

AMENDMENTS: 2014 – 2017

TITLE THREE: GRAND LODGE CONSTITUTION

Title Three, Article IV, Section 1

Part 2. Emergencies Interfering with Annual Communication. In the event at the time scheduled for any Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge any Federal or other regulation shall restrict the attendance thereat or travel thereto:

Title Three, Article IV, Section 2

Part 1. Election of Grand Lodge Officers.

- (a) The M.W. Grand Master, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Senior Grand Warden, R.W. Junior Grand Warden, R.W. Grand Treasurer, R.W. Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge Trustees, Masonic Charity Foundation Trustees, and Historic Trenton Masonic Temple Trustees, shall be elected by ballot of the members of the Grand Lodge.
- (b) Ballots attributed to the current Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of each lodge may only be cast in person by being present at the stated Annual Communication, or by the lodge's Proxy to the Grand Lodge, as provided.
- (c) A Past Master's ballot may be cast either in person or electronically by Internet connection.
- (d) All votes, regardless of how cast, shall be tabulated and reported at the Annual Communication.
- (e) A majority (50%+1) of all the votes cast shall be necessary to constitute a choice for the Grand Lodge Elected Officers. If there be no choice on the first ballot, then a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be confined to the three candidates who shall receive the highest number of votes. Should there be no choice on the second ballot, then a third ballot shall be cast, which shall be confined to the two candidates who received the highest number of votes on the second ballot.
- (f) All trustees shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast.

Part 3. Voting by Ballot. When voting is by written ballot, every lodge shall be allowed three votes: i.e., if all three Senior Officers (Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens) are present, each shall cast his own ballot; if one of such Officers is absent, the Senior Officer shall cast 2 ballots; if two of the Senior Officers are absent, the attending Officer shall cast all 3 ballots; and if all three Senior Officers are absent, the proxy duly elected by the lodge shall cast 3 ballots. If the proxy is a Past Master and is exercising his duty as proxy, he may cast 4 ballots.

Part 8. Breaking of Ties.

(a) Elected Line (more than 2 candidates remaining). When there are three candidates remaining, and the brethren in second and third place are tied with no candidate having a majority of all votes cast, all ballots will be recounted giving 3 points to a 1st place ranking, 2 points to a 2nd place ranking and 1 point to a 3rd place ranking. The tie between the brothers in 2nd and 3rd place will be broken with the brother with the most points advancing.

(b) Elected Line (two candidates remaining). An exact tie between the final two candidates will be broken as follows:

- (1) If there were more than two candidates to start the election, the tie will be broken by scoring each ballot, giving 3 points to a 1st place ranking and 2 points to a 2nd place ranking. Zero points will be given for any other ranking. The brother receiving the most points will be declared the winner.
- (2) If there were only two candidates to start the election, each of the Elected Line and the District Deputy Grand Masters will receive one vote, which will be cast through a written ballot, with the candidate receiving the most votes declared the winner.

(c) Trustees. Should a tie occur during an election for a Grand Lodge, Masonic Charity Foundation or Historic Trenton Temple Trustee which makes the brethren elected unclear, the tie will be broken by using the ranking of the candidates. A brother ranked 1st will receive 1 point, a second place ranking will receive 2 points, and so on. Ties will be broken with the brother receiving the lowest amount of points being elected.

TITLE FOUR: GRAND LODGE BY-LAWS

Title Four, Article II, Section 2

Part 1. Grand Treasurer. The Grand Treasurer shall be the financial officer of the Grand Lodge and shall be responsible for the deposit, protection and disbursement of Grand Lodge moneys. He shall review all deposits made by the Grand Secretary, and monitor on a monthly basis all disbursements, properly listed by category. The Grand Treasurer shall post the financial statements, which shall include the balance sheets, income statement and budget report showing the amounts budgeted, the amounts expended, the excess or deficit for each budget line item and budget total on the Grand Lodge website, no later than November 30th following the close of each fiscal year. In addition, the annual audit, including the auditor's report and notes to the financial statements shall be published in the Grand Lodge Annual Proceedings, distributed to the lodges, and published in The New Jersey Freemason, no later than December 15th, following the annual

communication. In case of the disability of the Grand Treasurer, from whatever cause, to perform the duties of his office, the Grand Master shall appoint some member of the Grand Lodge to act as Grand Treasurer during the incapacity or disability of the Grand Treasurer. The Grand Master shall be the judge of the incapacity or disability of the Grand Treasurer and as to his recovery from such incapacity or disability.

Title Four, Article II, Section 2

Part 3. Grand Lodge Trustees.

