

THE CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASONS OF MASSACHUSETTS, INCORPORATED

CONSTITUTION (Amended 10/25/2024)

ARTICLE I GRAND COUNCIL

SECTION 1. Name:

This Grand Body of Masonry shall be known by the name and title of The Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts, Incorporated.

SECTION 2. Object:

Its object shall be to promote the interest of the Cryptic Rite, to strengthen the bonds of friendship among its members, to maintain the Landmarks and support the fundamental principles of Freemasonry. Membership in any Constituent Council in this jurisdiction shall consist only of those who shall have received the Degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master in conformity with the ritual adopted by this Grand Council; unless any applicant for membership found deficient therein shall first be formally healed. This Grand Council does not recognize any Cryptic Degrees except when conferred by authority of a duly recognized Grand Council or Grand Royal Arch Chapter empowered to confer such degrees.

SECTION 3. Jurisdiction:

It has exclusive jurisdiction over the territorial limits of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and its Grand East is in the City of Boston.

SECTION 4. Powers:

- A.** It has exclusive powers within this jurisdiction to grant charters for Constituent Councils of Royal and Select Master Masons and to revoke or revive the same.
- B.** In it alone is vested the right and duty, which it cannot delegate, to superintend and govern all Councils of Royal and Select Master Masons within this jurisdiction.
- C.** It enacts laws, issues edicts, and amends and repeals the same.
- D.** It censures, suspends, and erases Councils, and disciplines any of the members thereof for violation or neglect of its laws and edicts.

SECTION 5. Organization:

A. This Grand Council shall consist of the following officers and members, whose rank and title shall be herein set forth, to wit:

M.:I.: GRAND MASTER
R.:I.: DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.:I.: GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK
M.:I.: PAST GRAND MASTERS
R.:I.: PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS
R.:I.: PAST GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTORS OF THE WORK
R.:I.: GRAND TREASURER
R.:I.: GRAND RECORDER
V.:I.: GRAND CHAPLAINS
R.:I.: GRAND DIRECTOR OF RITUAL
V.:I.: GRAND LECTURERS
V.:I.: GRAND REPRESENTATIVES
R.:I.: GRAND MASTER OF CEREMONIES
V.:I.: GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD
V.:I.: GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL
V.:I.: GRAND STEWARD
V.:I.: GRAND ORGANIST
V.:I.: GRAND SWORD BEARER
V.:I.: GRAND STANDARD BEARER
V.:I.: GRAND SENTINEL

THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS, COMPANION DEPUTY MASTERS, AND COMPANION PRINCIPAL CONDUCTORS OF THE WORK OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS.

B. All Grand Officers shall permanently retain their titles as set out above, except for the Grand Master of Ceremonies and the Grand Director of Ritual, who shall be styled Very Illustrious (V.:I.:) upon leaving office.

C. Each member of this Grand Council shall be entitled to only one vote, unless he be an Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, or proxy of such, of a Constituent Council under this jurisdiction.

D. All Grand Officers at the time of their installation shall make the following Declaration, namely:

I, _____, do solemnly promise that I will support and maintain the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts and all other Ancient Masonic usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge.

SECTION 6. Representation in the Grand Council:

Each Council in this jurisdiction shall be represented by its Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work or any of them, in person or by their respective proxies, at every Annual, Regular or Special Assembly of this Grand Council.

SECTION 7. Proxies:

A. The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, being unable to attend assemblies in person, shall have the power to appoint proxies, each of whom shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Companion represented, except that of taking his rank in the Grand Council.

B. Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work, for the time being, of Constituent Councils, being unable to attend the assemblies of the Grand Council in person, shall have the power to appoint proxies, each of whom shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Companion represented except that of taking his rank in the Grand Council. Such proxy must be a member of the same Constituent Council as his principal, and must present a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment.

SECTION 8. ASSEMBLIES:

A. The Grand Council shall meet annually at such place and hour as the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Time and Place Committee shall appoint, for the transaction of such business as shall be presented.

B. The Grand Council shall meet at least once between each Annual Assembly at such place and hour as the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint, for the transaction of such business as shall be presented.

C. Special Assemblies may be called at the pleasure of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, but no business shall be transacted at a special assembly other than that specified in the notice for the assembly.

D. At any meeting or assembly of this Grand Council, a quorum shall consist of nine members entitled to vote therein, including a Grand Officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more constituent Councils are represented.

SECTION 9. Prerogatives and Duties of Grand Officers:

A. The Most Illustrious Grand Master is the presiding officer of this Grand Council and enjoys, ex officio, all powers and prerogatives conferred by the constitution, usages, and landmarks of the Cryptic Rite. He may assemble any Council within this jurisdiction, preside therein (with his officers or otherwise), or the Grand Council, and for dereliction of duty or other un-Masonic conduct he may suspend a Companion of a Council until the ensuing assembly of the Grand Council. He may grant dispensations and do all other acts and deeds as are warranted and required of him by the regulations and usages of the Fraternity. It is his duty, in person or by the Grand Officers to visit and examine every Constituent Council in the jurisdiction, at least annually, and to cause a report of such visitations to be made at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. He shall also annually make a full report to this Grand Council of all his official acts.

B. During the absence of the Most Illustrious Master from this jurisdiction, or during the continuance of any other temporary inability on his part to serve in his station as certified in writing by either the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Recorder, his authority shall be exercised by the Deputy Grand Master. During any similar absence or inability of the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall fulfill the duties appertaining to that office. Should any such temporary absence or inability become permanent, the provisions of **ARTICLE I, SECTION 10, Paragraph B**, shall apply.

C. It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to be the custodian of the general funds of the Grand Council, including its stock and other investments, together with such of its tangible personal property as may be committed to his care by vote of the Grand Council; to pay all bills approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and all appropriations made by the Grand Council as attested by the Grand Recorder. He shall report to the Annual Assembly the amount of his receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year just ended, as well as the location and condition of the property in his keeping.

