



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**of the**  
**GRAND COUNCIL**  
**of**  
**CRYPTIC MASONS**  
**of the**  
**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**and**  
**Laws Regulating Constituent Councils**

**Adopted at 114th Annual Assembly,  
Evanston, Illinois, Sept. 23, 1967**

**Revised at 164 Annual Assembly,  
Bloomington, Illinois, August 8, 2015**

**As revised by the Review and Revision Committee  
Charles E. Hileman, Jr., MIPGM, Chairman,  
Everett S. CampBell, Grand Master and  
Members of the Committee on Jurisprudence**

# GRAND COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

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**SEC. 1 ORIGIN**

The Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry was introduced into Illinois from an adjoining State, and meetings were held in the years 1852 and 1853, resulting in a meeting at Springfield on March 10, 1854, at which Illinois Council No. 1 of Knoxville, Springfield Council No. 2 and Alton Council No. 3 came into being with a “solemn declaration that the delegates present do now form a Grand Council of Illinois.”

**SEC. 2 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

Their purpose was to promote the interests of the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry throughout the State of Illinois, as exemplified in their ceremonies, and in the ritual of the degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, Super Excellent Master and Thrice Illustrious Master. Thus supreme power and authority was assumed over the Cryptic Rite in Illinois, and rules and regulations were adopted for its government.

**SEC. 3 OFFICIAL NAME**

This Organization shall be known and called by the name and style of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois.

Adopted July 25, 1985, Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC. 4 NOT AN INCORPORATED BODY**

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois is not a corporation, but it may organize one or more charitable corporations and be a shareholder in such corporations, and its officers may be directors and officers of such corporations.

Adopted August 8, 2015

**SEC. 5 WHO CONSTITUTES THE GRAND COUNCIL**

This Grand Council shall consist of a Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, a Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer, a Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, an Illustrious Grand Chaplain, an Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard, an Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council, an Illustrious Grand Marshal, an Illustrious Grand Steward, an Illustrious Grand Sentinel, and if appointed, an Illustrious Grand Orator and an Illustrious Grand Organist, whose stations, places, and duties are traditionally known and herein assigned, and who cannot serve in such stations or places until legally installed, together with all Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters, Thrice Illustrious Past Masters, and the Thrice Illustrious Masters, Illustrious Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work of Illinois Constituent Councils, of whom each must be in good standing in an Illinois Council.

Adopted August 8, 2015

**SEC. 6 THOSE ENTITLED TO VOTE**

Each Most Illustrious Past Grand Master and present Grand Officer named in Section 5 who is either a present or past Thrice Illustrious Master shall be entitled to one vote; provided, that he is in good standing in an Illinois Constituent Council. Each Thrice Illustrious Past Master and Thrice Illustrious Master, Illustrious Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work of each Illinois Constituent Council at the Annual Assembly shall be entitled to one vote; provided, that he is in good standing and that the Council he is representing has paid its per capita tax in full and filed its report of installation, along with any penalty due, prior to the Annual Assembly.

Adopted August 8, 2015

## **SEC. 7 REPRESENTATIVES**

The three senior officers of a Constituent Council are its representatives to Grand Council in the order named, and NO PROXY shall be given to the EXCLUSION of these. When only two officers or proxies attend, the senior casts two, and the junior one, of the Council's three votes. To clarify:

1. Each council is entitled to three votes, if represented.
2. If the council is represented by all the principal officers (T.I.M., I.D.M. and P.C.W.) each will cast one vote.
3. If the council is represented by two of the three principal officers, the higher in rank will cast two votes and the lower will cast one vote.
4. If the council is represented by only one of the three principal officers, he will cast three votes. In neither of these cases will a proxy be necessary.
5. When the council is represented by a Member of the council who is not one of the three principal officers, such representative must have a proxy of one of the three principal officers and such proxy entitles the designated companion to the same rights and privileges and subject to the same penalties as the officers appointing him.
6. Should one of the three principal officers, thinking that he would be unable to attend Grand Council, give his proxy to a companion and later find that he was able to attend, the proxy given will be null and void as our code states that no PROXY shall be given to the EXCLUSION of such officers.
7. Should a Past Thrice Illustrious Master, who is entitled to one vote as such, hold the proxy of the three principal officers, he will be allowed to vote in one capacity only, and his votes will not be accumulative.

Revised 7/26/01

## **SEC. 8 QUORUM**

The Annual Assembly of this Grand Council shall not be opened unless ten (10) or more constituent councils are represented. If no quorum is present by 10:00 A. M. that day, the Grand Master shall call off said Annual Assembly until the next Stated Annual Assembly, or he may postpone or adjourn said Annual Assembly until such date as he may, by due notice to all Councils, set for an Assembly.

Adopted August8, 2015

## **SECTION 9 - STATED ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

The Stated Annual Assembly of this Grand Council shall be held annually no later than 90 days following the end of the fiscal year. The dates of said Annual Assembly to be designated by the Officer who will preside at that Assembly. Notice of such Annual Assembly shall be mailed to all Constituent Councils no later than May 20 preceding such Assembly.

Adopted July 26, 2012

## **SEC. 10 ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

At each Annual Assembly, this Grand Council shall elect by ballot a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Recorder, a Grand Captain of the Guard, a Grand Conductor of the Council, and a Grand Marshal; of whom each must be either a present or past Thrice Illustrious Master of a Council of Cryptic Masons and a member, in good standing, of this Grand Council. Upon his election, the Grand Master shall appoint a Grand Chaplain, a Grand Steward, and a Grand Sentinel and may appoint a Grand Orator,



a Grand Organist, and such other "non-constitutional officers" as he may find expedient for the conduct of the business affairs of this Grand Council during the ensuing term.

If but one name is suggested for an office, the election may be by acclamation.

Each installed elective officer shall continue to serve until such time as his successor is installed.

All appointive officers shall serve at the pleasure and direction of the Grand Master pursuant to his powers under Section 14.

Adopted August 8, 2015

*This amendment shall be effective beginning with the Annual Assembly in 2016; the intent is that the next anticipated contested election for the bottom of the advancing officer line would be held in 2017, after which this italicized language shall disappear from this Constitution.*

## **SEC. 11 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder and the Chairman of the Finance Committee shall constitute the Board of Trustees, with the Grand Master as Chairman. The Board shall have full power and authority to sell any and all securities belonging to this Grand Council, and to invest and reinvest all money of this Grand Council.