(a) *Term.* There shall be five Trustees of the Grand Lodge, whom shall be elected to serve for three years at an annual communication. No Trustee of Grand Lodge who shall have served for six or more years, consecutively, shall be eligible for election to serve again as a Trustee of Grand Lodge until at least one year shall have elapsed since the date on which he last served as a member. The period between two annual communications shall be considered as a full year, regardless of the exact dates on which such meetings are held. Vacancies in the office of Trustees created by death, resignation or removal from the jurisdiction of an incumbent, shall be filled ad interim by an appointment by the Grand Master until the next annual communication, when an election shall be held for the unexpired term so vacated.

(d) The Trustees are authorized to invest the permanent fund established pursuant to Title Four, Article V, Section 1, Part 1 and to manage all operational requirements of the permanent fund as established in that section. In so doing the Trustees are authorized to retain advisors, custodians, and similar qualified persons to an equivalent extent as authorized in subsection 3(c) above.

Title Four, Article II, Section 2

Part 3. Grand Lodge Trustees.

(c) *Investments.* The Trustees (hereafter referred to for the remainder of Part 3(c) as 'they', 'them' or 'their') are hereby authorized to invest the surplus funds of the Grand Lodge (defined as those funds not being required for the functioning of the Grand Lodge, as determined by them) from time to time to meet existing obligations or to defray immediately prospective expenditures already authorized in such funds or other securities, including stocks, as those in which a fiduciary may invest. They are hereby authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for investment advisory services with respect to the investment of the funds of Grand Lodge with a firm, a bank, or trust company with experience in providing such investment advisory service. All investments made by them shall be in accordance with accepted

financial practices, and no investment of Grand Lodge shall be assigned. They are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with or through an investment advisory service, a bank, a trust company, or any other financially qualified and responsible depository within or without the state of New Jersey for custodial service for the investment portfolio of the Grand Lodge. With respect to each and every investment made by them, a permanent record shall be made thereof, and a copy of such permanent record shall be promptly provided to the Office of the Grand Secretary. When in the exercise of their best judgment and discretion, they (or a majority of their number) shall deem it advisable to sell any of the securities owned by the Grand Lodge, they shall do so to the best possible advantage. The income realized during each fiscal year from the investment of monies and funds in the general fund, or from the amortization of bonds, discounts, or premiums and the charges from investment advisors and custodians shall be recorded in the Operating Account periodically as determined by them. At the close of each fiscal year, any excess funds in the Operating Account as determined by them shall be transferred to the general fund.

Title Four, Article II, Section 3

Part 2. District Deputy Grand Masters and District Ritual Instructors.

(d) Should the District Deputy Grand Master be the Treasurer or Secretary of a lodge in his own district, the Grand Master will appoint a qualified, disinterested party to perform the duty of reviewing the books and records of that lodge.

Title Four, Article II, Section 3

Part 4. Grand Pursuivant. The Grand Pursuivant shall be stationed inside the door and announce the names and titles of all persons reported to him by the Grand Tyler.

Title Four, Article IV, Section 1

Part 10. Committee on Trenton Masonic Museum. Delete Part 10 and renumber Parts 11 - 20.

Title Four, Article VII, Section 5

Part 2. Nominations. The permitting or forbidding of nominations for office rests in the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

Title Four, Article VII, Section 5

Part 3. Eligibility.

(c) *Trustees.* A trustee may also hold an appointive office in the lodge to which he has been elected a Trustee. A Trustee may not hold an elective office nor serve on the Audit Committee in the

lodge in which he has been elected Trustee. In the event that a Lodge Trustee accepts a nomination for another elected office while his original term of office shall be unexpired, and the original term of office will not expire by the time of election to the new office, that member shall be deemed to have concurrently submitted his resignation from the currently held office, effective as of the date of the election, and that office shall be deemed vacant for the purposes of filling the vacant unexpired term.

Title Four, Article IV, Section 3

Part 4. Committee on Community Charity Fund. A fund shall be created, to be known and designated as the Masonic Community Charity Fund of New Jersey. The function and purpose of the Masonic Community Charity Fund of New Jersey, shall be to provide funds to be dispersed by or on behalf of the constituent lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction for charitable, benevolent, educational, scientific or literary purposes. The Fund as above constituted shall be administered through the Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey, by a Committee appointed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master. The said Committee shall have the power to disperse such funds of the Masonic Community Charity Fund of New Jersey as in its judgment, shall appear proper; and no money shall be dispersed by said Committee from said Charity Fund except upon the approval of the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Title Four, Article VII, Section 5

Part 5. Balloting for Annual Election of Officers.

(a) *Nominations.* Nominations for elected officers of a lodge shall be submitted at the regular communication of the lodge immediately prior to the lodge's Annual Communication. A brother nominated for more than one elected office may only accept one nomination.

Title Four, Article VII, Section 5

Part 6. Votes required for Election Candidates. In an election for officers at a lodge's Annual Communication, only a candidate previously nominated in proper form who receives a majority vote is elected, if otherwise qualified.