D. It is the duty of the Grand Recorder **(a)** to keep correct and complete records of the proceedings of this Grand Council, **(b)** to forward annually to the Grand Recorder of every Grand Council in fraternal relations with this Grand Council a list of all the Grand Officers of this Grand Council, and **(c)** to attend to such other matters as the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall deem expedient or as shall be ordered by this Grand Council. He shall **(d)** furnish each Constituent Council with the proper blanks for listing its officers, said blanks to also contain appropriate provisions for reporting annually both the members upon whom a per capita tax is payable from the reporting Council and the number of dual members for whom the reporting Council is not liable for dues and assessments, but identifying the Council assessed, with instructions to fill out and transmit the same to his office immediately after the annual election in each Constituent Council; **(e)** notify each Constituent Council and the permanent members of the Grand Council of any proposed alterations, regulations, or amendments to the **Grand Constitution** or **General Regulations**, at least thirty days before the time of the assembly at which action is to be taken upon such proposed alterations, additions, or amendments; **(f)** attest to each Constituent Council, in writing, every alteration, addition, or amendment to the **Grand Constitution** or **General Regulations**, as well as any charges or assessments which may be adopted or voted by the Grand Council; and **(g)** also notify the members of this Grand Council of the time, place, and business to be conducted at each assembly required by **ARTICLE I, SECTION 8A**, as well as the time, place and business to be transacted at any special assembly, by written notice mailed or delivered at least twenty-one days prior to the date of any such assembly. He shall report to the Annual Assembly the amount of his receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year just ended, as well as the location and condition of the property in his keeping.

E. Bonds for the faithful performance of their duties shall be required from the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, the amount of each Bond to be determined by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, or as this Grand Council by vote may determine, and the expense of such Bonds shall be assumed by this Grand Council. The safe keeping of said Bonds shall be the responsibility of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

SECTION 10. Officers and Elections:

A. The first five Grand Officers and one member of the Board of Trustees of the Funds shall be chosen by written or printed ballot at the Annual Assembly, the others by appointment of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, and the Grand Officers so elected and appointed shall be installed during that assembly; provided, however, that if any Grand Officer so elected or appointed shall be absent, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall determine the time and place of his installation. In the final term of the presiding Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Nominating Committee may nominate, and if a nomination is presented, the Grand Council shall elect a Companion for the elective office of Grand Master at the Semi-Annual Assembly held prior to the Annual Assembly when the current Most Illustrious Grand Master at the time shall have his successor installed. Each Grand Officer shall retain his office until his successor is installed. (amended 10/25/2024)

B. Should any vacancy occur in the office of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, or in case of any extended inability on his part to serve as certified in writing by both the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, the Grand Officer then exercising the authority of the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall within sixty (60) days call a special assembly of this Grand Council for the purpose of choosing a successor for the unexpired term. The Nominating Committee then serving, shall propose a candidate for that office at said special assembly. Like vacancies in the office of Deputy Grand Master or that of Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall be filled for the unexpired term by an appointment of the Most Illustrious Grand Master from among the Past Deputy Grand Masters or Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, respectively. Any other vacancies among the Grand Officers shall be filled by appointment of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

C. Upon adoption of this amended Constitution, and immediately following the installation of each new Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall announce his appointment of a nominating committee, naming one Past Most Illustrious Grand Master as Chairman, two Past Deputy Grand Masters, and two Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work to serve this Grand Council in that capacity for the term of the presiding Grand Master. Thereafter, should any member so appointed be or become unable to or unwilling to serve for any reason, the presiding Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint another past Grand Officer having the necessary qualifications to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. No member of a Nominating Committee shall serve as such for two successive terms. Each Nominating Committee shall nominate or propose sufficient candidates for election by this Grand Council to fill every office for which an election is to be held during their term of office. During any election, nominations may be made for any elective office by any member of this Grand Council entitled to vote, in addition to the nominations made by the Nominating Committee, and as to each office the election shall be by ballot if more than one name be in nomination for that office; otherwise election to such office may be made by acclamation.

D. No Companion is eligible to any office in this Grand Council unless he be a Past Illustrious Master and member in good standing of a Constituent Council under this jurisdiction. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Chaplains, and Grand Organist are expressly excepted from the requirement of being a Past Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council.

E. No Companion except a Past Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council in this jurisdiction is eligible to the office of Most Illustrious Grand Master and no Companion shall hold that office for more than three years successively, or hold any office in a Constituent Council other than that of Chaplain or Trustee during said term of office in the Grand Council.

SECTION 11. Committees:

A. At each Annual Assembly, or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint a standing committee on Finance and a standing committee on Bylaws. Each of these committees shall report at the Annual Assembly next following their appointment.

B. The committee on Finance shall consist of three members who shall hold no other office in the Grand Council, whose duty it shall be to audit, or cause to be audited, the accounts of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, and Trustees of the Funds, report at the Annual Assembly an account of all funds belonging to the Grand Council, and after conference with the Most Illustrious Grand Master, recommend for action by the Grand Council a budget of estimated receipts and disbursements for the ensuing year.

C. The committee on Bylaws shall consist of three members of the Grand Council whose duty it shall be to examine all Bylaws of Constituent Councils, amendments or additions thereto or alterations therein, which may be referred to them, and report their findings to the Grand Council at the next Annual Assembly. The committee may report their findings to the Grand Council at any Assembly. No Bylaw shall be valid until it shall have been so examined, reported upon, and approved by vote of the Grand Council, provided if in the interim between the Annual Assemblies of the Grand Council, any Bylaw so examined and recommended to the Most Illustrious Grand Master has his approval it shall be in force until the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

D. Special committees may be appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

SECTION 12. Trustees of Funds

A. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Funds of this Grand Council, consisting of the Grand Treasurer, ex officio, and three members of the Grand Council not holding any other office, who shall have charge of the permanent and invested funds of the Grand Council. At each Annual Assembly, one Trustee shall be elected by ballot for a term of three years and shall serve as Chairman of the Board during the third year of his term. The Trustees shall meet at least quarterly, at a time and place established by the Chairman, to review the status of all invested funds, notice of each meeting to be sent in writing by the Chairman to each member of the Board, at least twenty-one days prior thereto. If a vacancy occurs by death, resignation, or any other cause, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall fill such vacancy by appointment until the next Annual Assembly. The Board thus constituted shall be styled "*The Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts*". These funds shall be carefully and judiciously invested by the board in such a manner as in their best judgment shall be the safest and most productive and shall keep the securities and vouchers in a suitable place of deposit, where safety from fire and theft shall be assured. Said Trustees shall report to the Grand Council at each Annual Assembly the condition and amount of said funds and how they are invested.

B. Nothing but the income of such invested funds shall be used for any purpose whatsoever except by vote of this Grand Council. The annual interest income may be withdrawn for the payment of current expenses with the approval of the Most Illustrious Master. Any withdrawal shall require the signatures of the Grand Treasurer and one other Trustee.

SECTION 13. New Councils:

A. An application for Dispensation for forming and opening a new Council may be received by the Most Illustrious Grand Master during recess of the Grand Council. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may issue said dispensation, provided however, that no dispensation shall be issued to a less number than twenty-seven Super Excellent Masters.

B. The date of Institution shall be the Council's date of precedence, and it shall coincide with the date of dispensation.