Investments may be made in any Federal Security that is a direct obligation of the Federal Government or legitimate authorized Agency of the Federal Government, common or preferred stock of corporations, in a Federally insured account in a depository institution holding either a State or Federal Charter, and in other financial instruments at risk as would be made by a reasonably prudent investor.

Any stock purchased shall be issued by a Corporation whose stock is listed on either the New York Stock Exchange or the American Stock Exchange.

When deemed advisable, the Board may authorize the Officers to borrow rather than withdraw from such deposits. All withdrawals, or loans when authorized shall bear such signatures as required in Section 12.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master may appoint one Companion to serve as an Advisor to the Board of Trustees. Such Advisor shall serve without the power to vote.

Adopted 7/21/94, Revised August 8, 2105

## **SEC. 12 PLACE OF DEPOSIT**

The Board of Trustees shall choose the institution or institutions in which the funds of this Grand Council shall be deposited, always in the name of the Grand Council

The Board of Trustees shall establish a Permanent Fund for this Grand Council in an amount of not less than \$250,000.00. This Fund shall be considered a permanent endowment and shall be deposited in such investments as to maximize the earnings thereon. The principal deposit of such Fund shall not be commingled with the General Fund, and only the earnings derived from such Fund may be expended by this Grand Council. The Board of Trustees may cumulate additional moneys to this Fund from time to time. At each Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, the Grand Treasurer shall report the current principal balance of such fund.

Adopted 7/18/91, Revised August 8, 2105 Revised 7/26/01

**SEC. 13 POWER OF THE GRAND COUNCIL**

This Grand Council has full and complete executive, legislative, and judicial authority over the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry in the State of Illinois. It may grant dispensations and charters to constituent Councils and may revoke, annul or amend such dispensations and charters. It may require from constituent Councils such fees and dues as will, at all times, support and maintain the Grand Council. It may reprimand, suspend or expel any of its members for violation of its laws.

Further, it shall have the same powers over the Illinois Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters and the Illinois Council of Knights of Ish Sodi, with the exception of imposing a per capita tax, because the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters confers only an honorary degree upon present and past Thrice Illustrious Masters of constituent Councils and the Council of Knights of Ish Sodi confers only an honorary degree upon Companions selected by the Most Illustrious Grand Master to receive the honor.

Adopted 7/18/91, Revised 7/26/01

**SEC.14 GRAND MASTER**

During the recess of this Grand Council the Grand Master is invested with all its power, which necessity may require should be exercised without delay, such action being subject to review by this Grand Council. He shall preside at all assemblies of this Grand Council. He shall appoint such officers, inspectors and committees as may be designated by this Grand Council, subject to any limitation herein, and for good reason may vacate such appointments, and fill the vacancy thereby created. He may, in person or by proxy, constitute Councils chartered by this Grand Council and install officers therein. He shall take such disciplinary action as is required by Grand Council law with delinquent Councils. He may preside in any Constituent Council and inspect its records and accounts.

Adopted 7/18/91

He (the Grand Master) shall schedule at least 3 meetings of the Grand Council Officers of this Grand Council each to be scheduled under a different calendar quarter of the Cryptic Year excluding the Annual Assembly. The time and place of such Grand Officer meetings to be at his discretion.

Adopted July 26, 2012

**SEC. 15 VACANCIES IN GRAND COUNCIL**

In the event of a permanent or temporary disability of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall perform the duties of the Grand Master. If both are disabled, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall serve in such capacity. If all three are disabled, the JUNIOR Past Grand Master shall serve as Grand Master until the disability of one of the foregoing ceases, or until the next stated Annual Assembly, since the office of Grand Master is never vacant. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Grand Treasurer or in the office of the Grand Recorder, the Grand Master shall appoint a qualified companion to serve until the next Stated Annual Assembly. Vacancies in elective offices shall not be filled until the next Stated Annual Assembly except as stated above.

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 16 BONDS OF OFFICERS**

The Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder shall each give bond, executed by a corporate Surety Company authorized to do business in the State of Illinois, in such form and amount as the Grand

Council may from time to time designate. Cost of such bond shall be borne by this Grand Council, and the bonds shall be kept in the possession of the Grand Master.

**SEC. 17 GRAND TREASURER**

The Grand Treasurer shall be custodian of the funds and the securities of this Grand Council; and shall pay all authorized orders drawn on its funds; and shall report all receipts and disbursements at each Stated Annual Assembly together with an itemized list of all assets and securities owned by this Grand Council.

**SEC. 18 GRAND RECORDER**

The duties of the Grand Recorder are secretarial, and shall include - attendance at the Grand Council with necessary records; recording all monies paid into the Grand Council, and paying them over to the Grand Treasurer, drawing authorized orders on the Grand Council funds; keeping and affixing the Grand Council seal on all necessary documents; recording returns of Constituent Councils; conducting Grand Council correspondence; issuing notice of the Stated Annual Assembly on or before May 10th prior to said Grand Assembly; and any Special Assemblies; causing the journal of such Assembly to be printed and distributed with all convenient dispatch; to keep a copy of every Charter issued; to cause to be printed, and kept in stock for sale to Constituent Councils all forms.

Approved 9/9/72 - Effective with the 1974 Grand Assembly, Revised 7/26/01

**SEC. 19 PARAPHERNALIA**

This Grand Council shall purchase and maintain such paraphernalia as it deems appropriate for its functions

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC.20 OTHER GRAND OFFICERS**

All Grand Officers shall perform such services incident to their respective offices as the Cryptic Rite traditionally prescribes, as may be designated herein and as the Grand Master may direct. The Grand Conductor of the Council shall take charge of and safely keep all Grand Council paraphernalia when the Grand Council is not in Grand Assembly, making report thereon as conditions require.

The Grand Sentinel shall take charge of the Grand Council Paraphernalia during the Grand Council Assembly.

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 21 REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN GRAND COUNCILS**

The Grand Master may issue commissions to companions suggested by other Grand Councils as Representatives of Illinois near such Grand Councils and shall suggest names of Thrice Illustrious Past Masters in good standing in Illinois Councils for appointment as Representatives of other Grand Councils near this Grand Council. All such Commissions are subject to review and may be recalled at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master. The failure to attend Grand Council Assembly or to correspond with the represented jurisdiction for two consecutive years shall dictate such a review. Unless excused by the Grand Master due to special circumstances, such failure to attend or correspond for three consecutive years shall be deemed a resignation.

