degrees shall be furnished with plain, white Aprons to be worn as appropriate to the Ceremonies, as the Traditions and Legends peculiar to the Cryptic Degrees antedate those of the Sublime Holy Royal Arch.

### **37.05 Degrees Authorized.**

The Masonic Degrees authorized to be conferred by a Constituent Council under a Charter from this Grand Council shall be those of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master, and no others; The Degree of Super Excellent Master is not indispensable, though valuable, and the Order of the Silver Trowel is conferred only by the Council of Anointed Kings of this State under the authority of this Grand Council.

### **37.06 Jewels and Paraphernalia.**

Constituent Councils shall provide Jewels, Rituals, Robes and paraphernalia necessary to perform the Work properly.

### **37.07 Degree of Super Excellent Master.**

The Degree of Super Excellent Master need not be conferred with regularity by a Constituent Council; Councils Working this Degree should extend the utmost of fraternal courtesy in conferring the same upon members of other Councils at the request of such Councils.

### **37.08 Headdress of Super Excellent Master.**

All Cryptic Masons who have regularly received the Degree of Super Excellent Master shall have the privilege of wearing the peculiar headdress of that Degree at all Cryptic functions; when so worn, it shall be considered part of the clothing, and not removed for devotions nor patriotic homage to the flag.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT--COURTESY WORK**

### **38.01 Courtesy Work.**

A Council may confer any and all of the Cryptic Degrees upon a Candidate elected by another Regular Council, provided that written avouchment and request for such courtesy work be presented from the Candidate's Council and that the Recorder notify said Council that its request has been granted.

### **38.02 Illustrious Master May Arrange.**

The Illustrious Master may arrange for duly elected candidates of his Council to receive the Degrees in a Council other than his own.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE--VISITATION AND AVOUCHMENT**

### **39.01 Reception of Visitors.**

No one shall be admitted as a visitor unless he shall regularly have received the Degrees of Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, Royal Master, and Select Master; and not then except by unanimous consent of all Members present and after by strict trial or lawful information he shall be found worthy. Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall exclude Royal Masters from the right to visit while the Council is working in the Degree which they have attained.

### **39.02 Healing.**

This Grand Council decrees and herein delineates the means by which a member of the Grand Chapter of Virginia or the Grand Chapter of West Virginia or divers other Grand Chapters (wherein the Degrees of the Council are conferred in Chapters of Royal Arch Masons) may be Healed and become members of our Constituent Councils:

- a. A photo-static copy of the Grand Chapter Demit shall be used in lieu of a regular Demit.
- b. These affiliates need not pay any Initiation Fees, merely such Affiliation Fees as are incorporated in the Bylaws.
- c. Such a member may visit our Councils by assuming the Cryptic Obligations, after due verification that the member's Grand Chapter is properly constituted and that the Grand Secretary thereof is the proper person to sign the Certificate (the name of such Grand Secretary may be verified by the list of Grand Secretaries of other Grand Chapter Jurisdictions printed in the Annual Proceedings.)

## **CHAPTER FORTY--DEMITTS AND AFFILIATIONS**

### **40.01 Council Certificate of Good Standing.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #2 & 12) (2009)

A member of any Council in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, upon certification from the Recorder that said Petitioner is in good standing, may petition for membership in any Council in this Grand Jurisdiction without first having obtained a Demit from his Council--such petition taking the same course as any other petition for Affiliation. If such petition is approved by unanimous ballot of the Council petitioned, such fact shall be certified by the Recorder of the Council petitioned to the Recorder of the Council of which the Petitioner is a member, accompanied by the Petitioner's request for a Demit. Upon such Demit being granted, the same shall be filed with the Recorder of the Council petitioned and said Petitioner shall then be declared a member of the Council petitioned.

### **40.02 General Procedure.** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #2 & 6) (2009)

A petition for Affiliation shall take the same course as for Degrees, save that the domiciliary time is not required.

## **CHAPTER FORTY-ONE--COUNCILS UNDER DISPENSATION**

### **41.01 Authority and Status.**

A Council under Dispensation is a creation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, by virtue of a Constitutional provision. It possesses no power or authority except such as is expressly granted in the Dispensation. Its existence extends only to the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, to which its authority, records, and documents must be surrendered.

### **41.02 Current Dues Required.**

If a Dispensation or Charter be applied for, or a continuation of Dispensation, satisfactory evidence must appear that the petitioners are not in arrears for fees or dues to the Chartered Council of which they are respectively members; otherwise, their petition must be refused.

### **41.03 Standards Required.**

The records of a Council U. D. should exhibit a fair specimen of that intelligence and regularity of proceedings which are characteristic of a well-regulated Council of Cryptic Masons before a Charter be granted, and there should be evidence of fraternal prosperity.

### **41.04 Status of Officers.**

The Officers of a Council U. D. work under the immediate supervision and control of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. Such official honors as appertain to the duly elected and installed Officers of Chartered Councils do not inure to them.

## **CHAPTER FORTY-TWO--DEFUNCT COUNCILS** (Also see Rulings and Decisions #5) (2009)

### **42.01 Disposition of Assets.**

If any Council under the authority of this Grand Council shall cease to exist, except by consolidation, the last Illustrious Master or ranking Officer of such Council shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, transmit to the Grand Recorder all funds, books, papers, jewels, furniture, robes, Seal, and all other property, together with the Charter of said Council if said Charter has not been Arrested or removed by Order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master or by Grand Council.

## **CHAPTER FORTY-THREE--RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS**

### **43.01 Past Rank and Honors.**

At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, the Grand Council and Constituent Councils shall extend such honors and privileges to Past Grand Officers, Distinguished Capitular Companions and Sir Knights, Grand Officers of sister Grand Jurisdictions, Grand Officers of Symbolic Masonry, and other distinguished Masons as custom and circumstance require.

### **43.02 Honorary Rank.**

Honorary rank may be conferred by this Grand Council, but not by a Chartered Council.

### **43.03 Awards of Distinction.**

This Grand Council recognizes and approves of the Awards of Distinction known as the Cryptic Mason of the Year Medal, General Grand Council Youth Award, The Broken Triangle Plaque, The Ish-Sodi Medal, and the Walter I. Stephenson Grand Master's Medal, and the Most Illustrious Grand Master may appoint committees to assist him in the selection of the recipients of these awards.

a. Criteria for The Cryptic Mason of the Year Medal and The General Grand Council Youth Award shall be set by the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. All Companions who are the recipient of The Cryptic Mason of the Year Medal shall receive per diem to attend Annual Assemblies of this Grand Council and shall be recognized and honored, along with the recipient of The General Grand Council Youth Award, in a manner fitting the honor, by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

b. The Broken Triangle Plaque shall be presented to the constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction having the highest percentage of net membership gain for the calendar year preceding the Grand Assembly in which they receive it.

c. The Ish Sodi Award shall be presented to those Companions of this Grand Jurisdiction who shall have exhibited a continuing willingness to devote their time and ability for the good of Cryptic Masonry and toward the promotion of the welfare of York Rite of Freemasonry in general.

1. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may present up to six (6) awards per Cryptic year, and the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work may each make a recommendation for this Award.

2. The Award shall not be presented to a present officer of this Grand Council, or a Companion by virtue of his present or past status in another Grand York Rite Body, Rite, or System of Freemasonry, nor in any appendant or affiliated order thereof, except that District Deputies or Past District Deputies shall be eligible. This Award may not be presented posthumously to any Companion.

3. All Companions who are the recipient of this Award shall be recognized and honored, in a manner fitting the honor, by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

4. The form and design of this Award shall not hereafter be altered without the consent of this Grand Council at Annual Assembly

d. The Walter I. Stephenson Grand Master's Medal shall be presented annually to the Companion selected by the Most Illustrious Grand Master who has best demonstrated his dedication to Cryptic Masonry and the form and design of this Award shall not hereafter be altered without the consent of this Grand Council at Annual Assembly. (As amended May 1997)

e. The Keith W. Dean Ritual Competition Award shall be presented to the team found most proficient in the degree selected at the beginning of the Grand Council year by the incoming Grand Master.

1. Each team must be from a cast whose membership is entirely within one District (plural membership is sufficient).

2. The competition will be held on the day prior to the Annual Convention's start (usually the same day as Jurisprudence meetings).

3. The competition will be supervised and judged by the Committee on Work. None of the members of the Committee may be participants in any team.

4. The standards for grading shall be written. They shall be developed by the Committee on Work and approved by the Grand Master.

5. The competition shall include all work of the Degree, including lecture.

6. The award shall be in the form of a large plaque which provides for multiple District names and the form and format shall be approved by the Grand Master. The intent is

that the plaque shall remain with the winning District until the next Convention when it shall be re-awarded. (2010)

#### **43.04 Grand Honors.**

Only the General Grand Master or his Representative, the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his Deputy on official visits and Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters are entitled to receive Grand Honors, except as provided for recognition of longevity in these Regulations.

#### **43.05 Certificates of Longevity and Presentation.**

Certificates of Longevity shall be of two classes:

a. A Companion who has been a Cryptic Mason in good standing for a Period of Twenty-five (25) and forty (40) years and who has not been disciplined, suspended or expelled for an offense involving moral turpitude, and is a member of a Florida Council, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of such length of membership by the Recorder of his Council to the Grand Recorder, and said evidence being certified correct and final judgment being given on the eligibility by the Grand Recorder and approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, shall be entitled to receive a Certificate, a Silver Card and a Silver Lapel Button issued by the Grand Council; provided, that the Council shall carry the name of the Companion on its regular roll of membership and shall pay to the Grand Council all annual per capita taxes and assessments for said Companion.

b. A Companion who has been a Cryptic Mason in good standing, for a period of fifty, fifty-five, sixty, sixty-five or seventy years, and who has not been disciplined, suspended or expelled for an offense involving moral turpitude, and is a member of a Florida Council, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of such length of membership by the Recorder of his Council to the Grand Recorder, and such evidence being certified correct and final judgment being given on the eligibility by the Grand Recorder and approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, shall be entitled to receive a Certificate, a Gold Card and A Gold Lapel Button and if twenty-five (25) years of such services have been in a Florida Council or Councils, shall be exempt from all Grand Council annual per capita tax, dues, and assessments.

c. Forms for applying for Life Membership class and under the Certificate of Membership (Longevity) class will be furnished by the office of the Grand Recorder.

d. The Certificates for Twenty-five, Forty, Fifty, Fifty-Five, Sixty, Sixty-five and Seventy Year Membership, the Silver and Gold Cards, and the Silver and Gold Lapel Buttons shall be obtained from the office of the Grand Recorder.

e. Presentation Ceremonies.

(1) At the time of presentations of the Fifty, Fifty-five, Sixty, Sixty-five and Seventy Year Certificate, Gold Card, and Gold Lapel Button, the Companion receiving same shall be entitled to the Private Cryptic Grand Honors; provided that such Grand Honors shall be given only in a Tyled Assembly.

(2) When a recognized Grand Jurisdiction requests that one of its members be presented a Fifty, or greater, Year Certificate by a Florida Council, the recipient, if presentation is made in a Tyled Council Room shall be accorded the Private Cryptic Grand Honors unless the Grand Jurisdiction requests that it not be done.

f. The Grand Recorder shall maintain a supply of lapel pins in accord with the requirements of this Regulation, which shall be issued as requested by the Recorders of the several Councils, which Councils shall be billed the cost of same. Nothing herein shall preclude the several Grand York Rite Bodies of this State from promulgating a unified design of lapel pin and joint presentation ceremony, which unified design and joint ceremony -- if promulgated -- shall supersede any provision herein to the contrary.

### **CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR -- PENAL MATTERS**

#### **44.01 Procedure and Regulations Adopted.**

The regulations of the Grand Lodge shall govern in all cases of charges and trials consequent upon such charges.

#### **44.02 Original Jurisdiction of Grand Council.**

In case of charges against a Council or against an Illustrious Master, or by one Council against another,

such charges shall be referred to Grand Council, if in session, or during recess of the Grand Council to the Most Illustrious Grand Master; and when presented to the latter he shall immediately appoint a committee of three, one of whom shall be a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master and the other two Illustrious Masters or Past Illustrious Masters from disinterested Councils; they shall hear, try, and determine the matter, reporting their proceedings, conclusions, and decision thereon to the Most Illustrious Grand Master; their decisions, if approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, shall be final unless appealed to and reversed by Grand Council.

#### **44.03 Loss of Prerequisite Membership.**

Prerequisite for Membership in Constituent Councils under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Council is proper Affiliation in a Regular Lodge of Master Masons and a legally Constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Continuous membership in both Lodge and Chapter is necessary to maintain membership in a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. Any member failing to maintain such membership shall be notified that he is suspended in the Council until such time as he may have proof of good standing in both the Lodge and the Chapter. If such action is made before December 27th of that year, and he has already paid his current year's dues to the Council, then he will be reinstated, instant, upon proof of his good standing. If this proof is received after December the 27th, he must make application for reinstatement to be presented at a Regular Assembly of the Council, with a three fourths affirmative ballot of the membership present for reinstatement.