C. Charters shall be granted only by vote of the Grand Council at an Annual Assembly.

SECTION 14. Fees for Dispensation and Charter:

The fee for a dispensation to form a new Council shall be One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, and for a charter Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars. In no case shall a charter or a dispensation be issued until the required fee shall have been paid to the Grand Recorder.

SECTION 15. Grand Representatives:

A. All commissions issued to companions to represent this Grand Council near other Grand Councils shall remain in force at the pleasure of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. Each Grand Master, at least once during his tenure of office, or more often if he so wishes, shall review the list of Grand Representatives to assure himself that the duties of the office are properly cared for.

B. Grand Representatives shall be styled Very Illustrious and retain such title for the period of their service unless they are already styled Right Illustrious or Most Illustrious.

SECTION 16. New Business:

All resolutions and motions relating to the new business made in Grand Council shall be handed in writing to the Grand Recorder, who shall present them to the presiding officer.

SECTION 17. Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year of this Grand Council shall extend from the first day of September to the last day of August each year.

SECTION 18. Seal:

The official seal of this Grand Council shall consist of two inverted equilateral triangles, one within the other, the inner triangle containing a trowel suspended by a knot of ribbon from the top lines and surmounted by two crowns, all enclosed by rays within two circles; between the inner and the outer circle the legend: "*Grand Council of Massachusetts*", with the year of organization "*1826*".



ARTICLE II

CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

SECTION 1. Members:

Every Constituent Council shall consist of an Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Chaplain or Chaplains, Master of Ceremonies, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Sentinel, and such other officers and members as may be found desirable.

SECTION 2. Election and Installation of Officers:

A. The first five officers shall be elected by majority vote at the Regular Assembly in either April, May or June as established by the Constituent Council's By-Laws. Said Nominating Committee shall report no later than the Regular Assembly prior to the Regular Assembly designated for the Election of Officers and present nominations for the first five officers, and a Trustee of the Permanent Funds for a term of three (3) years.

B. The Illustrious Master-Elect shall set the date for the Installation of Officers to be held no earlier than May 1st and no later than October 31st, except by dispensation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

C. The other officers shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master at the Installation of Officers.

D. Officers, when duly installed, shall serve until their successors shall have been installed, subject to the **Grand Constitution and General Regulations**.

E. If a vacancy should occur in any elective office from any cause, it may be filled for the remainder of the term by a special election held only pursuant to a dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

SECTION 3. Duties of Officers:

A. The Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council shall see that the Bylaws of his Council and this **Grand Constitution and General Regulations** are duly observed, that accurate records are kept and just accounts rendered; that regular returns to the Grand Council are made annually and the annual fees, dues and assessments promptly paid. He may call special assemblies of his Council at pleasure, and it is his duty, as well as that of the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, to attend all annual, regular, and special assemblies of the Grand Council.

B. No Companion shall be elected to the office of Illustrious Master who has not previously been elected to and served at least one year in the office of either Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work, without a dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

C. Should any Companion, elected as Treasurer or Recorder, have reached the age of seventy years, an Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Recorder, as appropriate, shall be elected by the Council without any change in its Bylaws; said Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Recorder shall not have reached the age of seventy years; said Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Recorder only to be authorized to fill the office in the event of any incapacity of his principal certified in writing by the Illustrious Master. Any Companion, elected as Treasurer or Recorder, or an Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Recorder, shall have computer access in order to submit timely reports to the Grand Recorder in the form and manner as may be required by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

D. Should any Companion, elected as Trustee of the Permanent Life Membership Fund or Permanent Fund, have reached the age of seventy years, an Assistant Trustee shall be elected by the Council without any change in its Bylaws; said Assistant Trustee shall not have reached the age of seventy years; said Assistant Trustee only to be authorized to fill the office in the event of any incapacity of his principal certified in writing by the Illustrious Master. Any Companion, elected as Treasurer or Recorder, or an Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Recorder, shall have computer access in order to submit timely reports to the Grand Recorder in the form and manner as may be required by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

SECTION 4. Dual or Plural Membership:

Any Council Mason in good standing may be a member of more than one Council under this jurisdiction, but he shall not hold office of Illustrious Master in more than one Council at one and the same time.

SECTION 5. Obligations:

The officers of each Constituent Council at the time of their installation shall take an obligation to observe and support the **Grand Constitution and General Regulations** of The Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Massachusetts and the Bylaws of their Council.

SECTION 6. Assemblies:

A. Every Council shall be required to hold not less than four (4) regular assemblies in each year, one of which shall be the Annual Assembly. This requirement shall in no wise be affected or satisfied by the holding of special assemblies.

B. The Annual Assembly of each and every Council shall be held in October or November. The Annual Assembly shall be set in its ByLaws.

C. When the date established in its Bylaws for the regular assembly of a Constituent Council falls upon a holiday, a holiday eve, or on either the day set or the eve of the day set for an assembly of the Grand Council, the Council may, by vote at any previous regular assembly, meet at any time within one week of said established date.

D. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may, by dispensation, authorize a change of the date and place established for any regular assembly of a Constituent Council by its Bylaws.

E. No assembly shall be held unless there are nine (9) Super Excellent Masters present.

F. For the transaction of business and balloting on candidates, the Council may be open on any one of the Cryptic degrees.

G. The visits of Grand Officers may be transacted in any of the degrees, with the exception of the installation of officers, and visits by the Grand Master, which must be on the Select Master Degree.

SECTION 7. Dues, Fees and Returns to the Grand Council.

A. Each Council shall pay, annually, to the Grand Council, for its Charitable uses and support a sum so designated and voted by Grand Council for each of its members, such payments to be made at such times, in such manner, and with appropriate credits for dual membership, remission of dues, or other causes, as the Grand Council may from time to time prescribe. For the fiscal year 2014, the sum shall be \$22.00. For each subsequent year, such sum shall be increased by an amount per member reflective of the budgetary needs of this Grand Council as recommended by the Finance Committee and announced at a Regular Assembly of this Grand Council. The increase shall be determined each year by the Finance Committee and forwarded to the Grand Master for approval sufficiently in advance that adequate notice may be given to the each Council of the increase for that year.

The Grand Council dues hereby established shall be assessed by the Council upon its members and shall be in addition to any Council dues required to be paid by the member under the Bylaws of the Council.

B. Each Constituent Council shall make in the form and manner as may be required by the Grand Master an annual return to the Grand Council ending with August thirty-first each year, the same to be mailed or delivered to the Grand Recorder in time to be received in his office before the fifteenth day of September; such return to include : **1)** the roll of officers currently serving in said Constituent Council, with their respective addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers; **2)** all candidates for the degrees during the past year, elected or rejected; **3)** all members therein who have demitted or deceased, affiliated or have been suspended or expelled during that year. With the return shall be submitted payment in full of the balance of all monies due the Grand Council for the past year, determined in accordance with this section.