Revised 7/26/01

## **SEC. 22 DISTRICT INSPECTORS**

The Grand Master shall divide the Constituent Councils into Districts and assign to each District a past or present Thrice Illustrious Master as an Inspector, whose duties shall be such as are assigned by the Grand Master. Each Inspector shall be loaned, upon the signing of a receipt therefor, an appropriate apron, which must be returned to the Grand Recorder at each Stated Annual Assembly; provided, that if an Inspector resigns or is replaced at the pleasure of the Grand Master, the apron shall be returned as soon as practicable, but in no case later than the next Annual Assembly.

Adopted July 26, 2012, Revised July 26, 2012, Revised August 8, 2015

## **SEC. 23 STANDARD PRINTED FORMS**

A. This Grand Council shall have printed and keep for sale by the Grand Recorder to the Constituent Councils such forms as he, the Grand Master, or the Grand Council may deem necessary or expedient for the conduct of the business of this Grand Council. In addition, such of these forms as he or they may find appropriate shall be available for electronic distribution and reproduction to said Councils or the general membership, as appropriate and as increasingly advancing technology may allow.

Adopted August 8, 2015

### **B. INSPECTION REPORT FORMS**

The Grand Recorder shall prepare and distribute such Inspection Report forms as directed and deemed proper by the Grand Master for the use of the Inspectors.

Adopted 7/18/91

## **SEC. 24 NOMENCLATURE**

(Names, Titles, Ceremonial formations)

All members of the Cryptic Rite bear the honorary title of Companion and should be addressed, introduced, and spoken of as "Companion Jones." When one becomes Principal Conductor of the Work and or Deputy Master of his Council, he becomes "Illustrious" and as Master, "Thrice Illustrious" but is still "Companion Jones." When one becomes a Grand Council Officer, he becomes "Illustrious." The Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder are designated "Right Illustrious." When one becomes Grand Master, he is styled "Most Illustrious" but is still "Companion Jones, Most Illustrious Grand Master. Note the use of the word "Past" indicates that tenure of office is over – past presiding officers of a council are "Thrice Illustrious Past Masters" and past presiding officers of the Grand Council are "Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters," for they retain their titles after their terms of office expire. For all ceremonial formations and introductions, Past Grand Masters form by Seniority behind the three dais officers of the Grand Council.

The members of any constituent Council may, by majority vote, elect one of its Companions to the rank and title of Honorary Thrice Illustrious Past Master at each Stated Annual Assembly.

As the title is indeed honorary, no installation ceremony is called for and the Companion need not even be present in order to attain that rank and be accorded the style of "Thrice Illustrious." However, such honorary rank shall not include the right to vote in this Grand Council.

Adopted 7/18/91, Revised 7/26/01

## **SEC. 25 CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Twenty-five or more qualified petitioners may be granted Letters of Dispensation to form a new Council provided that the following procedure is complied with:

- (1) Such petition is accompanied by at least Five petitions for degrees.
- (2) A Constituent Illinois Council shall have voted to recommend the issuance of such Dispensation and shall have certified such vote to the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
- (3) No new names are to be added to the petition after the Grand Master has acted thereon.
- (4) No Council may be named after a living person.

The petitions may include members of Illinois Councils holding current dues cards or valid demits, members of recognized jurisdictions who have demitted or whose Grand Councils permit dual or plural membership and members of Royal Arch Chapters in good standing who receive the Council Degrees in such Chapter.

When these conditions are observed and Letters of Dispensation have been issued the petitioners shall work as \_\_\_\_\_ Council Under Dispensation until the next Stated Annual Assembly of this Grand Council. When such Dispensation may be revoked, if the Most Illustrious Grand Master's report recommends the issuance of a Charter and the report of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations is favorable.

All Councils Under Dispensation shall work under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations; Newly Chartered Councils shall be assigned to one of the District Inspectors.

#### **SEC. 26 DEGREES OF THE CRYPTIC RITE**

Degrees conferred in Constituent Councils in Illinois shall be those of "Royal Master" and "Select Master" in the order named. The degree of "Super Excellent Master" may be conferred as an honorary degree. The conferring of the degree of "Thrice Illustrious Master" shall be delegated to the exclusive jurisdiction of the existing "Illinois Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters," especially chartered for that purpose under special laws pertaining thereto.

#### **SEC.27 Repealed August 8, 2015**

#### **SEC. 28 TRIENNIAL FUND**

There shall be established of a separate Fund, to be known as the TRIENNIAL FUND to be used for the express purpose of alleviation of the expenses of the Official Representatives of this Grand Council who attend a Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master and the Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work who attend the Triennial Assembly shall be the only Official Representatives of this Grand Council entitled to any reimbursement from said TRIENNIAL FUND.

The sum of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) shall be paid to each of the above named Official Representatives who attend the entire Triennial Assembly as Official Representatives. Should any one or all of the above named Grand Officers fail to attend in person, no other person shall be entitled to said THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) and no sum in excess of the Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) shall be paid to any Representative even if he be the only one in attendance from Illinois. Only such an amount as may be required to position the Fund at sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS, (\$900.00) at the expiration of each Triennial shall from time to time be appropriated by the Grand Council.

Any interest received from this fund shall remain in the fund until it shall equal the Annual Appropriation of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS, (\$300.00) at which time it shall be used in lieu of the Annual Appropriation. Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 29 ILLINOIS MASONIC NURSES TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois authorizes and adopts the Illinois Masonic Nurses Training Scholarship Foundation as a charitable activity of this Grand Council. Any officer or member of this Grand Council or of its subordinate Councils who, by virtue of Grand Council office or Cryptic membership, is named an officer, director, or other official of the Foundation under the provisions of its charter or by-laws, shall act in the capacity as part of his duties in the Grand Council; any failure to so act shall be considered a dereliction of official duty. The Foundation shall have access to and use of the mailing lists of the Grand Council and its Constituent Councils, but any general communication to the membership must receive the prior review and approval of the Grand Master. Use of Grand Council symbols, devices, logos, titles, names and other identifications shall be permitted, subject to prior approval by the Grand Master. The Grand Council shall freely proclaim its association with the Foundation. The Grand Council shall expect a reciprocal support and identification from the Foundation. The provisions of this section shall be generously interpreted to permit all acts which tend to promote, improve or enhance the charitable objectives of this association and of this program in general.

