

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date 1/22/2024

Originating Body(s) _____

City/State/Zip _____

Officer(s) I. Carlos Crespo T. Dener S. ... R. I. Randall Bourgeois

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council Grand Commandery _____

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery _____

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

(continued on reverse)

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery _____

NEW LANGUAGE

(continued on reverse)

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date)	<u>3/1/2024</u>	<u>CEY</u>
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Presented to Grand Chapter	(Date)	_____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Council	(Date)	_____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery	(Date)	_____	Result _____

Florida Council of Research.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master may in his discretion constitute one Council to be known and designated as the "Florida Council of Cryptic Research."

The Most Illustrious Grand Master, upon the petition of fifteen or more Council of Cryptic Masons in good standing, may form a Florida Council of Cryptic Research for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting and fostering Masonic research and study and for the purpose of spreading Masonic light and knowledge. This authority includes, but is not limited to the following: Publishing a volume containing Masonic articles and papers of interest; issuing newsletters or bulletins on a periodic basis; publishing or distributing books on Freemasonry; and establishing a "Florida York Rite Academy of Philosophy" for the purpose of educating members in the meanings, teachings, and symbolism behind the various York Rite Degrees and Orders, more especially those belonging to the Council. A Charter may be issued to such Council of Cryptic Research without compliance with the usual requirements prescribed for the forming and chartering of regular subordinate Councils within this Grand Council's jurisdiction.

A Florida Council of Cryptic Research chartered under the provisions of this Section shall not have power or authority to receive petitions for or to confer the Council Degrees. Its representatives as such, shall not have a vote in Grand Council, nor be entitled to receive mileage or per diem, as such, nor shall the Council be liable for or be required to pay per capita tax or assessments to the Grand Council. In lieu of annual returns, it shall instead make an annual report to the Grand Council.

Any Cryptic Mason, who is a member in good standing of a Florida Council, or any Council chartered or warranted by a Grand Council which is in amity with this Grand Council, shall be eligible for membership in and may petition for membership in the Florida Council of Cryptic Research formed under the provisions of this section.

The Territorial Jurisdiction of such Council shall be coextensive with that of the Grand Council and it may hold annual, stated, or special Convocations at such times and places as it or its duly authorized officer or officers may determine. Active membership in such Council shall not continue unless regular membership in good standing is maintained by such member in a regular subordinate Council of this Jurisdiction, or such other jurisdiction with which this Grand Council is in amity.

Honorary, associate, corresponding and/or subscribing memberships in such Council may be had and maintained by individual Cryptic Masons, Masonic libraries, Masonic bodies or organizations on such terms and conditions as the Florida Council of Cryptic Research may prescribe. Individual Cryptic Masons may be elected "Fellows" by the Florida Council of Cryptic Research as recognition of outstanding accomplishment. Membership in such Council of Cryptic Research shall not be considered as a dual or plural membership.

The Florida Council of Cryptic Research shall promulgate a Code of By-Laws for its government which shall be effective upon its approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems appropriate for the government of such Council.

The Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master of a Florida Council of Research is not eligible to receive the degree of "The Silver Trowel."

BYLAWS OF, The Florida Council of Cryptic Research, ROYAL and SELECT MASTERS

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ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this Council shall be Florida Council of Cryptic Research, Royal and Select Masters. It exists by virtue of a Charter, dated [date] , from the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, and holds a “roving” charter for all locations within the State of Florida.

ARTICLE II

Convocation

The regular Convocations of this Council shall be held at such times and places as it or its duly authorized officer or officers may determine.

Section 1.

All general business, including the reception of petitions for affiliation shall be transacted at any of the Council’s Convocations; which may be either Special or Called Convocations upon the call of the Illustrious Master. To hold such Convocations, all members of the Council shall have written notice at least ten days prior to such called Convocation, said notice to state fully the nature of the business to be considered; provided, further, that this Council may hold Regular or Special Convocations in any lodge room, or other suitable facility, within its territorial jurisdiction for the purpose of creating interest in Cryptic Masonry, and at such Convocations may transact such business as is prescribed by its bylaws or by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Council. Said written notice shall be by either a written communication conveyed via the U. S. Mail, or written notice conveyed electronically over the internet, such as by e-mail.