### **CHAPTER FORTY FIVE -- AMENDMENT**

#### **45.01 Notice and Procedure.**

These Regulations may be amended, revised, or changed by Resolution, which must be presented to the Grand Recorder in proper form at least sixty (60) days prior to the next Annual Grand Assembly. The Grand Recorder shall give each Most Illustrious Past Grand Master, Grand Officer, District Deputy, and Recorder of Constituent Council forty-five (45) days notice of the same (by providing each with a copy of such proposal); Email delivery shall fulfill this requirement and in addition the Grand Recorder shall cause a copy of the proposal to be posted on the Grand York Rite website; .and present the Resolution at the next Annual Assembly for adoption. A majority of not less than two-thirds of the qualified members, present and voting, shall be required to adopt the Resolution. (2011)

##### **a. Proper Form**

1. Title of Change
2. State section of constitution and paragraph as it now exists.
3. State section of Constitution and paragraph with changes requested.
4. If new paragraph/s is to be added, give number of section followed by adding (a.; b; etc.) for each new paragraph. (Example: 45.01 Notice and Procedure, 45.01 a. Proper Form; 45.01 b. ----)

#### **45.02 Repealing Clause.**

All Regulations heretofore in force are abrogated and repealed.

### **CHAPTER FORTY-SIX - GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL & SELECT MASTERS OF FLORIDA INVESTMENT POLICY:**

#### **46.01 Investment Purpose and Policy**

The purpose of this statement is to establish and communicate the long-term objectives, goals and the investment guidelines of those funds, which should from time to time be assigned to the Registered Investment Advisor(s), and the selected Registered Representative(s) broker-dealer.

The Strategic Investment Policy of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida shall be reviewed and/or revised and set forth for the ensuing Cryptic year at the annual Budget and Finance Committee meeting in the spring of each year.

The actual Asset Allocation among the available investment vehicles/instruments shall remain a decision of the presiding Most Illustrious Grand Master in conjunction with the Investment Advisory committee of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida.

Funding of the investments shall comprise those monies of the Grand Council not considered as

operating revenues required to ensure the Grand Council to operate one year. This policy is set forth with the intent to protect the Grand Council in the event that a loss of one year's projected Per Capita income or equal to the Pro Forma budget based on previous years' expenditures, at the presiding fiduciaries' discretion.

Expenditures of realized income available from dividends, interest and capital gains shall not exceed seventy-five percent (75) of such gains, retaining twenty-five percent (25) for growth purposes each fiscal year of the Grand Council. In the event that market indices are lower than financial objectives in a given year, access to the twenty-five percent of income annually set aside for growth purposes will be made available to meet operating expenses above per capita returns, not to exceed the Pro Forma approved budget in that fiscal year.

An amount equal to the approved Pro Forma budget shall be set aside in a liquid, interest bearing account to ensure fiscal responsibilities are expeditiously funded. This account shall be managed at the discretion of the Grand Treasurer and subject to audit and fiscal reporting.

#### **46.02 Investment Objectives**

The primary investment objective for the designated funds is to seek a rate of return comparable to or greater than market indices over a market cycle of three (3) or more years. Average yield for a ten-year market cycle should be managed to achieve the average market indices for that period and such management shall be considered successful and prudent investing for the Craft.

By recommending appropriate Registered Investment Advisor(s)/Manager(s), the Fiduciary and Financial Advisory Committee seeks to maintain a moderate to moderately aggressive balanced Portfolio consisting of cash equivalents, fixed income and equity investments, diversified globally for maximum potential long term appreciation.

#### **46.03 Investment Strategy**

Maximization of income to augment Per Capita revenue shall be achieved by investment of the available funds of the Grand Council. The funds shall be invested in instruments which mitigate excessive risk, yet provides an opportunity to obtain a yield equal to or greater than the current standard market indices over a market cycle of three (3) or more years. Investment recommendations of the Investment Advisory Committee, together with the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary/Recorder shall be taken under consideration by the current Grand Master quarterly. Asset allocation strategy which places forty percent of available funds in minimum risk, principle retaining Fixed income accounts, (e.g. Annuity Mutual Funds, Bonds or similar vehicles) and sixty percent of available funds placed in moderate risk, maximum yield return on investment equities, (e.g. Blue Chip Stocks and/or high performance Stock Funds or similar vehicles) shall be a baseline investment position to be reviewed/revised on a quarterly basis.

#### **46.04 Investment Goals**

It shall be the goal of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary/Recorder, the Investment Advisory Committee, together with the Registered Investment Advisor/Manager to preserve the principle of the designated funds and maximize yield potential, given the Investment Advisor/Managers investment approach and objectives set forth by the above named officers.

The Grand Council acknowledges that the economy and financial markets entail risks, are at times volatile and subject to cycles which can affect performance of the Portfolio, either positively or negatively during any given period.

It shall be the function of the Investment Advisory Committee together with the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary/Recorder to monitor and recommend any changes in Advisor(s)/Manager(s) and/or the allocation of assets between Advisor(s)/Manager(s) to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, for his action in order to maintain the objectives of the Investment Advisory committee.

#### **46.05 Procedures**

The Grand Treasurer shall keep separate accounting records of the allocated real income and report quarterly in addition to and with the monthly Income and Expense Report. The report shall contain a listing of the investment instruments and their current value.

The Grand Secretary/Recorder shall receive from the custodian:

- (1) Quarterly performance reports summarizing the Portfolio's results.
- (2) Monthly statements summarizing security holdings

These reports shall be provided to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and the Investment Advisory Committee in a timely manner, ensuring timely financial decisions.

The Registered Representative(s) and each Investment Advisor/Manager will be readily available to discuss Portfolio activities and investment strategy. Quarterly reviews shall be held to discuss and evaluate the Portfolio's status.

The Investment Advisory Committee of the Grand Council, together with the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary/Recorder, shall review investment asset allocation quarterly. Reallocation or continued present strategy recommendations shall be made to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, who serves as fiduciary for the Grand Council. Due diligence shall be the watchword of the Grand Officer(s) and the Investment Advisory Committeemen, ensuring responsible fiscal accountability to the Craft.



**APPENDIX A  
UNIFORM CODE OF BYLAWS**

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**UNIFORM CODE OF BYLAWS  
APPROVAL FORM**

The items below are all those which shall be determined by each individual Council to satisfy its own individual Bylaw Requirements. This is the Approved Form to be used for keeping a Council's Bylaws, all on one page, but see the Regulations adopted by Grand Council for the Government of all Constituent Lodges, to be their uniform code of Bylaws.

Council Name \_\_\_\_\_; No. \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Council Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Council Charter Date \_\_\_\_\_ Council Domicile (location) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Assembly Dates \_\_\_\_\_; Hour \_\_\_\_\_ Annual

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ (In Advance for 12/28-12/27)

Fees for Degrees \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 Minimum)

Fees for Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

Life membership Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Any other Bylaw that is needed and adopted by an Individual Council shall be attached hereto, after it has been approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Council:

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Dated Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Council Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Most Illustrious Grand Master

Attest:

Grand Recorder  
(Seal)

Council's Illustrious Master

Attest:

Council's Recorder  
(Seal)

Date filed \_\_\_\_\_ by Grand Recorder

Each Constituent Council shall use this Form to send to the Most Illustrious Grand Master four (4) copies of all their present Bylaws. One copy will be returned to the Council after approval and the other three copies kept on file by the Grand Recorder, Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Jurisprudence Committee. (2009)

**UNIFORM CODE OF BYLAWS FOR  
CONSTITUENT COUNCILS**

(Note: Parts in Brackets "[ ]", are comments and instructions; parts in Brackets "{}", optional provisions)

**BYLAWS OF \_\_\_\_\_ [ N A M E ] \_\_\_\_\_ COUNCIL  
NO  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS**

**ARTICLE I.**

**Name**

The name of this Council shall be \_\_\_\_\_ [full name] \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ [number] \_\_\_\_\_, Royal and Select Masters (Cryptic Masons). It exists by virtue of a Charter dated \_\_\_\_\_ [date] \_\_\_\_\_, from the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, and is located at \_\_\_\_\_ [city] \_\_\_\_\_, Florida.