C. Every year there shall be due from each Constituent Council to the Grand Council **(1)** an annual fee of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars; **(2)** Ten (\$10.00) for each Candidate on whom the Degree of Royal Master has been conferred during the year; **(3)** Grand Council Dues in an amount per member reflective of the budgetary needs of this Grand Council as recommended by the Finance Committee and announced on at a Regular Assembly of this Grand Council; **(4)** any other assessments as may be voted on from time to time at a Regular Assembly of this Grand Council.

D. No later than the thirty-first day of December each year, every Constituent Council shall pay to the Grand Recorder fifty (50%) percent of the estimated total monies due for the current year to the Grand Council, as provided herein. Payment of the foregoing amounts shall be made in three installments as follows: fifty (50) per cent on or before the 31st day of December, twenty-five (25) per cent on or before the thirtieth day of April and the balance on or before the first day of August, the first two installments to be estimated upon the official return of membership for the preceding year and the third installment computed on the official return of membership to and including the thirty-first day of August preceding such first day of September.

E. The dues and assessments payments hereby established may be assessed by a Constituent Council upon its members in addition to any Council dues, and are not to be counted on computation of the Life Membership fee of said Constituent Council. Dues and assessments are not payable by more than one Constituent Council on dual, plural, or honorary members.

F. If any Council shall fail to make its annual return before the tenth of October, there shall be due at the time of filing such return an additional fee of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, plus Five (\$5.00) Dollars for each business day between the tenth of October and the date of filing.

SECTION 8. Grand Council Life Membership:

A. Any member of a Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council may prepay all future Grand Council dues and assessments and thereafter no further claim for such assessments shall be made by the Grand Council upon such member or upon any Council in respect of such member. Upon receipt of payment, the Grand Recorder will issue a numbered Prepayment Certificate. Constituent Councils will not bill those members who have prepaid their Grand Council dues and assessments and will indicate same as deductions on their annual returns.

B. Determination of the amount owed for such prepayment shall be made by multiplying one-half of the then current annual Grand Council dues and assessments upon the member times the difference between eighty-eight (88) years of age and the current age of the member as of September 1st, last.

C. All money paid for the prepayment of dues and assessments pursuant to this **Section** shall be paid over to the Board of Trustees of the Funds of this Grand Council to be maintained by them as a separate fund and no refund shall be made on account of death, demit, or other termination of membership. The income from the fund so established may, on an annual basis, be paid over by the Trustees to the Grand Treasurer for the payment of current expenses of this Grand Council, but no withdrawal of principal shall be made except with the approval of four-fifths of the members present and voting at a regular assembly of this Grand Council, notice of the proposed withdrawal having been duly set forth in the notice of such assembly. Annual payments of income as aforesaid shall be limited to the total of prepayments exemptions as appearing on the most recent annual returns from Constituent Councils, unless a larger transfer shall be authorized by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the Annual Assembly of Grand Council next preceding such a payment.

SECTION 9. Delinquencies:

If any Council under its jurisdiction shall fail to assemble four times in any year, or shall neglect to be represented in the Grand Council for two years in succession, or shall fail to make an annual return of its officers and members and pay its fees to this Grand Council as provided in **Article II, Section 7**, prior to the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, then any such delinquency shall be reported to the next Annual Assembly by the Grand Recorder and, unless otherwise specifically voted by two-thirds of the members present and voting at that Annual Assembly, the delinquent Council shall forfeit to this Grand Council, upon order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, its Charter, with its records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money, and all other property of every description.

SECTION 10. Degrees, Fees, and Rule of Succession:

A. No Constituent Council shall confer the degrees for a less sum than Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, nor on any person who has not regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason. No ballot shall be taken for the degrees or for membership until the required fees are paid in full, and no Council shall remit the fees for the degrees or for membership or any part thereof, or make any appropriation therefore to any person for the purpose of relieving such person from the full payment of such fees. In case of rejection of any application for the degrees or for membership, the fee shall be returned forthwith.

B. The degrees in the Council shall be conferred in the following order: **1)** Royal Master, **2)** Select Master, **3)** Super Excellent Master.

C. Each Recorder of a Constituent Council shall notify in advance each applicant for the degrees, the time and place to appear for the degrees. In the event an applicant is scheduled for ballot and a degree at the same Assembly, the prior notice should be qualified by the statement “In the event of a favorable ballot, you will.....”

SECTION 11. Application for Degrees:

A. No application for the degrees shall be received from a Companion who has not resided within the jurisdiction of this Grand Council for six months immediately preceding the date of the Assembly at which action is taken on his application.

B. Every candidate shall be balloted for in a regular assembly, and only when proper notification bearing the name, residence, and occupation of the candidate to be balloted upon shall have been sent to all members at least ten days prior to the date of said assembly.

C. Every application shall bear the signatures of two members in good standing of the Council, and no candidate for the degrees shall be declared elected except by unanimous ballot in his favor.

D. Each application shall be dated and signed by the applicant, using his full name, and be signed by two members in good standing in the Council to which application is made, together with payment of the appropriate fees. All applications shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Each application shall be addressed to the Illustrious Master and Companions of _____ Council, affirm that the applicant is a Blue Lodge member, is a Royal Arch Mason (or has applied for the degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter), that he offers himself as a candidate for the degrees in _____ Council and that he will conform to the Constitutions, Bylaws, Regulations, and rules governing the same. It shall contain the applicant’s full name, with the place and date of his birth, his complete residential mailing address (including ZIP code), his electronic mail address, if any, his occupation and the address of his place of business. It shall further set forth **a)** the name and location of the Lodge in which he received the degree of Master Mason, with the date thereof, **b)** the name and location of the Royal Arch Chapter in which he received the degree of Royal Arch Mason, with the date thereof, and the name and location of the Royal Arch Chapter to which he now belongs (or to which he has applied for the Capitular degrees); and **c)** whether or not he has ever before applied for the Cryptic degrees, and if so, when and where.

2. In lieu of an application meeting the foregoing requirements, a combination York Rite Application form, as approved by the presiding Most Illustrious Grand Master at the time, may be substituted.

E. When an application for the degrees has been received by the Recorder, it shall not be withdrawn unless it is found that the candidate does not live within this Grand Jurisdiction, is not of lawful age, or is otherwise ineligible, or an application that has been received by a Council may be withdrawn by written request and over the signature of the applicant at any time prior to the meeting at which his application is to be balloted for in accordance with current requirements and procedures of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts governing the withdrawal of an application for the degrees. If the application is withdrawn the status of the applicant is the same as before the application was received and all fees collected shall be returned.