Adopted 7/29/82

**SEC. 30 AMENDING, ALTERING OR REVISING THIS CONSTITUTION**

Any changes in the Constitution shall be proposed in writing to the Grand Recorder by May 1st PRIOR to the Annual Assembly, such changes mailed to all members of the JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE by May 10th as well as to all CONSTITUENT COUNCILS by May 20th, and at the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, carried by a 3/4ths MAJORITY. Failing such 3/4th approval, the proponent may request that it be published in the ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS, and also in the OFFICIAL NOTICE of the next STATED ASSEMBLY, WHEN IF APPROVED by a 2/3rds vote The change will then be effective.

Adopted 8/1/75

**BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**SEC.31 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

After the opening of the Annual Assembly and before the closing, the Order of Business may be as directed by the Grand Master or other presiding officer as herein allowed, but shall include the following:

- Report of Credentials Committee
- Reading Records of Last Stated Assembly
- Reception of Grand Representatives
- Reception of Distinguished Guests
- Address of Grand Master
- Report of Obituary Committee
- Grand Treasurer's Report
- Grand Recorder's Report
- Finance Committee's Report
- Committee on Jurisprudence

Charters and Dispensations Committee  
Fraternal Relations Committee  
Board of Grand Examiners  
Special Committee Reports  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Credentials Committee (Final)  
Election of Officers  
Closing

During the debate of any question, the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a guideline for the Grand Master and parliamentarian to follow; to the extent that it is pertinent, the Masonic Edition thereof shall be used. Notwithstanding, the Grand Master, who may choose to follow or not follow the advice of the parliamentarian or jurisprudence committee, may set rules for the debate of any issue or make decisions from the chair that may appear to be contrary to said guideline, as he may deem necessary and proper or expedient for the circumstances.

The Ceremony of Installation shall be as set by the newly elected Grand Master after the Annual Assembly.

Revised 7/28/10, Revised August 8, 2015

## **SEC. 32 STANDING COMMITTEES OF THIS GRAND COUNCIL**

(Minimum Number of Members in Parentheses)

This Grand Council shall have standing committees whose purposes are as follows:

**JURISPRUDENCE:** (5) To consist of five members of this Grand Council; to consider and report on such questions, papers and decisions of law and usage as may be referred to them; review proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws for possible conflict with existing laws and report their decisions to the Grand Master.

Revised August 8, 2015

**CREDENTIALS:** (3) To examine the credentials of all Companions attending the Annual Assembly; record their names, Council numbers and official position; submit same on proper form to the Grand Council and distribute proper ballots to the voting delegates.

**FINANCE:** (3) To examine and report on all accounts and financial matters of the Grand Council; prepare and submit to the Annual Assembly a budget for operating the Grand Council during the ensuing year and recommend appropriations for such amounts; approve for payment all bills authorized by the Grand Council or provided for in the By-Laws and make a full and detailed report at the next Annual Assembly.

**OBITUARIES:** (1) To make such report relative to deceased Companions as may be deemed appropriate.

**CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS:** To consist of the three dais Officers of this Grand Council; to examine work of Councils under Dispensation, to investigate petitions for Charters for New Councils, report information and make recommendations to the Grand Council relative to chartered Councils and Councils under Dispensation.

**FRATERNAL RELATIONS:** (1) To promote and develop fraternal relations between various bodies of Freemasonry and this Grand Council and to observe, record and report to the Grand Council matters of interest and importance for the advancement of Masonry.

**BOARD OF GRAND EXAMINERS:** (3) To conduct a school of instruction the day preceding the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council for the Instruction of the District Inspectors for the ensuing year and all other interested Companions and to conduct schools of instruction at other times during the year at the request of Constituent Councils. Such instruction shall cover the conferring of the degrees, opening and closing ceremonies, reception and other ceremonies as approved by this Grand Council.

**PROGRAM OVERSIGHT:** (5) To guide, assist, and act on behalf of the Grand Master and other dais officers in the planning, execution, and review of all Grand Council programs. This committee shall consist of five members to be determined as follows:

1. A Past Grand Master of this Grand Council appointed by a majority vote of the dais officers,
2. The current year's Captain of the Guard,
3. The current year's Grand Recorder,
4. Two other members appointed by a majority vote of the dais officers.

The Past Grand Master and the two other appointed members shall serve three-year terms. During the first year of implementation, one such member shall be appointed for a three-year term, one for a two-year term, and one for a one-year term. Any member of this committee shall be eligible to be its chairman, but the chairman shall be selected by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

The chairman shall call a minimum of three committee meetings per year. Generally, a quorum of this committee shall consist of four members. Notwithstanding, if a quorum is not present at a called meeting, three members of the committee may act unanimously on any agenda item included in the notice of the meeting. The committee is charged with the responsibility to:

1. Continue all current Grand Council programs,
2. Consult with the dais officers to determine future program needs,
3. Plan and implement such new programs as deemed necessary,
4. Review all Grand Council programs and advise the dais officers of the shortfall of any

such program and recommend the discontinuation of any such program when deemed necessary. Additionally, at the request of the Grand Master, the committee may be charged with the oversight and execution of any or all Grand Council programs.

Approved 7/29/04

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** A member of the Grand Council, who is not a Grand Officer; to advise the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, who happens to be presiding at the time being, on all parliamentary procedures at the Annual Assembly, and if requested, to give more general advice regarding the proper conduct of the Assembly.

**REVIEW AND REVISION:** (3) Appointed only every tenth year, commencing with the Annual Assembly of 2000 A.D.; to review the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Council, to report at the next Annual Assembly such recommendations as they deem necessary for the revision and updating of the Constitution and By-Laws and to make recommendations regarding the printing or reprinting of the same. Any revisions or changes in the Constitution or By-Laws



that this Committee recommends must be in the hands of the Grand Recorder no later than May 1st preceding the Annual Assembly so that he may have them printed and mailed to the constituent Councils by May 20th.

Approved 7/19/91 Revised 7/26/01 Revised 7/29/04

### **SEC. 33 CERTIFIED RITUALIST PROGRAM**

The Board of Grand Examiners shall be empowered to implement a Certified Ritualist Program for this Grand Council. Any Companion who holds membership in a Constituent Council may apply for examination as a Certified Ritualist. Prior to such examination, the Companion shall provide the evidence that the council in which he holds membership endorses his application, and request that an examination be conducted.

The Chairman of the Board of Grand Examiners shall schedule the time and place for such examination. Two members of the Board must be present to conduct the examination.

A proficiency will be determined in the standard ritual and floor work of this Grand Council, and will include either or all of the following; the opening, closing, reception, and miscellaneous ceremonies; the Royal Master Degree; and /or the Select Master Degree. The Companion being examined will be certified only for the portion of the ritual for which he has been examined.