**ARTICLE II**

**Assemblies (2009)**

The regular Assemblies of this Council shall be held \_\_\_\_\_ [place & time of meeting] \_\_\_\_\_.  
[Each Council shall in its bylaws designate the time and place of its regular Assemblies, and shall report the same to the Grand Recorder.]

**Section 1.** All general business, including the reception of petitions and balloting for candidates shall be transacted at Regular Assemblies; Provided, that Special or Called Assemblies may be held at any time upon the call of the Illustrious Master. If business of a general nature is to be considered at such Special or Called Assembly, all members of the Council shall have written notice at least ten days prior to such Called Assembly, said notice to state fully the nature of the business to be considered; provided, further, that this Council may hold Regular or Special Assemblies in any lodge room within its territorial jurisdiction for the purpose of creating interest in Cryptic Masonry, and at such Assemblies may transact such business as is prescribed by its bylaws or by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Council

**ARTICLE III**

**Officers**

**Section 1.** The Officers of this Council shall consist of an Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Chaplain, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, and Sentinel.

**Section 2.** The style of the Illustrious Master shall be "Illustrious" and of the other Officers is "Companion".

**ARTICLE IV**

**Election and Installation of Officers**

**Section 1.** The Annual Election of Officers shall take place on or after the last Stated Assembly in November and by December 27th. December 27th may be used by any Council for a Stated Assembly date if due and timely notice is given to its members.

a. The first five Officers, namely: Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, and Recorder, shall be elected by a majority Ballot of all those present and voting.

b. The election shall be held without nomination and by secret written ballot except that, by unanimous consent, the rules may be waived, nominations made, and a member designated to cast the unanimous vote of the Council for the nominee.

c. The remaining Officers and all Committees shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master-Elect.

**Section 2.** The Annual Installation of Officers shall take place on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist

(December 27th), or as soon thereafter as expedient, but not later than the 28th day of January.

## ARTICLE V

### Seal

The Seal of the Council shall be \_\_\_\_\_ (description) \_\_\_\_\_ and be in the custody of the Recorder.

## ARTICLE VI

### Committees

**Section 1.** The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor Of Work shall be a standing Committee of Charity, shall have power to draw warrants on the Treasurer for any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the relief of any one applicant, and such action shall be reported to the Council at its next ensuing stated Assembly. In addition to the Charity provided above, at each Assembly a charity box shall be passed before the Council Closes, and the funds collected turned over to the Committee to disburse at its discretion. No restraint shall be placed upon the discretion of the Committee and, when a contribution is made to an individual, he shall not be informed from whence the charity came.

**Section 2.** The Illustrious Master, immediately after his installation shall appoint the following standing Committees, who shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed:

a. A Finance Committee, consisting of three (3) members, whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all accounts presented against the Council. The Deputy Master shall chair such Committee.

b. A Committee for the Visitation of the Sick, consisting of three (3) members, whose duty it shall be to endeavor to obtain information relative to all sick Companions and to visit them and tender them such care and attention as their case may require; detailing, if necessary, such members of the Council as to them shall seem proper, to share with them this fraternal duty.

c. An Entertainment Committee, consisting of [number] members, to provide suitable programs for social gatherings and to perform such duties enjoined upon it by the Council from time to time, for the entertainment of its members.

d. A Vigilance Committee, consisting of three (3) members, to assure that the integrity of the Masonic Fraternity is maintained.

e. A Committee on Delinquency, consisting of five (5) members, of which the Illustrious Master and Recorder shall be two. It shall be the duty of this Committee to inquire into, consider and report to the Council its recommendations in reference to members of the Council who are subject to suspension for nonpayment of dues.

**Section 3.** The Illustrious Master shall, at the time of the annual election of officers, appoint an Audit Committee, consisting of three (3) members, whose duty it shall be to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and the Recorder at the close of the Cryptic year and report conditions found at the time of Installation or at a following Assembly. The Deputy Master shall chair the Committee.

## ARTICLE VII

### Illustrious Master

It shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master to preside at each Assembly and see that the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, and the customs of Cryptic Masonry are duly observed and enforced.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Recorder**

It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep a regular list of the members, and record the transactions of the Council which are proper to be converted to writing. He shall receive all moneys paid into the Council and shall promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer. He shall give due notice when directed, by advertising or otherwise, of the time of holding each Assembly. He shall make an annual report to the Council, at the Regular Annual Assembly, of the state of the funds of the Council, embracing an account of the receipts and expenditures, for the preceding year up to and including the Regular Assembly preceding the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and oftener if required. He shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the Grand Council. He shall, pursuant to Regulation, be bonded with a Bonding Company listed in the Federal Treasury List in an amount set by Regulation or Order of the Grand Council; such bond to be on file in the Grand Recorder's Office.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall receive from the Recorder all the moneys collected by him on account of the Council. He shall keep a correct account of the same and duly pay all orders drawn on him by authority of the Council. He shall make regular entries both of receipts and disbursements, and have his books and vouchers always ready for examination, when called upon for that purpose. He shall also report to the Council the state of the funds yearly and oftener, if required. He shall, pursuant to Regulation, be bonded with a Bonding Company listed in the Federal Treasury List in an amount set by Regulation or Order of the Grand Council; such bond to be on file in the Grand Recorder's Office.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Petitions (2009)**

The Degrees of the Council shall not be conferred for a sum less than [at least \$25.00] dollars, which must be paid with the Petition, and then only upon Royal Arch Masons who members are in good standing of Regular Chapters and Symbolic Lodges, whose Petitions have been duly presented in writing at a Regular or Special Assembly and reported upon by a Committee of no less than three (3) Companions. At the discretion of the Council, Petitions may be acted upon at the time of the report.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**Dues**

The annual dues of this Council shall be                   [amount]                   dollars, plus the annual per capita of the Grand Council plus such sums as the Grand Council shall from time to time prescribe, plus the per capita sum as the General Grand Council may prescribe, payable in advance at the beginning of each Council Year, to wit: December 28th of each year.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Failure to Appear for Degrees**