F. No candidate whose application for the degrees has been rejected in any Council in this jurisdiction shall be proposed again in the same Council within six months after such rejection; nor in any other Council in this jurisdiction within one year, without the consent of the rejecting Council by a two-thirds vote of its members present after due notification.

G. A Companion receiving the Super-Excellent Master Degree in a Constituent Council in this jurisdiction becomes a member thereof upon signing the Bylaws, unless the degree is conferred for another Council, in which the case he becomes a member of the Council for which the degree was conferred, upon signing its Bylaws.

H. A Select Master of a jurisdiction that does not confer the Super-Excellent Master Degree for Cryptic membership, if he becomes a resident of Massachusetts, may upon request to a Massachusetts Constituent Council have the Super-Excellent Master Degree conferred upon him provided:

- 1.** That he request the same of a Constituent Council in writing.
- 2.** That said Council obtains consent of the Most Illustrious Grand Master to confer said degree. Said degree shall be conferred without cost to the applicant.
- 3.** That said Council shall furnish to the applicant a written certificate of its action following conferral of this degree.

SECTION 12. Application for Affiliation:

A. All applications for Affiliation in a Constituent Council under this jurisdiction shall be made in writing, on a similar form to that outlined in the preceding section, appropriately worded for affiliation, and signed with the full name of the applicant. Grand Council leaves the matter of the fee for affiliation, if any, up to each Constituent Council.

B. Applications for affiliation shall be subject to the same procedures as is defined in **Section 11** governing applications for the degrees.

SECTION 13. Suspension:

A. Any member in arrears for dues may be suspended from membership at a regular assembly of the Council by a majority vote of members of the Council present; provided that he must first have been fully notified of his delinquency by the Recorder, under seal of the Council, and of the time and place of the proposed action thereon, at least thirty days before action is taken. The Council must publish in its notifications that suspension of members in arrears for dues will be part of its business for the evening without publishing any names.

B. Suspension of a member holding dual or plural membership will automatically suspend him from all Councils in Massachusetts.

C. The payment of dues shall reinstate a Companion suspended for non-payment. The Recorder shall report the same to the Council, and the fact of such payment shall be noted on the records; provided, however, that no Companion who shall remain in arrears one year or more after his suspension shall be reinstated, except by a majority vote of the members of the Council present, and until all dues accrued to the date of his suspension are paid or remitted.

D. To be considered a Cryptic Mason in good standing in this jurisdiction, an individual must maintain a membership in both Symbolic and Capitular Masonry.

1. Expulsion or suspension from membership in either his Blue Lodge or his Royal Arch Chapter shall operate to automatically suspend a member from membership in his Council. He may be restored to membership only by a majority vote of the members present at a regular assembly of his Council, following written application therefore accompanied by proof of good standing in both his Blue Lodge and his Royal Arch Chapter, together with payment of all Council dues and assessments which may have accrued to the time of this suspension.

2. A demit from either his Blue Lodge or his Royal Arch Chapter shall operate as an automatic demit of a member from his Council, provided he is in good standing in Cryptic Masonry at the time of such demit.

SECTION 14. Sojourners:

A. No Constituent Council shall confer the degrees upon any sojourner from any state or place outside the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, in which there is a Council regularly established, except by consent of the Grand Council having jurisdiction. Applications for release of jurisdiction, from or to Councils outside of Massachusetts, shall be obtained only through the office of this Grand Council, and the Grand Council office of said jurisdiction.

B. No one lawfully can be admitted to visit any Council who is not in good standing in his own Council, or who has remained voluntarily unaffiliated with any Council for a period of one year.

SECTION 15. Appearance in Public:

No Council in this jurisdiction shall appear in public for any purpose, except on funeral occasions or for installation of officers, without a dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

SECTION 16. Questions:

At any assembly of Constituent Councils all questions, except the admission of candidates and members, and matters specially reserved by the Bylaws, shall be decided by a majority vote, the presiding officer, in case of a tie only, shall cast the deciding vote.

SECTION 17. Work to be Uniform:

A. The several Councils in this jurisdiction are required, in the work, to follow the ritual authorized by this Grand Council. The Grand Director of Ritual and the Grand Lecturers shall be regarded as competent authority in all matters of the ritual. Councils employing the services of the Grand Director of Ritual or a Grand Lecturer may make reasonable compensation to him.

B. The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall have power to order exemplifications of the work at his discretion. All the officers and Ritualists within the Arch for which an exemplification is called, are expected to attend.

SECTION 18. Diplomas:

A. The several Constituent Councils are required to present to each and every companion receiving the degrees therein, unless conferred for another Council, a diploma, duly certified by the Grand Recorder.

B. No diploma except that authorized by this Grand Council shall be used in this jurisdiction, and all Officers, Grand and Constituent, are forbidden to sign any other.

SECTION 19. Life Membership:

Any Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council that now has or shall in the future have a Bylaw that provides for life membership must have the said Bylaw comply with the following requirements:

- A.** A Life Membership Fee, if any, shall be at least twenty times the annual Individual Council dues except that provision may be made for an appropriate reduction for increasing age or for previous payment of annual dues over a period of years.
- B.** All monies received for life membership shall constitute a Permanent Life Membership Fund, which shall be invested in the name of the Council. The management and investment of the same shall be placed in the care of a Board of Trustees, who shall be elected by the Council at each annual election of the Council, as provided by its Bylaws, and shall at its Annual Assembly make a report annually to the Council of the condition and amount of said fund and how the same is invested.
- C.** The income of said fund may be used for any Council purpose. No part of the principal may be expended unless **1)** a motion in writing to that effect, stating details and amount, is presented and read at a regular assembly of the Council and **2)** the intended action shall have been set forth in the notice and mailed to each member at least ten days before a regular assembly. It must then be adopted in regular course of business by a two-thirds vote of those present. The use of principal must be consistent with Masonic good faith, as well as the terms and conditions of any trust under which these capital funds were received or accumulated.