Upon satisfactory examination, the Board shall recommend to the Most Illustrious Grand Master that a Certificate as Certified Ritualist be issued to the Companion for the ritual and floor work examined.

Every Companion receiving a Certificate must be recertified by the Board of Grand Examiners at least every three (3) years in order to retain the title of Certified Ritualist.

The Board of Grand Examiners shall be empowered to adopt standard forms as necessary to implement this program, and to design an appropriate Certificate to be issued to the worthy Companion. Such forms shall be printed and maintained by the Grand Recorder.

Adopted 7/21/94

### **SEC. 34 SALARY**

In addition to allowances for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer shall receive yearly salaries as set annually in the budget of this Grand Council; should the Grand Council fail to adopt a budget at its Stated Annual Assembly, the salaries previously set shall continue for the next fiscal year or until altered by a vote of this Grand Council.

Adopted August 8, 2105

### **SEC. 35 CONTINGENT FUNDS**

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Recorder, shall receive such sums as the Finance Committee may recommend, from time to time, to reimburse them for costs expended in the discharge of their respective duties. Similar recommendation and approval shall fix the amounts due the Chairmen of Committees for necessary services during recess of the Grand Council.

Adopted 7/18/91

### **SEC. 36 DISTRICT INSPECTORS**

Each District Inspector as appointed by the Grand Master shall be given a commission; and will be loaned a RITUAL, a MANUAL, a CODE and an appropriate apron, all of which MUST BE RETURNED to the Grand Recorder at each stated Annual Assembly.

The District Inspector shall make an official visit to each Constituent Council in his District each fiscal year, so he may report to the Grand Master, on proper forms, matters pertaining to the administration and conduct of officers, condition of records, dues collection, opening, closing and degree ritual work, condition of paraphernalia, together with such recommendations as he made to the Council. Such reports shall be made promptly after EACH visit. With each report the Inspector shall submit a record of his actual expenses on such official visit for approval of the Grand Master. If approved by the Grand Master he shall receive reimbursement from Grand Council funds, when all of his district reports have been filed with the Grand Recorder. Each District Inspector shall hold a minimum of one (1) School of Instruction in his District not later than December 31st following the Grand Council Assembly and shall make a report of such school on a report form furnished by the Grand Council for this purpose.

Adopted 7/18/91

### **SEC. 37A APRONS OF GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS**

The Grand Master during and after his tenure of office wears a specially designed apron approved and presented to him upon his installation, by this Grand Council. Other Grand Officers wear one of white skimmers satin, 16 inches wide and 14 inches depth, with a royal purple binding 2 inches wide, the binding flap to be the same one inch wide. Around the outer margin of the binding, a stripe of gold braid one half inch wide. The flap to be triangular in form and having embroidered upon it in purple velvet an equilateral triangle. The Word "ILLINOIS" in one and one-quarter inch purple velvet block letters to be the only device or representation of any kind to be placed on the area of the apron. Aprons will be worn outside of coats at all times. Effective as of 1972 Grand Council Assembly.

Approved 9/11/71

### **SEC. 37B GRAND MASTER'S JEWEL**

In appreciation for his services, this Grand Council shall continue to present to each of its retiring Grand Masters a suitable jewel of the same design as those which it has heretofore presented; and beginning in 2005, such presentation shall not be made until after the intended recipient (and his spouse, if applicable,) shall have properly executed a document acknowledging that said presentation constitutes a loan of the jewel for the remainder of his natural life and that upon his demise, said jewel shall be immediately returned to the Grand Recorder of this Grand Council or his successor in office, designee, or legal assign.

Approved 7/28/05

### **SEC. 38 AMENDING, ALTERING OR REVISING THE BY-LAWS**

Any change in the By-Laws shall be proposed in writing to the Grand Recorder by May 1st prior to the Annual Assembly; such proposed changes mailed to all members of the Jurisprudence Committee by May 10th and to the Constituent Councils by May 20th. Unless stated otherwise in the proposal, the change shall become effective immediately, if approved by three-fourths majority of those delegates voting at the Annual Assembly. Failing such three-fourths approval, the proponent may request that it be published in the official notice of the next Annual Assembly, when, if approved by two-thirds majority vote, the change will then be effective.

Revised 7/26/01

## **LAWS RELATING TO CONSTITUENT COUNCILS**

### **SEC. 39 DEGREES**

A Constituent Council shall confer degrees, and make a record of such work, in the following ORDER and MANNER: (a) A candidate is “Honored” with the degree of Royal Master, (b) “Chosen and Greeted a Select Master”, (c) “received in the Circle of Integrity as a Super Excellent Master.” The Royal and Select Degrees SHALL be conferred according to the Ritual of this Grand Council, “as last revised”, or they may be conferred as a part of the Drama “The Word” when a special dispensation is given by the Grand Master. The Super Excellent Master Degree, if conferred, shall be according to the Ritual of the General Grand Council or one approved by this Grand Council. The Super Excellent is an Honorary Degree, and need not be conferred except by choice of a Council, and the Rights and Privileges of a Select Master shall not be curtailed by the fact that he is not a Super Excellent Master. The fee for the Degree of Super Excellent Master shall be set by the Council conferring the same. A separate record shall be kept of all Super Excellent Degrees conferred, as follows; A “Council of Super Excellent Masters being organized, the degree was conferred upon the following Companions; (here list names, addresses, and Council affiliation) and they are recorded as “Having been received in the Circle of Integrity.” The Council of Super Excellent Masters was then closed.”

Approved 8/5/76

### **SEC. 40 FEES FOR THE DEGREES**

No council in Illinois shall confer the degrees of Royal and Select Masters for not less than \$25.00. Not less than \$5 of which shall accompany the petition. No council may remit all or any part of the fee to any person for any purpose. The fee for degree of Super Excellent Master shall be fixed by the bylaws of the council. Each council shall remit to the Grand Recorder the sum of \$5 for each new member greeted during the year. Adopted July 26, 2012

### **SEC. 41 PETITIONS**

A. Every petition for the Degrees, or for Membership, shall be in approved form, and signed by the petitioner with his full name.

B. Such petition shall be read at a Stated Assembly and, if no objection made, will be deemed elected.

C. On good cause shown, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may issue his Dispensation to receive petitions at a Special Assembly of a given Council, upon such conditions as to notice to resident members as he may see fit to impose.