Title Four, Article VII, Section 5

Part 11. Lodge Trustees – Effective Date. The term of a Lodge Trustee duly elected at a Lodge's Annual Communication begins at the close of that meeting.

Title Four, Article VII, Section 9

Part 4. Election Endorsements.

(b) The publication and distribution of printed circulars, cards, posters, pins, electronic media, and personal appearances, advocating the election of any brother to office and the platform and qualifications of that brother is in the best interests of the Fraternity and is permitted under the following conditions:

- (1) All such publications may only advocate the platform and/or reasons why that candidate would be an appropriate candidate for election to the office sought.
- (2) All personal appearances for the purpose of advocating a candidate for office shall be by invitation extended to the candidate by the body to whom he shall be speaking, only.
- (3) Negative campaigning, and the publication of anything which demeans or attacks the person or qualifications of any other candidate is contrary to the spirit of Masonry and the traditions of the Craft and is absolutely forbidden.
- (4) All such publications must first obtain the approval of the Grand Master, through the office of the Grand Secretary, prior to distribution, to insure compliance with subsections (1), (2) and (3) above.

Title Four, Article IX, Section 4

Part 1. Right to Vote. The right of a Master Mason to vote in his Lodge can be affected only by his suspension, expulsion, or failure to pass the Master Mason examination. The Tyler, when a member of the Lodge, has the right to cast his ballot on all occasions.

Title Four, Article IX, Section 4

Part 5. Collective Balloting.

(b) *Balloting on Suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues (NPD).* If there is more than one ballot for non-payment of dues, and there is no objection from the members present, the ballot may be spread collectively.

NOTE: The same rules will apply to this collective ballot as to a single NPD vote (as per Title Four, Article IX, Section 8, Part 2(a) of the GRAND LODGE BY-LAWS).

Title Four, Article IX, Section 8

Part 1. Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues.

(a) *Grounds for Suspension.* Any member of the lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who shall be in arrears for dues

twelve months, and who shall refuse or neglect to pay the same within three months after demand thereof shall have been made by the Secretary of the lodge to which the same are due and payable, may be suspended, after due and timely notice of a regular communication of the lodge at which he may be heard in regard to his proposed suspension. Notice to the delinquent member may be sent any time after August 1st of the year for which payment is past due. Ninety (90) days following the mailing of the notice if a merit is still outstanding. The lodge may vote to suspend the member effective on December 31st of the year for which non-payment has occurred. If payment shall be received prior to December 31st. The vote to suspend shall be null and void. A member that fails to make payment by December 31st and is suspended under this part, the member shall be reported as suspended on the lodge's Annual Return for that year.

Title Four, Article IX, Section 8

Part 2. Ballots For Suspension/Restoration.

(a) *Suspension.* For the suspension from membership of a member, either of the Grand Lodge or of a lodge, two-thirds of the votes of the members present shall be required, by ballot. Suspension of a member takes effect on December 31st of the Suspension year upon the announcement of the requisite vote, with reference to approval of the minutes.

Title Four, Article IX, Section 9

Part 9. Annual Membership Assessment.

(g) Three dollars (\$3.00) for the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple Board of Trustees for a five year period commencing 2018.

Title Four, Article X, Section 1

Part 6. Participation by Non-Master Masons in Masonic Ceremonies.

(a) *Tyled Ceremonies.* As per Masonic protocols, an EA or FC Mason may wear his appropriate apron and participate in the following:

- A degree which they have previously received and successfully passed the examination. Their participation may be as an examiner of another Entered Apprentice at a subsequent exam, as an Assistant Marshal, or as an officer with proper instruction from his lodge.
- A Masonic Funeral service.
- An Official Visit of the Grand Master and reception to honor GL staff (with proper notice to the Grand Master)
- Installation of Lodge Officers

(b) *Public Ceremonies.* As per Masonic protocols, an EA or FC Mason may wear his appropriate apron (when proper to do so) and participate in the following:

- Masonic Funeral service.
- Cornerstone Laying
- Official Visit of the Grand Master and reception to honor GL staff.
- Installation of Lodge Officers
- Parades

Title Four, Article XI, Section 4

Part 3. Pretrial Process.

(a) *Reading of Charges.* At the next regular communication of the lodge in which the charges have been filed, the Secretary shall read the charges to the lodge, excluding the names of the accuser and the accused. The term "Brother Accuser" shall be used to reference the accuser and the term "Brother Defendant" shall be used to reference the accused. The generic term "Brother" shall be used regardless of the participant's Grand Lodge title to ensure anonymity. If such charge be received by a majority secret ballot vote thereof, he shall promptly serve or cause to be served a true copy thereof, upon the accused, either personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. The involved parties shall be identified after the vote has been closed and the results announced.