When the ballot has been passed on the Petition of any Brother for the Degrees conferred in this Council, and said Brother shall fail to present himself within one (1) year from the date of the ballot, he shall be deprived of the benefit of said ballot, and said Petition shall be null and void-- provided that said Brother shall have been duly notified of his election by this Council. Provided, however, that for satisfactory reason shown, the Council may in such case retain the fee accompanying the Petition; provided that said Brother may again Petition and upon his election, will be given credit for the fee previously paid. If the Petitioner is rejected upon repetition, the fee paid by him shall be returned.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues

Whenever any member shall be six (6) months or more in arrears for dues, the Recorder shall notify such delinquent, by written notice by first class mail to his last known address, state therein the amount owing for said dues and that unless the same shall be paid within thirty days after such notification or satisfactory reason given, such delinquent may be suspended at the discretion of the Council. If thirty (30) days after such notice has been given, the dues remain unpaid, the Recorder shall issue a summons or notice to the delinquent to be present at a Regular Assembly of the Council to answer the charge of delinquency or neglect, and show cause why he should not be suspended, such notice to be served at least ten (10) days before the Assembly appointed for the hearing. If the delinquent Companion does not appear after service of the notice, a default shall be entered against him, the Recorder's account being a sufficient charge, and he shall be suspended by action of the Council. If a member so suspended pays all delinquent dues together with dues for the current year within one (1) year after he has been suspended, he shall stand reinstated instanter. If the Member fails to pay the delinquent dues within one (1) year, he shall be required to file a Petition for Reinstatement accompanied by the current and delinquent dues. The said Petition may be considered at any Regular Assembly and shall require a two-thirds vote of the Members present for reinstatement.

## ARTICLE XIV

### Super Excellent Master Degree

Each Member shall be encouraged to obtain the Degree of Super Excellent Master, and to wear the headdress peculiar to such Degree at all Cryptic functions.

## ARTICLE XV

### Demits

A Demit may be granted to a Companion upon his making application in writing, at a Regular Assembly of the Council, without vote, provided the said Companion is not in arrears for dues or under charges. The Demit shall date from the time it is applied for.

## ARTICLE XVI

### Membership

#### Section 1. Emeritus Members. {Optional Section}

**a. By Necessity.** This Council may, by two-thirds vote at a Regular Assembly, create as an Indigent Emeritus Member such Companions as from age, infirmity, or misfortune have been incapacitated and unable to pay dues, thereby exempting such Members from annual dues to the Council and the Grand Council. The Recorder shall file with the Grand Recorder each year a certificate setting forth the full name and address of the Member and a complete statement of the reasons for creating such Emeritus Membership.

**b. For Merit.** The honorary title of Emeritus Member may be conferred by a two-thirds vote at a Regular Assembly on a deserving Member for long membership and for distinguished service to the Capitular Rite. This Council shall pay to the Grand Council all annual dues, taxes, and assessments of such Member.

**c. Removal from List.** The Council may, by a majority vote, take any such Member listed pursuant to Subsection a. above, off the Emeritus List when he is able to pay his dues. Special notice shall be immediately given to the Grand Council of such action.

**Section 2. Life Membership.** This Council may only create Life Members, who remain in affiliation in Symbolic Lodge and Chapter, in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of FL. This

Council \_\_\_\_\_ [elects/does not elect] to participate in the Plan set forth in Regulation 26.03.

**Section 3. Past Rank and Honors.** At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, this Council shall extend such honors and privileges to Past Grand Officers, Distinguished Capitular Companions and Sir Knights, Grand Officers of sister Grand Jurisdictions, Grand Officers of Symbolic Masonry, and other distinguished Masons as custom and circumstance require.

**Section 4. Dual Membership.** {Optional Section} Any member of a Constituent Council in another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Council of Florida which permits Dual Membership may apply for, and be elected to, membership in this Council.} (2009)

**Section 5. Plural Membership.** {Optional Section} Any member of a Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction may apply for, and be elected to, membership in this Council. Provided, however, that such member may not hold office in more than one Council at the same time. (2009)

**Section 6. Termination.** {Optional Section--must be enacted if Dual or Plural Membership is permitted} Involuntary termination of a Dual or Plural Member's membership in any Constituent Council will automatically terminate his membership in this Council. (2009)

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **Vacancies in Office**

Vacancies in elective offices can occur only by death, resignation, Demit removal after Installation beyond the jurisdiction of the Grand Council, promotion at an election to fill vacancies, or by Suspension or Expulsion. The first three elective offices cannot be vacated by resignation.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **Vacancies, How Filled**

The Council may fill vacancies in any of the elective Offices except that of Illustrious Master, by ballot at any Regular Assembly but, in case of a vacancy in the office of Illustrious Master, an election may be held only at a Regular Assembly, the members being duly summoned for that purpose, and by virtue of authority from the Most Illustrious Grand Master which must be applied for by the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor Of Work, with a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Regular Assembly, to be certified by the Recorder under the Seal of the Council. Vacancies in appointed offices shall be filled by the Illustrious Master. After such vacancy is filled the Recorder shall certify the name and address to the Grand Recorder.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **No Appeal**

There can be no appeal to the Council from the decision of the Illustrious Master; however, three (3) or more members of the Council may appeal to the Grand Council or to the Most Illustrious Grand Master from a decision of the Illustrious Master.

## **ARTICLE XX**

### **Funds**

The funds of this Council shall be deposited, by the Treasurer, in a bank to be designated by the Council. The account must always stand in the name of [name of Council from Article I] and not in the name of the Treasurer, either officially or individually. Provided that upon mutual agreement among the Chapter, Council and Commandery; Chapter, Council, and Commandery funds may be deposited in a joint fund in the name of the York Rite Bodies of [name].

## **ARTICLE XXI**

### **Annual Return**

The Recorder shall make Annual Returns to the Grand Recorder, upon blanks furnished by the Grand Recorder. Such returns shall be signed by the newly installed Illustrious Master, and shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder on or before the 27th day of January each year; together with the full amount of per capita tax and fees due Grand Council.

## **ARTICLE XXII**

### **Amendments**

**Section 1 By Council.** Proposed Bylaws or any change in or amendment to existing Bylaws shall be submitted in writing at a regular Assembly, and --if approved by a majority vote shall lie over for one month, or to the corresponding Regular Assembly in the following month, during which time due and timely notice of such proposal shall be given to the members of the Council. If two-thirds of all the members of the Council then present vote in favor thereof, such change or amendment is adopted and will go into effect upon approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or by his authority. Proposed Bylaws or amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Most Illustrious Grand Master in quadruplicate, all four copies to be signed by the Illustrious Master and the Recorder and under the Seal of the Council giving the dates when such Bylaws or amendments were first submitted and approved and when adopted by the Council. When approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Original will be returned to this Council, for its archives. (2009)

**Section 2 Amendments to Uniform Code.** Amendments to these Bylaws because of changes made in the Uniform Code of Bylaws by the Grand Council shall become effective after Notice to the members, entry in the Minutes of the Council and entry in the written Bylaws of the Council; no vote shall be required. The Recorder shall notify the Grand Recorder of such amendment.