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, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Chaplain, and Sentinel [and may include an Organist and Marshal.]

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 at the first regular Convocation immediately preceding the Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Council, or as soon thereafter as practicable, when the first five above named Officers of the Council shall be elected by ballot, by a majority of votes cast, and the remaining officers shall be appointed by the incoming Illustrious Master.

Section 2.

The Annual Installation of Officers shall take place at the Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Council, or as soon thereafter as expedient.

ARTICLE V

Seal

The Seal of the Council shall be [description]and be in the custody of the Secretary.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1.

The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principle Conductor of the 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 for the relief of any one applicant, and such action shall be reported to the Council at its next ensuing stated Convocation. In addition to the Charity provided above, at each Convocation, 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 comes.

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 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 Publications Committee responsible for the publishing of a volume containing Masonic articles and papers of interest; issuing newsletters or bulletins on a periodic basis; publishing or distributing books on Freemasonry. Said Publications Committee may also include an Editor who is responsible for coordinating the assemblage of materials for such a volume, and a Newsletter Editor who is responsible for issuing periodic newsletters.
- c. A Time and Place Committee to recommend to the Illustrious Master venues for the holding of Convocations of this Council during the course of the year. This also includes recommendation of 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 members, to assure that the integrity of the Masonic Fraternity is maintained.
- e. A Committee on Delinquency, consisting of five members, of which the Illustrious Master and Secretary 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.
- f. A Committee to operate the York Rite Academy of Philosophy, whose duty it is to develop and maintain a curriculum program designed to teach the symbolism and meanings behind the degrees and orders belonging to the American System of York Rite Freemasonry. The scope of material applicable consists of everything considered a part of the York Rite from the First Degree of Freemasonry through the Order of the Temple, HOWEVER, it shall NOT include the actual rituals and secret work or modes of recognition belonging to any Masonic "body" other than the Cryptic Council – as those rituals, secret work, and modes of recognition rightfully belong to the various Grand Lodges of Free & Accepted Masons, Grand Councils of Royal Arch Masons, and Grand Commanderies of Knights Templar.
- g. A Committee whose responsibility it is to nominate for a vote before this Council those outstanding members of this Council to the rank of Fellow.

Section 3.

The Illustrious Master shall, at the time of the annual election of officers, appoint an Auditing Committee, consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and the Secretary at the close of the Capitular year and report conditions found at the time of installation or at the following Convocation. The Deputy Master shall chair this committee.

ARTICLE VII

Illustrious Master

It shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master to Preside at each Convocation 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

Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Secretary 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 Convocation. He shall make an annual report to the Council, at the Regular Annual Convocation, 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 Convocation, preceding the 27th 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 Grand Council.

ARTICLE IX

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive from the Secretary all the moneys collected by him on account of the Council. He shall keep a correct amount 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.

ARTICLE X

Petitions

This Council shall not have power or authority to receive petitions for or to confer the Council Degrees. Honorary, associate, corresponding and/or subscribing memberships may be had in this Council and maintained by individual Royal and Select Masters, Masonic libraries, Masonic bodies or organizations on such terms and conditions as the Florida Council of Cryptic Research may prescribe.

Individual Royal and Select Masters may be elected "Fellows" by the Florida Council of Cryptic Research as recognition of outstanding accomplishment. Membership in such Council of Cryptic Research shall not be considered as a dual or plural membership.

Petitions for membership in this Council may only be received from a Royal and Select Master, who is a member in good standing of a Florida Council, or any Council chartered or warranted by a Grand Council which is in amity with this Grand Council who is a member in good standing of a Regular Royal Arch Chapter, whose petitions has been duly presented in writing at a Regular or Special Convocation and reported upon by a Committee of no less than three Companions. At the discretion of the Council, Petitions may be acted upon at the time of the report.