D. Membership in a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be a prerequisite to membership in a Constituent Council of this Grand Council. Should a petition be received from a Master Mason who is not a Royal Arch Mason, he must be exalted in or affiliate with a regular Royal Arch Chapter as appropriate within 180 days of being Greeted as a Select Master; otherwise, his membership shall automatically be suspended until he is so exalted or affiliated.

Revised August 8, 2015

### **SEC. 42 PLURAL MEMBERSHIP**

(1) Plural membership may be held (A) in any two or more Constituent Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction; (B) in one or more Constituent Councils of this Jurisdiction and one or more Constituent Councils of Grand Sister Jurisdictions whose By-Laws also permit Plural Membership.

(2) Election to Plural membership shall be upon petition for Plural Membership and accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing from a Council of which the petitioner is a member, and if from a Sister Grand Jurisdiction, a statement over the seal of the petitioner's Council stating that plural membership is permitted to its members. Reception of petitions for Plural Membership shall be the same as required for affiliation.

(3) Plural members shall be subject to all dues and/or assessments and entitled to all rights and privileges of full membership in all Councils of which they are members, except that a plural member cannot hold a dais office in more than one Council at any one time.

(4) Loss of membership through action by any Council, shall have a like effect in all Councils, provided however, that a plural member may demit from any Council without loss of membership in the others.

(5) Plural members shall be clearly identified as such in all records of the Constituent Councils, and to the Grand Recorders of each Grand Jurisdiction of which the Companion is a plural member.

Adopted 7/29/82

#### **SEC. 43      BALLOT FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Election to membership of a Select Master into a Council shall be the same as election for the degrees. Revised August 8, 2015

#### **SEC. 44      CONCURRENT JURISDICTION IN ILLINOIS**

A duly qualified petitioner who has resided in Illinois for one year last past, may petition any Constituent Council for the degrees, or for membership without regard to residence. A Companion who has received the Council degrees in a Virginia or West Virginia Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, when applying for membership, shall furnish a legal Chapter certificate to that effect.

#### **SEC. 45      OBJECTIONS**

To petition or to advancement. Any Companion may object to receiving a petition for the degrees or for membership; or he may make private oral objection to the Master against the petitioner for membership before the petitioner has signed the Council By-Laws, or to a petitioner for the degrees up to the time that the order has been given to prepare his as a candidate for the Royal Degree, and need not state his reason for such objection, nor shall the Master disclose the name of the objector. Such objection shall stand for one year or longer if renewed, and the fee shall be returned at the time of the first objection. If not renewed, the Council may approve the collection of the fee and the conferring of the degrees

#### **SEC. 46      SIGNING THE BY-LAWS**

Each petitioner for the degrees or for membership shall sign the By-Laws of his Council as an essential to full membership therein.

#### **SEC. 47      REJECTED PETITION**

Six months must elapse before a rejected petitioner may again petition for the degrees; and such petition shall lie over for one month before ballot is taken

**SEC. 48        EXTEND TIME FOR DEGREES**

If an elected petitioner for the degrees does not present himself within one year from the date of his election, all fees paid shall be returned to him by the Council, if they are so requested, unless the Council can show good cause for their forfeiture, or any part thereof.

Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC. 49        DEMITS**

A Companion may demit from his Council at any time, PROVIDED, (a) that he makes application in writing; (b) that his dues are paid for the current year; (c) that there are no charges pending against him. If these conditions are met, the demit issues instanter. A demit permits Council visitation for ONLY one year. If the holder of a demit petitions for membership in a Council within one year, and is rejected, the Recorder shall note such fact and date on the back of the demit and the holder may visit Councils for one year from such rejection date. The Recorder shall notify the Council issuing demit when petitioner is elected to membership, and has signed the By-Laws.

**SEC. 50        TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

A Companion desiring to transfer his membership shall make application on standard combined form, asking affiliation in a second Council demitting from the first. If elected in the second its Recorder shall forward request for demit to first; and when issued, applicant signs By-Laws and becomes member of second without having terminated his membership in the Rite. This method shall be used between Illinois Councils and with other Jurisdictions permitting such procedure. Such transfers must be accomplished within a four months period.

**SEC. 51        ASSEMBLE QUARTERLY, AT LEAST**

Each Council must assemble at least once in every three months, and as much oftener as needed.

**SEC. 52        NO SUNDAY ASSEMBLY**

No Council shall hold an Assembly on Sunday except for the purpose of installation.

**SEC. 53        CANNOT DEMIT ALL MEMBERS**

No Council may legally demit all its members. If its Charter is surrendered, the Grand Recorder shall issue demits to the members in good standing.

**SEC. 54        PLACE OF ASSEMBLY**

A Council may not legally assemble for the any purpose at any place other than that named in its Charter, unless it has lawfully removed therefrom; except that, good cause having been shown, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may issue his dispensation to a Council to sojourn to another town, village or city for the purpose of conferring the Cryptic Degrees upon such candidates as have been regularly elected, with said Degrees to be conferred only in a place authorized for Masonic instruction, and no business other than degree work shall be transacted without a dispensation from the Grand Master and after notice to the resident members or other notice as the Grand Master may require.

Adopted August 8, 2015

**SEC. 55 COUNCIL SEAL**

Each Council shall have a seal with its name and number engraved thereon and shall deposit an impression thereof with the Grand Recorder.

**SEC. 56 BUSINESS TRANSACTED WHILE OPEN ON SELECT MASTER DEGREE AND A QUORUM PRESENT**

All business shall be transacted when open on the degree of Select Master, no assembly shall be held for any purpose unless there be present a quorum of five Select Masters, and no business, other than ceremonies, shall be transacted unless there be present a quorum of five members entitled to vote. Council funds shall be drawn only by order of the Thrice Illustrious Master (actual or acting) and consent of the Council. Checks should be written only with two previously authorized signatures thereon or by the Treasurer from vouchers signed by the Thrice Illustrious Master and Recorder.

Adopted August 8, 2015

**SEC. 57 LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- A. There shall be established in the accounts of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois, a separate fund to be known as the "Life Membership Fund."
- B. Any member of a Council, not indebted to it for dues or otherwise, may upon application to the Council and acceptance by a majority of members present at a stated assembly, and upon payment of the amount specified in the Council's By-Laws for Life Membership, become a Life Member of the Council. Any subsequent change in the amount so fixed shall not impair the Life Membership so purchased, nor shall the Life Member be subject to additional assessments or contributions.
- C. Each Council shall adopt a By-Law establishing the amount necessary to purchase a Life Membership, which shall be stated in terms of shares in the "Life Membership Fund" at \$25.00 per share. A minimum of Four Shares shall be necessary to purchase a life membership.