## **ARTICLE XXIII**

### **Books**

This Council shall adopt and keep a Code of Bylaws, a Record Book of the Proceedings of the Council, and a Ledger of the payments of its members.



## **APPENDIX B THE TEN QUESTIONS**

These are to be asked before Illustrious Master takes office.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will use your utmost endeavors to correct the vices and purify the morals of your Companions, and to promote the peace and prosperity of your Council?
2. That you not suffer your Council to be opened, closed, or perform any labor when there are LESS THAN NINE REGULAR Select Masters present?
3. That you will not suffer anyone to pass the circle of perfection in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence?
4. That you will not acknowledge or hold intercourse with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority?
5. That you will not admit a visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the degrees conferred therein, without his having previously been formally healed?
6. That you will promote the general good of the Craft, and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instructions, particularly from the Grand Officers, and will resign the chair to them severally, when they may visit your Council?
7. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers when Duly installed, and sustain them in the discharge of their lawful duties?
8. That you will faithfully observe and support such Bylaws as may be made by your Council in conformity with the Constitution, Laws and General Regulations of Cryptic Masonry?
9. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave in open Council with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions?
10. Do you submit to ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS AND PROMISE TO OBSERVE AND PRACTICE THEM FAITHFULLY?

(Answer, "I Do")

(If the installation is conducted in a Tyled meeting, the above Ten questions should be asked the incoming Illustrious Master immediately after the Grand Chaplain has offered the opening prayer).

**APPENDIX C**  
**INSTALLATION CEREMONIES**  
**Public or Private**

When all is in readiness, the installing officer will inform the Ill. Grand Marshal, who shall place the officers elected and selected West of the altar, beginning with the Illustrious Master-elect at the South of the line. This may be done by calling names, or by marching in from the ante-room.

Ill Gr. M.: M.I. Grand Master, I here present before you these worthy Companions, who have been duly elected and selected to preside over and conduct the affairs of this Council for the ensuing year, and now declare themselves ready for installation.

M. I. Gr. Master: (Calls up Council \* \* \*, then says) Worthy Companions, before proceeding to invest you with the honors and responsibilities of the office to which each of you have been chosen, I shall ask the Illustrious Grand Chaplain to invoke the blessings of the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe. Illustrious Grand Chaplain, lead us in Prayer.

Ill. Gr. Chaplain: Appropriate Prayer

M. I. Gr. Master: Companions, it now becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of your office. You will each place your right hand over your heart; say, I, (pronounce you name in full and repeat after me the obligation): I , do solemnly promise and vow, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of the State of Florida, and the Bylaws of this Council and that I will, to the utmost of my knowledge and ability, discharge the duties of the office to which, and for the time, I have been chosen, So Help Me God.

(Most Illustrious Grand Master seats Council \*)

Ill. Gr. Marshal (Presents Ill. Master-Elect, and says):

M. I. Grand Master, I present worthy Companion \_\_\_\_\_, to be installed Illustrious Master of Council No Royal & Select Masters. I find him to be well skilled in the Royal Mysteries and Sacred Principles of our Fathers, and in whose fidelity and integrity his Companions have the utmost confidence.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion, , it is with entire confidence in your ability and integrity as a Select Master that I now proceed to invest you with the duties and responsibilities of your office, but let me admonish you to always conduct yourself in a manner which will gain the admiration and respect of your Companions. Having answered in the affirmative the necessary questions propounded to you previously, I consider it an honor and privilege to receive you as the Illustrious Master of this Council. It is the highest honor that the Companions can bestow upon you. With this honor comes the responsibility to perform all the duties of the office with Zeal and Fidelity, and to preside over your Council with moderation and decorum. Ill. Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the Insignia of his office and conduct him to the East.

(The Most Illustrious Grand Master then presents the Illustrious Master to the Council).

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M. I. Grand Master, I present Companion \_\_\_\_\_, who is ready to be installed Deputy Master of this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion \_\_\_\_\_, as the Second Officer in this Council, your station is on the RIGHT of the Illustrious Master. You are to assist him in the discharge of the duties of his office, and in his absence to preside over the Council. It is therefore essential that you familiarize yourself with the opening and closing ceremonies, so that, if called upon to do so, you may assume the station. Ill. Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station on the right of the Illustrious Master in the East.

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M. I. Grand Master, I present Companion \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected to serve as Principal Conductor of the Work of this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion \_\_\_\_\_ , as the Third Officer in this Council, your station is on the LEFT of the Illustrious Master. It is your duty to see that contention and discord do not arise among the Companions. As you may be called on to preside over the Council in the absence of the Ill. Master and Deputy Master, I urge you to become familiar with the duties of that office, and to be prepared to assume it, should the occasion arise. Ill. Gr. Marshal, you will present him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station in the East.

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M. I. Grand Master, I present Companion \_\_\_\_\_ , who has been elected Treasurer of this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion \_\_\_\_\_ , your Companions have elected you to a very important and responsible office. It is your duty to number and weigh out the shekels of the sanctuary. You are to keep a true account of the funds of the Council and render a statement of the same when called for. Ill. Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station on the right of the Grand Council in the East.

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M.I. Grand Master, I present Companion \_\_\_\_\_ , who has been elected Recorder of this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion, the office to which you have been elected is most important, because the success of any organization depends largely on the efficiency of the Recorder. You are to keep a record of the transactions of the Council, and are responsible for all of the monies that pass through your hands until delivered to the Treasurer, and to keep a record of the same. Ill. Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station at the left of the Grand Council in the East.

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M.I. Grand Master, I now present Companion, who has been chosen Chaplain of this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion, you have been chosen Chaplain of this Council and entrusted with the duty of offering up devotions and reciting the traditional prayers. As no organization can succeed without the proper respect in its conversations with the Heavenly Father so be ever prepared to lead this Council to a high spiritual level. Ill. Grand Marshal, you will invest him with his insignia of office and conduct him to his station in front of and to the right of the Deputy Master.

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M. I. Grand Master, I now present Companion., who has been chosen Captain of the Guard of this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion, your station is in the WEST. You are to act as Marshal on all necessary occasions, and to maintain order and decorum in the Council. Pay particular attention to the orders of the Ill. Master, as it is your duty to see that they are promptly executed. Ill. Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station.

Ill. Gr. Marshal: M. I. Grand Master, I now present Companion, who has been chosen Conductor of Council for this Council.

M. I. Gr. Master: Companion, your station is in the SOUTH, and your duties correspond to those of the Senior Deacon in the Lodge. You are to prepare, introduce and conduct candidates for the several degrees, attend at the altar, examine visitors, and see that they are made welcome. Ill. Grand Marshal, invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station.