Corresponding and/or subscribing memberships in this Council may be had and maintained by individual Royal and Select Masters, Masonic libraries, Masonic bodies or organizations, however, such memberships do not carry the right to vote on any issues that require a vote in this Council. Only those who are Royal and Select Masters, who are members in good standing of a Florida Council, or any Council chartered or warranted by a Grand Council which is in amity with this Grand Council, shall be eligible to attend meetings of this Council when such meetings are opened and/or closed in ritualistic form.

ARTICLE XI

Dues

The annual dues for regular membership in this Chapter shall be [amount] dollars payable in advance at the beginning of each Council Year, to wit: December 28th of each year. And, further, the annual dues for corresponding and/or subscribing membership in this Council shall be dollars.

ARTICLE XII

Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues

Whenever any member shall be six months or more in arrears for dues, the Secretary shall notify such delinquent, by written notice by first class mail to his last known address, stating 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. Thirty days after such notice has been given, said dues remaining unpaid, the Secretary shall issue a summons or notice to the delinquent to be present at a Regular Convocation 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 days before the Convocation appointed for the hearing. If the delinquent Companion does not appear after service of the notice, a default shall be entered against him, the Secretary'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 year after he has been suspended, he shall stand reinstated instanter. If the member fails to pay the delinquent dues within one year, he shall be required to file an application for reinstatement

accompanied by the current and delinquent dues. The said application may be considered at any regular Convocation and shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present for reinstatement.

Should any member of this Council cease, for any reason whatsoever, to be a member of a Florida Council, or a member in good standing of a Regular Royal and Select Council chartered or warranted by a Grand Council which is in amity with this Grand Council, then his membership status in this Council shall automatically terminate by operation of law. Should any member whose membership in this Council has been terminated in this manner desire to be reinstated, not only must he provide conclusive documentary proof of his reinstatement of membership in a regularly chartered or warranted Council of Royal and Select Masters as described above, but he must also formally re-petition for membership herein by reinstatement and be balloted upon in this Council.

ARTICLE XIII

Resignations from Membership

A regular member, corresponding member or subscribing member may submit a resignation upon his making application in writing, at a regular Convocation of the Council, without vote, provided the said regular member, corresponding member or subscribing member is not in arrears for dues or under charges. The resignation shall date from the time it is applied for. This Council does not issue Demits.

ARTICLE XIV

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 except for reasons of infirmities of health acceptable to the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

ARTICLE XV

Vacancies, How Filled

The Council may fill vacancies in any of the elective Offices except that of Illustrious Master, by ballot at any regular Convocation but, in case of a vacancy in the office of Illustrious Master, an election may be held only at a Regular Convocation, 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 Principle Conductor of the Work, with a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Regular Convocation, to be certified by the Secretary, under the Seal of the Council. Vacancies in appointed offices shall be filled by the Illustrious Master. After such vacancy is filled the Secretary shall certify the name and address to the Grand Secretary.

ARTICLE XVI

No Appeal

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

ARTICLE XVII

Funds

The funds of this Council shall be deposited by the Treasurer in a bank, savings association, or credit union that will be designated by the Council. The account must always stand in the name of Florida Council of Cryptic Research, Royal and Select Masters and not in the name of the Treasurer, either officially or individually.

ARTICLE XVIII

Annual Reports

The Secretary shall make an Annual Report to the Grand Secretary, upon blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary. Such reports shall be signed by the newly installed Illustrious Master, and shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary on or before the 15th day of February each year.

ARTICLE XIX

Amendments

No alteration or amendment to these bylaws shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing at a regular Convocation, when such proposed amendment shall be entered in the minutes and lay over until the next regular Convocation, when if approved by two-thirds majority of the members present, the amendment shall be submitted for inspection and approval to Grand Council or to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, whereupon, if approved, it shall be in force.

ARTICLE XX

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.