Adopted 7/21/1995, Revised 7/24/2003

- D. All such purchases shall be transmitted without delay to the Grand Recorder for incorporation into the Fund. The Grand Recorder shall maintain records detailing the Number of shares standing to the credit of each Council. The Council Recorder shall maintain records detailing the Life Membership status of each Companion Life Member.
- E. A detailed annual report of the Life Membership Fund shall be made by the Grand Treasurer, either accompanying or as a portion of his Annual Report to the Grand Council.
- F. Income derived from the investment of the Corpus of the Life Membership Fund shall be distributed annually to the several Councils Pro-rated to the contributions made by each Council's members as compared to the total Corpus of the fund.
- G. In computing the pro-rata shares of the several Councils, the following rules shall apply.
  - (1) Consolidation of Councils; the total Contributions of the Councils involved shall be added together, and shall stand to the credit of the resulting Council.
  - (2) Arrested, erased, or voluntarily surrendered charters; the contributions of Life Members shall be added to the credit of the Council with which each Life Member subsequently affiliates.
  - (3) Plural Members; contributions may, but need not, be made through each Council in which plural membership is held, and shall be credited to that Council only. Companions may purchase Life Memberships in as many or as few Councils as desired, but purchases

must conform to the By-Laws of each Council in which Life Membership is desired.

(4) Other circumstances; rules shall be established by the Finance Committee, in coordination with the Executive Committee, The Grand Master and the Grand Treasurer relating to conditions not herein specified.

- H. Contribution for the purchase of shares in the Life Membership Fund shall be irrevocable and not subject to refund or reclamation.
- I. The Suspension of a Companion for nonpayment of dues shall not affect his Life Membership in any other Council.
- J. 50 YEAR MEMBERS: A Companion who has held membership in the Cryptic Rite for a period of Fifty (50) Years shall be given an appropriate certificate from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois, be exempt from further payment of dues, and his Council be exempt from paying Per Capita on him.

Adopted 7/29/1982

- K. Any Council having upon its rolls 200 or more dues-paying members may, at its option, provide in its by-laws for the establishment and administration of life membership fund under its own administration subject to its own by-laws and subject also to supervision by this Grand Council. The Grand Master, or one whom he may designate, may annually, at his discretion, examine the records of the Life Membership Fund of any Constituent Council to satisfy himself that the fund contains the correct amount of money for the total number of living and deceased Companions who have purchased life memberships in the Council and that all money in said fund is safely invested. (At no time may a Council transfer out of its life membership fund money which had been contributed to purchase a life membership.) The funds and records of each Council shall be so examined at least every five years. Should the Grand Master find any deficiency, such deficiency shall immediately be corrected by the Council. Absence of such total correction, the Grand Master may recommend at the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council that the privilege of the Constituent Council to administer its own life membership fund be revoked. Being so satisfied, the Grand Master may, in his discretion, authorize the Council to administer its own life membership fund. In the event that either a recommendation of the Grand Master to revoke the privilege of a Council to administer its life membership fund is approved by the Grand Council in Annual Assembly or the dues paying membership (including living life members) has fallen below 200 for two consecutive years, the officers of the Constituent Council involved shall cooperate and fully comply with all directives of the Grand Master, or anyone designated by him, for transferring all money and records of the fund to this Grand Council for inclusion in the Life Membership Fund.

Adopted 7/24/ 2003

## **SEC. 58      Repealed August 8, 2015**

## **SEC.59      OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

Each Council shall consist of a Thrice Illustrious Master; an Illustrious Deputy Master; a Principal Conductor of the Work; a Treasurer; a Recorder; a Chaplain; a Captain of the Guard; a Conductor of the Council; a Marshal; a Steward; a Sentinel; and other members. Upon his election the Thrice Illustrious Master will appoint a chaplain and may appoint an organist.

Revised August 8, 2105

**SEC. 60 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The first five officers named in Section 59 shall be elected annually by written ballot at the Stated Annual Assembly, which shall be the first Assembly in May or June, PROVIDED, that where but one name is suggested for an office, the election may be by acclamation. The other officers shall be appointed by the Master-elect, unless otherwise provided in the Council By-Laws, and all, when installed, shall serve until their successors are installed. The Fiscal Year is from June 1 to May 31, inclusive.

Revised July 29, 2012

**SEC. 61 INSTALLATION**

Officers must be installed at any time prior to the next stated assembly, and installation must begin with the Master-elect. Any present or Past Master of an Illinois Council is authorized to install.

Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC. 62 DUTY OF MASTER**

The Master of a Council is especially charged to see that the laws of his Council are obeyed, that accurate records are kept and reports rendered, and that Annual Returns are promptly made to this Grand Council. By notice to the members, he may call special Assemblies for Degree Work. A Master cannot be suspended or expelled during his tenure of office, except by the Grand Council. The most Junior Past Master shall preside in a Council in the absence of the three principal officers.

Adopted 7/30/87, Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC. 63 DUTY OF OTHER OFFICERS**

The duties of other officers are such as are traditionally appropriate in the Rite and those assigned by the Council or the Master.

**SEC. 64 VACANCIES**

In case of refusal to be installed, refusal to serve in his office, expulsion, suspension, written resignation, death, removal or incapacity of any or all the five principal officers of a Council; the Grand Master may grant a dispensation to hold a special election to fill the vacancy and such other vacancies as may occur by reason of such election.

“Incapacity” shall be construed to mean inability for any reason to perform the duties of the office to which the member was elected. The Grand Master may grant a dispensation to hold a special election if no quorum was present at the stated Annual Assembly of the Council.

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 65 SUSPENSION FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES**

Recorders of Constituent Councils shall, prior to the April Assembly each year, mail a “Second Notice to Pay Dues” to each member in arrears for two or more years; and prior to the May Assembly, he shall report all members who have not responded. Unless such delinquent dues are (a) paid, or (b) remitted, he shall by vote of the Council be suspended, and the Recorder shall send each a “Notice of Suspension for Nonpayment of Dues” as of May 31st following.

Adopted 7/18/91



## **SEC 66           AUTOMATIC REINSTATEMENT**

After such suspension for Nonpayment of dues, a delinquent may be restored to good standing automatically, by the payment of the amount for which he was suspended, WITHIN TWO YEARS thereafter. After two years, he must pay the amount for which he was suspended, and sign a petition for reinstatement, which must be accepted by a three-fourths vote, at a Stated Assembly which vote may be made by "show of hands". Whether a delinquent reinstates within two years automatically, or thereafter by petition, a council shall always collect enough added dues to issue a receipt for the then current year in full.