Ill. Grand Marshal: M. I. Grand Master I now present Companion, who has been chosen Steward of this Council.

M.I. Gr. Master: Companion, your station is inside the inner door and while it is one of the minor offices, it is by no means the least important. You will attend alarms at the inner door and by the order of the Illustrious Master, admit only the Select, the Worthy and the Faithful. Ill Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station.

Ill. Grand Marshal: M. I. Grand Master I now present Companion, who has been chosen Marshal of this Council. (Optional)

M.I. Gr. Master: Companion \_\_\_\_\_, your station is on the Left of the Captain of the Guard. It is your duty to assist him in the discharge of his duties as well as to be near at hand to execute the orders of the I. M. Ill Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station.

Ill. Grand Marshal: M. I. Grand Master I now present Companion, who has been chosen Sentinel of this Council.

M.I. Gr. Master: Companion, your station is inside the outer door which you will guard with vigilance, allowing none to enter but those who are duly qualified. As you are the first to meet members and visitors alike, your warm and cheery smile and friendly greetings will have much to do with the success of this Council. Ill Grand Marshal, you will invest him with the insignia of his office and conduct him to his station.

M. Ill. Gr. Master: All Members of this Council please arise. My Companions, from the nature of every society, some must rule and others obey. Justice and moderation are required of all of the officers, while respect for the rules are required for the members. Without mutual cooperation, the labors of neither can succeed. Ill. Grand Marshal: You will make the Proclamation.

Ill. Grand Marshal: In the name, and by the authority of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Florida, I proclaim the Officers of Council No. , duly installed for the ensuing year.

M. Ill Gr. Master: Grand Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

Ill.Gr. Chaplain: Appropriate prayer.

**APPENDIX D**  
**GRAND HONORS; FORM**

Grand Honors will be given after the honored guest has been conducted to the East. In this manner, he will be facing all Companions present while receiving Grand Honors.

Official Guests will be received in the following manner: Conductor of Council will retire when official party has arrived or made it known they are ready to enter Council where he will make the proper alarm and announcement for re-entry to Council. Conductor of Council will then lead procession on re- entry to Council to a line West of the altar. After proper salutation, he will conduct official guest to altar for introduction to the Illustrious Master and the Companions. (Official Party will stand fast, West of altar). The Illustrious Master will make proper remarks and then request Conductor of Council to conduct the official guest to the East. As soon as Conductor of Council has returned to line of the Official Party, the Illustrious Master requests members to give Private Grand Honors. The Official Party do not take part in Grand Honors. The Illustrious Master, at this time, offers the gavel to the Official Guest. If Guest declines, he then requests the Conductor of Council to introduce the Official Party.

Private Grand Honors will be given in the following manner:

1. P1 ou eys. three left;
2. Chp 'f hnds, three right;
3. Bdy qrtd & thrn amng rubsh, three left.

**APPENDIX E**  
**ACT OF INCORPORATION**  
**CHAPTER 38324**

**Laws of Florida, Acts of 1953**

**An Act to Incorporate the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, and  
all Subordinate or Particular Councils Chartered Thereby.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1** That the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Principal Conductor of Work of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Florida, as such order now exists, and as its officers are now constituted, consisting exclusively of Royal and Select Masters of the white race, and their successors in office, be and they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name and style of "The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida," and as such shall be capable and liable in law to sue and be sued, to contract and be contracted with, to plead and be impleaded, and to acquire, own, hold, possess and convey property, either real, personal or mixed, either by purchase, gift or devise; and to issue charters according to its own constitutions, by-laws, rules and regulations to such subordinate, particular or individual Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the white race, in such places in the State of Florida as it may see fit, and with full power according to its own Constitution, rules, by-laws and regulations, at any time to recall, abrogate, revoke or annul for misuser or nonuser any such charter that it may have issued or granted to any such subordinate, particular or individual council, or which it may hereafter issue or grant to any such subordinate, particular or individual council; and it shall have perpetual succession.

**SECTION 2** The said corporate officers of such Grand Council shall be elected annually, at the annual meeting of the Grand Council, in such manner, and at such time and place as its constitution, by-laws, rules or regulations shall provide.

**SECTION 3** The thrice Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of Work, and their successors in office of any and all subordinate, particular or individual councils of Royal and Select Masters of the white race, that have heretofore, or which may hereafter be organized and chartered in the State of Florida by the Grand Council, mentioned in Section 1 of this Act, according to the constitution by-laws, rules and regulations of such Grand Council, are hereby declared to be separate and independent bodies politic and corporate, under such general corporate names and styles as may be assigned to them respectively in their charters, granted to them by such Grand Council, with the right of corporate succession, so long as the charters granted to them by the Grand Council shall remain unrevoked by such Grand Council; and as such by their several and respective corporate names, they shall be capable and liable in law to contract and be contracted with; to sue and be sued; plead and be impleaded; and to acquire, own, hold, possess and convey, property of all kinds, either real, personal or mixed, either by purchase, gift or devise, so long as their charters shall remain unrevoked by such Grand Council; and to elect their corporate officers at such times and places as their own constitutions, by-laws, rules and regulations, not in conflict with the rules and regulations properly laid down for them by such Grand Council may provide.

**SECTION 4** All properties, real, personal or mixed, now held in trust for such Grand Council, mentioned in Section 1 of this Act, shall be conveyed by the trustees thereof, express, resulting or constructive, by deed or other instrument, to such Grand Council in its corporate name, when and as directed by such Grand Council, subject to any and all obligations to which it may be subject in the hands of such trustees.

**SECTION 5** All properties, real, personal or mixed, now held in trust for any said subordinate, particular or individual council mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, shall be conveyed by deed or other instrument by the trustees thereof, express, resulting, or constructive, when so directed by such subordinate, particular or individual council, or by the Grand Council, directly to such councils in their corporate names, subject, however to all obligations to which it may be subject in the hands of such trustees.

**SECTION 6** Whenever the charter of any subordinate, particular, or individual council mentioned in

Section 3 of this Act, shall be recalled, abrogated, revoked or annulled by the Grand Council, mentioned in Section 1 of this Act, such subordinate, particular, or individual council shall cease to have corporate existence, except for the purpose of being sued for its legal obligations; and upon such cessation of its corporate existence, all of its properties, real, personal or mixed, shall revert to and belong to the said Grand Council, subject to any debts that may have been lawfully contracted by such subordinate, particular, or individual council: But such Grand Council shall in no event be responsible or liable for any indebtedness created by any subordinate, particular or individual council.

**SECTION 7** All charters of incorporation, whether by the General Incorporation Laws of this State, or by Special Acts of the Legislature, heretofore issued to any such subordinate, particular, or individual council, mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, are hereby revoked, abrogated, annulled and repealed, and the provisions of this Act shall stand in lieu thereof; provided, that all property, real, personal or mixed then belonging to any body corporate hereby dissolved, shall become the property of its successor hereby created, and any and all obligations and liabilities of such body corporate shall become obligations and liabilities of said successor.