SECTION 20. Permanent Funds:

- A.** Other so-called "Permanent Funds" may be established and maintained by a Constituent Council; whether by acceptance of the terms and conditions of a gift, bequest or devise for a particular purpose by an affirmative vote of the members, or by such a vote to transfer its own property. Such Permanent Funds are those intended for investment primarily for the production of income to support the activities of the Council, or to further other particular purposes expressed by the terms of the gift, bequest or devise, or the vote of the members.
- B.** Such Permanent Funds shall be entrusted to the care and management of a Board of Trustees, elected at each annual election of the Council, as provided by its Bylaws. The Trustees shall maintain the Permanent Funds in as many separate accounts as may be prudent or as may be required by the wishes expressed in the terms of the gift, bequest, devise, or vote of the Council establishing each fund. A permanent record shall be maintained by the Trustees setting forth the source of each fund, the terms pursuant to which each fund was established and any special requests or requirements intended to explain or govern the purpose, use or investment of each fund. No use shall be made of the principal or income of any Permanent Fund contrary to the wished expressed by the donor of the gift, bequest or devise, or the vote of the Council establishing the fund, without the approval of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- C.** Unless otherwise required by the terms of the gift, bequest or devise, or a vote of the Council establishing such a Permanent Fund, its control and expenditure shall be governed by the same restrictions provided in **Section 19** of this **Article II** for the administration of a Permanent Life Membership Fund. As there required, the Trustees shall report annually to the Council at its Annual Assembly respecting the condition and amount of each Permanent Fund in their care, any income and the expenditure from the same during the past year and how the remained is invested.

SECTION 21. Duplicate Charters:

For the better preservation of the charters of Councils under this Grand Jurisdiction, any Constituent Council may provide itself with a photographic copy of its Charter, and, when the same shall have been duly certified by the Grand Recorder, such Council may and is hereby authorized to use this certified copy of its charter for all Council purposes.

ARTICLE III JEWELS AND APRONS

SECTION 1. Constituent Council Jewels:

The jewels in a Constituent Council shall be as indicated below:

A. Illustrious Master:	Square and Compasses; Trowel
B. Deputy Master:	Square and Level; Trowel
C. Principal Conductor of the Work:	Square and Plumb; Trowel
D. Treasurer:	Trowel and Crossed Keys
E. Recorder:	Trowel and Crossed Pens
F. Chaplain:	Trowel and Bible
G. Master of Ceremonies:	Trowel and Baton crossed on a Scroll
H. Captain of the Guard:	Trowel, Sword, and Battle Axe
I. Conductor of the Council:	Trowel and Crossed Swords
J. Steward:	Trowel and Sword
K. Sentinel:	Trowel and Scimitar
L. Organist:	Lyre

All are within a triangle. Officers' Jewels in use at the time of this revision may be continued in use.

SECTION 2. Grand Officers' Jewels:

A. The jewels of the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall consist of a golden wreath enclosing nine golden arches of diminishing size, resting upon a Mosaic Pavement of black and white enamel. This jewel shall be furnished by the Grand Council at its expense.

B. The jewel of a Grand Lecturer shall consist of a triangle enclosing an emblem illustrating the Forth-Seventh Problem of Euclid resting on the bottom of the triangle, with a trowel pointing downward from the apex, the whole surrounded by a wreath.

C. Jewels of other Grand Officers shall be similar to those of the corresponding officers of a Constituent Council, as described in **Section 1** of **Article III**, with the addition of being surrounded by a wreath.

D. Ownership of any presiding or past officers' jewels presented to any Companion by this Grand Council shall at all times continue to rest in this Grand Council; such jewels being intended for the use of the recipient only during his continuance in office as to a presiding officers' jewel, otherwise for his life and continued good standing as a member. Upon presentation of such a jewel, the recipient shall furnish to the Grand Recorder, for retention in his records, a statement acknowledging such ownership in writing and binding the recipient, his heirs, successors and assigns, to return said jewel to this Grand Council forthwith upon his death or cessation of membership therein.

SECTION 3. Aprons for Companions:

White aprons measuring thirteen and one-half (13-1/2) inches deep, sixteen and one-half (16-1/2) inches wide, square at the bottom, with royal purple edging one-half (1/2) to three-quarters (3/4) of an inch wide on the lap and body.

SECTION 4. Aprons for Officers:

A. Aprons for presiding officers of Constituent Councils shall consist of white aprons of the same dimensions as those for Companions, but with a royal purple lining and border two and one-quarter (2-1/4) inches wide on the body and one and three-quarters (1-3/4) wide on the lap. If desired, a broken triangle of royal purple may be embroidered or screened on the lap of the apron. Also, if desired, the emblem or jewel of the office held, as described in **Section 1** of this **Article**, may be embroidered or screened in royal purple in the center of the body.

B. The apron for a Past Illustrious Master shall consist of a white apron having the same dimensions, lining and border as that for a presiding officer, but with a broken triangle in royal purple embroidered or screened on the lap and a Past Master's emblem in royal purple embroidered or screened in the center of the body; said emblem consisting of an arch enclosing a graduated arc of approximately fifty-five (55) degrees, with compasses having a trowel depended therein. Said apron shall be edged with gold fringe.

SECTION 5. Aprons for Grand Officers:

A. The apron for a presiding or Past Most Illustrious Grand Master shall be of royal purple, fourteen and one-half (14-1/2) inches deep, seventeen (17) inches wide, square at the bottom, with a white border three (3) inches wide on the body and two and one-half (2-1/2) inches wide on the lap, having gold piping three-eighths of an inch wide along both edges of the border and gold embroidered floral corners at the bottom in the lily-of-the-valley pattern. The lap shall have a broken triangle in gold embroidery and two white tabs or falls shall be attached on the ends. The body of the apron shall be edged with gold fringe. Such an apron, following its presentation by the Grand Council, shall be retained by the recipient and may be worn by him during his life.

B. The apron for all other Grand Officers during their term of office shall consist of a white apron having the same dimensions, lining and border as that for the corresponding officer of a Constituent Council, but it shall have a broken triangle on the lap and the emblem or jewel of the office held, as described in **Section 2** of this **Article**, in the center of the body, all embroidered in gold.

C. Past Grand Officers' aprons will be similar to those of the Grand Council office held, edged with gold fringe and having two white tabs or falls with gold tassels at the end. Gold piping three-eighths (3/8) of an inch wide shall extend along both sides of the purple border of the body and lap, as well as down both sides of each tab.

SECTION 6. The Broken Triangle:

In this Cryptic jurisdiction, the broken triangle used is broken on the side to the viewer's left, with the apex pointing up.

ARTICLE IV HONORS, AWARDS, ETC.

SECTION 1. Longevity Awards:

A. Seventy-Five Year Certificate & Lapel Pin: Awarded for seventy-five years of membership. This award must be requested by the Illustrious Master or Recorder for the Council.

B. Fifty Year Veteran's Medal, Certificate & Lapel Pin: Awarded for fifty years of membership. This award must be requested by the Illustrious Master or Recorder for the Council.

SECTION 2. Membership Awards:

A. Triangle Jewel Awards: Available from the Grand Recorders office, a council may award this Jewel to a Companion who has been the prime sponsor of three candidates during the fiscal year. Silver stars are available for additional units of three candidates.