**SECTION 8** All laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 9** This Act shall take effect upon its becoming a law. (Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, 15 June, 1953).

## **APPENDIX F RULINGS AND DECISIONS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS**

### **Approved Rulings and Decisions of the Most Illustrious Grand Masters of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida 1876 through 2007 as printed in the proceedings with the exception of 1883-1892-1894,1907-1918**

**Decision No. 1 (1918-1919)** A Thrice Illustrious Master of a Subordinate Council cannot resign his office, in exact accordance with Regulation 15 (see proceedings of 1906). (See Section 25.09 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 2 (1924)** A person who received the Cryptic Degrees in a Grand Capitular Jurisdiction in which these degrees are conferred by a Chapter cannot affiliate with a Council of this Jurisdiction. Such person must apply in the regular way by petition. The petitioner must produce evidence that he received the degrees in a Chapter, then he must be "healed" by administering to him the several obligations. (See Section 40.01 & 40.02 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 3 (1928)** On June 17, 1927 Hallmark Council requested a ruling as to cancelling an election and returning the fee to a candidate who was elected in May of 1925, but failed to present himself for the degrees though he was notified whenever the work was put on (conferred). Ruling: There is nothing in the Statues to convey, but inasmuch as the party had been elected more than a year, and not appearing, his election was automatically cancelled. As to returning the fee- It was optional with the Council. (See Section 36.01 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 4 (1929)** It is with deep sorrow and regret that I must record the dismissal of one of our PGM.

**Decision No. 5. (1931)** April 11th 1931 Correspondence was received from the Grand Recorder regarding companion Joseph F. Welsh now of New Jersey. He claimed to be a member of Monroe Council at Key West Florida at the time when their Charter was taken up. He produced proof of his claim-showing a receipt properly made and bearing the seal of the Council. Realizing a number of irregularities were discovered in the reports of Monroe Council I considered this good and sufficient proof of his claim and asked the Grand recorder to issue him his certificate of membership (See Section 42.01 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 6. (1933)** Union council No. 7 requested a ruling regarding a petition for affiliation. Union Council received a petition from a companion for affiliation at their regular meeting of 2/24. At that same meeting it was referred to a committee for action. Before the next regular meeting the companion requested return of his Demit and withdrawal of his petition before a vote was taken. Ruling: As there was no regulation covering the same, that we in such cases are governed by the Grand Lodge Regulations. The petition could not be withdrawn until after it was voted on. Since the petition when received was referred to a committee it became the property of the council and had to go to ballot. (regulations 335 of the G.L. of Fl.) (See Section 33.01 & 40.02 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 7 (1937)** William Sessions requested a ruling in regards to jurisdiction between Tampa Council and St. Petersburg Council over Clearwater. Ruling: Regulations Number 31 covers Jurisdiction.

**Decision No. 8 (1962)** On November 12 1961 St. Petersburg Council requested a ruling regarding reinstatement for non-payment of dues. Ruling: The procedure is now covered in the Constitution and Regulations.

**Decision No. 9 (1964)** September 14, 1963. It is not proper to take movies or still pictures during conferral of esoteric work while a council is at labor. (See Section 37 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 10. (1964)** September 14, 1963. Orlando Council No. 5 unknowingly accepted for membership by initiation a member in the jurisdiction of Halifax Council No. 1. Ruling: (the name of the companion) was a member of Orlando Council No. 5; the fees were to be remitted to Halifax No. 1. (See Section 18.01 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 11. (1964)** Melbourne Council No. 38 states their charter bears the number 58, which is in error. The last number of a Council was 37. Ruling: Since their charter is incorrectly numbered 58 a new charter is to be drawn with the correct number 38 affixed thereon, and the previous signers of the original charter be asked to affix their name on the new.

**Decision No. 12 (1964)** 12/26/64 St. Petersburg Council sought the proper procedure of taking into membership, by affiliation, a member of the Grand Chapter of Virginia who holds jurisdiction over the Cryptic Degrees in that Jurisdiction. Ruling: Upon certification, or due notice from a legal chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Florida, that the companion's demit was in good order, a Council could use this in lieu of a demit and proceed to expedite in the usual manner. That a companion under this circumstance was not entitled to pay for the degrees, but merely to be assessed for any affiliation fee according to the By-Laws. That any companion seeking to visit a Council of Royal and Select Masters must be first "Healed" by taking the Florida obligations. (See Section 40.01 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 13. (1974)**(May 21, 1974) Proper dress code for wearing aprons. See page 13 of the 1974 proceeding. Updated information April 2009: (See section 37.03 of 2009 Constitution and Regulations.)



**Decision No. 14. (1974)** Grand Honors see page 13 of the 1974 proceeding. (See Appendix D of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 15. (1977).** The Chaplain will kneel at the Altar. When forming the lines west of the altar the Chaplain will be on the left, any companion in the center, the Conductor of the Council will be on the right.(1st row) (See Section 37 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 16. (1980)** Companion (name withheld) is qualified for membership by affiliation in any Constituent Council under this Grand council, provided he meets the prerequisite for membership as delineated in Article I Section 12 of the General Regulations governing Cryptic Masonry in the state of Florida.

**Decision No. 17 (1984)** The election of a candidate at Golden triangle Council No.28 was declared Null and Void, to prevent breaking of Grand Lodge Regulations No. 4.07 of the Masonic Law of Florida. (He had not received any of the degrees) (See Section 31 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 18. (1993)** Clearwater Council asked do you need a dispensation to confer the degrees on a handicapped brother in a wheelchair? Ruling: The Grand Council Laws and Regulations do not cover this; therefore you have to refer to the Grand Lodge law which states that the Grand Master can give dispensation for a handicapped person to receive the degrees in the Lodge. (See Section 31.01 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 19. (1994)** When a companion who is a signatory of an application for a charter from a Council Under Dispensation, he may elect Primary, or Plural membership in the newly Chartered Council. If the companion elects primary membership the Rules of Article X Section 4 relative to transfer of funds from the Companions original Council apply. If the companion elects plural membership, the companion must within 30 days pay the newly chartered council the dues which are due for the year in which the charter is issued. (See Section 26.07 &26.08 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 20. (1994)** There is nothing in the language of section 26.03 that shall be construed to prevent voluntary contributions by life members to the Life membership program. These contributions will be added to the fund and subsequent payments from the fund will be made in accordance with section 26.03 A (3). When the table of contributions shall be changed, the life membership member(s) are encouraged by the Grand Council to add to the Life membership fund if they care to do so. (See Section 26.03 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)

**Decision No. 21 (1994)** a Constituent Council may not submit two separate By- Law request changes on the same form. Each request to change a section (article) must be submitted on a separate form so they may be dealt with separately. This is in accordance with Article XXIII Section 1 of the uniform code of By-Laws. (See Section 24.02 of the 2009 Rules and Regulations)