B. Ish Sodi Award: A membership card in this Select group may be issued from the Grand Recorder's Office to a Companion who has been the first line sponsor of ten candidates since 1965. The Recorder of the Council requesting the award should forward to the Grand Recorder's Office a certified list of the names and dates of the Candidates sponsored by the proposed recipient of the award.

C. Meritorious Ish Sodi Award: This pendant is furnished and presented by the Grand Council to any companion who has sponsored twenty-five candidates since 1965.

SECTION 3. The Past Masters Diploma & Fifty Year Past Illustrious Master's Diploma:

A. At the conclusion of his first year of service as an Illustrious Master, the Most Illustrious Grand Master upon behalf of the Grand Council may, at his discretion, and with the recommendation of the Visiting Officer, award a Past Illustrious Master's Diploma to one who has faithfully and satisfactorily fulfilled said office. Among the qualities and requirements to be taken into consideration in awarding the above diploma shall be attitude, attendance, cooperation, and leadership.

B. Fifty Year Past Illustrious Master's Diploma may be awarded for fifty years of service after he has served as an Illustrious Master provided that during his tenure as an Illustrious Master he was eligible to receive a Past Illustrious Master's Diploma in accordance with **Article IV, Section 3, Paragraph A**. This award must be requested by the Illustrious Master or Recorder for the Council.

SECTION 4. Distinguished Service, Blake-Bayley Medal:

This award was adopted by this Grand Council in 1975 as a memorial to two of our more distinguished Past Most Illustrious Masters: Most Illustrious Companions John Albert Blake and James C. Bayley. This honorary award is to be conferred at the discretion of the presiding Most Illustrious Grand Master, for the purpose of recognizing those who have served their Constituent Councils in an outstanding manner and faithfully over a period of years above and beyond the call of duty. It may be presented by each Council to only one Companion per year. The applicant must have been a member of the Council for at least ten years and must not be serving in a progressive elected office of the Council (first time). Forms for submitting an applicant to the Grand Master are to be obtained from the Grand Recorder's Office, signed by the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work; and forwarded through the Visiting Officer who must also endorse the candidate.

SECTION 5. Grand Council Meritorious Service, Abraham A. Dame:

This award was authorized by the Grand Council in 1975 as a memorial to the first Most Illustrious Grand Master of this Grand Council. This honorary medal may be awarded by the presiding Most Illustrious Grand Master to Companions whom he decides have rendered meritorious service to the Cryptic Rite, generally at the Grand Council level. This award cannot be applied for.

SECTION 6. DeMolay Scholarship:

The DeMolay Scholarship of this Grand Council is composed of bequests, gifts, and contributions to the principal as may be made from time to time. Income only is to be distributed to the DeMolay Foundation of Massachusetts, Inc. for scholarships, to such applicants as may be selected by said Foundation. No part of the principal of said Fund may at any time be used for any other purpose. The first three officers of the Grand Council may decide the number of scholarships to be awarded from the income annually and so instruct the DeMolay Foundation to the number.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. The Grand Constitution:

This Grand Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any assembly, but no alterations or amendments shall be acted upon unless notice of the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been sent to each Constituent Council under this jurisdiction and to every permanent member of this Grand Council, as provided in **Article I, Section 9, Paragraph D.**

SECTION 2. Inconsistent Bylaws:

An amendment to the Grand Constitution annuls instantly whatever is inconsistent therewith in any of the Bylaws of Constituent Councils.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 1. Demits:

A. A demit is the severance of Council Membership. A member desiring a Demit must make a written application to the Recorder. Electronic mail applications are not valid as the member desiring a Demit must submit a written request. If he is clear upon the books and no charges are preferred against him, it shall be granted.

B. A Demitted Companion is in good standing for one year as such, and may apply to any Council, during that time, for membership.

C. A Companion applying for dual or affiliate membership within this jurisdiction, must present a Certificate of Membership in a Regular Council recognized by this Grand Council, or if demitted, must have a Demit from the Council of which he was previously a member.

SECTION 2. Visits:

The Illustrious Master, or presiding officer of each Constituent Council, when notified of an intended Fraternal Visit or Official Visit of a Grand Officer, shall convene his Council on the Select Master Degree, receive his visitor as the representative of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, resign the Chair to him while performing his duty, and in the case of an Official Visit, submit for his inspection the Charter, Bylaws, Records, and an Exemplification of Work.

SECTION 3. Notice of Assemblies:

A. Every Council in this jurisdiction shall send to all its members, at least ten days in advance of its Assemblies, a written, printed, or electronically transmitted notice of the same.

B. Every Council in this jurisdiction shall send to the Most Illustrious Grand Master and to the Grand Recorder printed copies of all notices of Council Assemblies, sent on the same day as they are sent to its own members

SECTION 4. Bylaws:

A. Every Council chartered by this Grand Council shall adopt Bylaws for its government, and the same must conform to the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council. These Bylaws shall fix the date of the Regular Assemblies, the time of the Annual Assembly and election of its officers, and such other regulations as may be deemed advisable. No Council can suspend its Bylaws or any part of them.

B. The Constitution and General Regulations of this Grand Council shall govern in all cases arising from inconsistency or lack of provision in the Bylaws of any Constituent Council in this jurisdiction.

C. No amendment or alteration in the Bylaws adopted by a Constituent Council shall be effective until and unless a written proposal for the same has been submitted at a Regular Assembly, carried upon the notice for a subsequent Assembly, and where adopted by such proportion of the members present as the Bylaws then provide. After such adoption, the amendment must be sent in triplicate, bearing the seal of the Council with the signature of the Recorder, and giving the date and particulars of its adoption, at least thirty days before the time of the Annual, Regular or Special Assembly of the Grand Council at which action is to be taken upon such proposed alterations, additions, or amendments, to the Grand Recorder, for the approval of the Grand Council Committee on Bylaws. After approval in the Grand Council, the amendment must then be copied or inserted into the Council's book of Bylaws and, if copied, the book should be sent or presented to the Grand Recorder for certification.

SECTION 5. Seal:

Each Constituent Council shall have a seal, which shall be defined in its Bylaws. The Seal shall be affixed to all communications made to this Grand Council, and to all credentials which may be given by such Council to any member thereof, and on all other official papers issued by the Council.

SECTION 6. Changes of Location:

No vote to remove their Council to any other place by a Constituent Council shall be effective until and unless a written proposal for the same has been submitted at a Regular Assembly, carried upon the notice for a subsequent Assembly, and where adopted by such proportion of the members present as the Bylaws then provide. If at least two-thirds majority of the members of any Council in this jurisdiction present at a Regular Assembly of their Council shall vote to remove their Council to any other place, the Grand Council may authorize such removal.

SECTION 7. Minimum Dues:

Every Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council shall provide for annual dues for its members, except Life, Honorary, and any other exceptions specifically provided for in their Bylaws. Such dues shall be based upon the requirements of the Council, but in no case shall be less than Five (\$5.00) Dollars annually.

SECTION 8. Balloting:

A. In a ballot for officers, a blank piece of paper, or a vote for an ineligible candidate thrown into the ballot-box contains no expression of the will, desire, or preference of the voter and is not to be counted as a vote.

B. The ballot on a petition for the degrees or membership must be held absolutely sacred, and no member shall be required to give his reasons for the ballot which he has deposited, or disclose the manner in which he voted, under any circumstances.

C. An Application for the Degrees having been presented and received cannot be withdrawn, either by unanimous consent or otherwise, unless it is found that the candidate does not live within this Grand Jurisdiction, or is otherwise unqualified, or an application that has been received by a Council may be withdrawn by written request and over the signature of the applicant at any time prior to the meeting at which his application is to be balloted for in accordance with current requirements and procedures of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts governing the withdrawal of an application for the degrees. Otherwise, an Application for the Degrees must be acted upon by ballot, provided that, if at any time, before or after the ballot, but before initiation, it is discovered that the petitioner does not belong within the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, is not of lawful age, or is otherwise ineligible, further proceedings shall be stopped, the application dismissed and the fees returned to the applicant.

D. No ballot shall be taken unless the application for membership bears the signatures of two members in good standing of the Council, and no candidate shall be received or admitted to the degrees, without a unanimous vote in his favor.

E. In balloting for degrees or membership, the Illustrious Master may allow a maximum of three separate ballotings at his discretion.

F. If no objection is made by the Council, a collective ballot may be taken on plural applications for members, and if favorable, shall constitute election of all to receive the degrees; if unfavorable, each applicant shall be balloted for individually.

G. In balloting for degrees or membership, all members of the Council present must vote, unless excused by vote of the Council.

H. The balloting on a petition for the degrees or membership when once commenced cannot be postponed, but must be completed and the result thereof declared, nor can it be reconsidered.

SECTION 9. APPEAL:

No appeal can be made to a Council from a decision of its Illustrious Master. His decision can be reviewed only by the Most Illustrious Grand Master during recess of the Grand Council, or by appeal directly to the Grand Council.

SECTION 10. Candidates:

A. In case of objection to the conferring of the degrees on a candidate who has been elected, unless the objector announces his objections as temporary and only for the purpose of further inquiry, it shall be considered as having the effect of a black ball. The fee shall be returned, and the candidate may be permitted to petition again after the expiration of six months from the date of objection.

B. Should objection be made to the advancement of a candidate after he shall have received any of the Council Degrees, it shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master to order the Companion so objecting to file written charges forthwith.

C. All objections to advancement, after a degree has been conferred, shall be recorded, together with the name of the objector. The objecting companion shall prefer formal charges within two months based on the grounds of his objection previously filed, and a trial shall be had thereon by direction of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

D. Should the objecting companion fail or refuse to refer charges within the time specified, the Council shall have the right to proceed in conferring the remaining degrees, unless objection on other grounds is made by some other Companion.

E. A Council cannot waive its jurisdiction over a candidate for advancement against whom objection has been duly made.

SECTION 11. Resignation:

The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work cannot resign, but any other officer may do so. An installed officer cannot demit while in office.

SECTION 12. Installations:

A. An installation of the officers cannot be held, either in public or in private, without first opening the Council. The records of the Council must show the installation of its officers, and the records should be made only of business transacted while the Council is in session.

B. None but presiding or Past Illustrious Masters are qualified to install the officers of a Council.

SECTION 13. Exemption from Dues:

Exemption from Constituent Council Dues does not exempt from Grand Council Dues of Assessments.

SECTION 14. Private and Public Honors:

A. Private Grand Honors shall consist of the Due-Guard of the Select Master Degree followed by a battery of three, the whole to be given three times.

B. Private Grand Honors may be given only to one who has occupied the position of Grand Master of a Grand Council, to the official head of any regular Grand Masonic body recognized as such by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, to one specially deputized to represent a presiding Grand Master, or to one who may be specially honored by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

C. Public Honors shall consist only of the battery of three times three.

SECTION 15. Form of Charter:

**TO ALL ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS, ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASONS, THROUGH
THE GLOBE**

[L.S.] The Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons in and for the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, sendeth greeting:

BE IT KNOWN, That, in the pursuance of the powers vested in us by the Constitution of The
Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts, and for sundry good and
sufficient reasons and causes us thereunto moving and reposing special confidence in the Masonic
abilities of the following Companions, Royal and Select Master Masons, all resident in or near the
.....of..... in the county of, in the
Commonwealth aforesaid, we have constituted, and by these presents to do constitute, A., B., C., D.,
E., F., and G., together with all their regular associates, Companions, and successors, into a Council
of Royal and Select Master Masons by the name of Council of Royal and Select
master Masons, to take rank, date, and precedence from thein the year of our Lord
Two Thousand and And we do hereby authorize and empower them, the
Companions aforesaid or any none of them, from time to time and at all times, hereafter, to open and
hold a Council of Royal and Select Master Masons in said, and to admit at their
discretion any Royal Arch Masons to the degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super-
Excellent Master; and for that purpose to open and hold Councils of Royal Masters, Select Masters,
and Super-Excellent Masters, agreeably to ancient usage and customs; also to make and establish
Bylaws and Regulations for the government of said Council in conformity to the Constitution of this
Grand Council; and further, to order and establish such dues and fees for the admission of
candidates and members as shall seem proper, and as are required by this Grand Council.

And we do hereby appoint Companion first Illustrious Master, Companion
..... first Deputy Master, and Companion first Principal
Conduction of the Work, of said Council.

And we do hereby enjoin upon the Companions of the said Council that they, or any number of
them, do not at any time hold any private meetings or assemblies for Masonic purposes, except in the
presence of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of
the Work, or a Companion appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, or in presence of either
the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, or Principal Conductor of the Work of said Council, for the time
being, and further, that they regularly pay or cause to be paid, annually, to this Grand Council, all their
lawful dues.

And it is absolutely required of the said Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal
Conductor of the Work, for the time being, that they attend regularly, either in person or by their
proxies, at stated Assemblies of this Grand Council.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, have hereunto subscribed our names and caused the Seal of
our Grand Council to be affixed, and the same to be attested by the Grand Recorder, in the city of
Boston, and the Commonwealth aforesaid, this day of, in the year of our
Lord Two Thousand and and in the year of Deposit Three Thousand and
.....

....., Most Illustrious Grand Master
....., Deputy Grand Master
....., Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

Attest:
....., Grand Recorder