Adopted 7/18/91

## **SEC. 67           ANNUAL RETURNS**

(a) Council dues are for a fiscal year, but need not be collected, nor returns made to the Grand Council on members adjudged insane; nor on those living in skilled-care or nursing homes if such dues have been remitted by their Councils.

(b) Effective with the returns to be filed in June 2004, each Constituent Council shall pay annually to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois Four Dollars (\$4.00) for each member as shown by the Annual Return except those exempt by Law. Each year Councils shall set aside Four Dollars (\$4.00) from each year's dues, or any part thereof as collected, including dues paid in advance, and such sums set aside shall be considered property of the Grand Council, and shall not be used by the Council for any purpose, except to apply on the payment of per Capita tax to this Grand Council.

Effective with the returns to be filed in June 2005 and each year thereafter, each Constituent Council shall pay annually to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each member as shown by the Annual Return except those exempt by Law. Each year Councils shall set aside Five Dollars (\$5.00) from each year's dues, or any part thereof as collected, including dues paid in advance, and such sums set aside shall be considered property of the Grand Council, and shall not be used by the Council for any purpose, except to apply on the payment of per Capita tax to this Grand Council.  
Adopted 7/19/1990, Revised 7/15/1999, Revised 7/24/2003

(c) Each constituent Council shall pay annually to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each new member greeted during the year.

Adopted 7/15/1999

(d) The Master and the Recorder of each Council shall be held strictly accountable for carrying out the provision of (b) above, and for violation thereof, may be deposed from office by the Grand Master of the Grand Council.

(e) The Recorder of each Council shall make a report and remit the returns of his Council to the Grand Recorder On or BEFORE the First day of JULY EACH YEAR. He shall report the roll of officers and number of members; petitioners for the degrees accepted or rejected; degrees conferred; members transferred, demitted, suspended, expelled or deceased. Every Five years (that being the years ending in Zero or Five) the Recorder of each Constituent Council shall include with the report an Alphabetical, Typewritten list of the members of said Council as of that date. It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to check such membership list with the Master file and immediately correct any error by a check with the Recorder of said Council.

(f) Failure to make such report, and return, ON or BEFORE JULY FIRST each year, shall cause the Grand Council to list the Council as delinquent, and assess a fine of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00)"against it, to be paid with Annual Returns.

(g) On or before May 15th each year the Grand Recorder shall mail report forms to each Council, on which to make Annual Report and Returns. The Master and the Recorder are each charged with the duty to notify the Grand Recorder if these forms are not received by May 31st, so that the report of the Fiscal Year be not delinquent.

Approved 8/1/1975

(h) Recorders of Councils shall within five days after installation of officers report the names and addresses of the three principal officers and the Recorder to the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Recorder and the District Inspector, on forms provided. The same reports will be made of holdover officers, if no election is held. The failure to file this report within five days or July 1, whichever is later, shall cause the Grand Recorder to assess a fine of \$10.00, to be paid with the Annual Return; the failure to file this report prior to the Annual Assembly shall result in no ballot being issued to its Thrice Illustrious Past Masters or dais officers at the Annual Assembly.

Adopted 7/18/1991

### **SEC. 68 RITUALS**

It shall not be within the power of anyone to change or in any way alter the Ritual as approved by this Grand Council. Any change in Ritual or Ceremonies must be submitted to the Grand Recorder in writing, by May 1st prior to the Annual Assembly for approval of said Assembly. A Council desiring additional rituals may obtain them by requesting its Recorder to request the same from the Grand Recorder accompanied by the required fee.

Adopted 7/18/91, Revised August 8, 2015

### **SEC. 69 FORFEITURE OF CHARTER**

Any Constituent Council that fails to assemble for six months, or that fails to make proper Annual Report and Returns to this Grand Council for two consecutive years, is subject to disciplinary action by the Grand Council or by the Grand Master, and may have its Charter arrested. In that case the Grand Master or his proxy shall take charge of all the funds, records and property of said Council. The Grand Council may revoke the charter so arrested at its next Annual Assembly. Should the Charter be revoked, the members in good standing of that Council shall immediately become members of another Council as chosen by the Grand Master.

Adopted 7/18/1991, Revised 7/24/2003

### **SEC. 70 DORMANT COUNCILS**

Any Council which has not assembled for transaction of business for six months, or has not made Annual Reports and remitted Annual Returns to this Grand Council for two consecutive years, SHALL be considered DORMANT, and the Grand Council or the Grand Master SHALL take disciplinary action thereon, if necessary by arresting its charter. (SEC. 69) The Grand Council may revoke the Charter at its next stated Assembly. When a Council fails to assemble for twelve months, its members may apply in writing to the Grand Recorder for a demit. The Grand Recorder shall make every effort to get the Council to assemble and issue the demit, and failing that, shall endeavor to have the applicant apply for transfer of membership, with request for demit attached. Failing that, the Grand Recorder shall issue such demit (SEC 53) and may also issue demits to members of such dormant Councils who pay per capita tax direct to him.

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 71 REVIVAL OF COUNCILS**

Fifteen or more qualified petitioners may request the revival of a defunct Council in their area; provided that such petition is accompanied by at least five petitioners for degrees.

Amended 7/18/91

When such petition is received by the Grand Master of the Grand Council, he may issue a letter of Dispensation for them to act as a Council, Under Dispensation, for the purpose of conducting business and conferring of degrees during the interim period until the Grand Council shall meet in Annual Assembly

When such petition is presented and approved by the Grand Council, the Grand Recorder shall return to them the original Charter and seal and all records of said Council and they may again resume its original number.

A fee of \$25.00 shall be charged for the return of the Charter.

Adopted 7/27/78, Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC. 72 COUNCILS UNDER DISPENSATION (U.D.) (See Sec. 25)**

(a)The fee for letters of Dispensation shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). The fee shall be non returnable whether or not a Charter is granted.

(b) Letters of Dispensation shall be entered in their entirety in the records of the Council.

(c) If Letters of Dispensation are revoked without a Charter being granted, each Companion who has affiliated without a demit from another Council shall maintain his membership in the other Council. Companions who have been greeted in the Council Under Dispensation shall be permitted to transfer their membership to another Council or request a demit.

(d) A member of an Illinois Council signing a petition for a new Council without a demit, becomes a member of the new Council when it is Chartered. If the Companion does not wish dual membership, the Recorder of the new Council shall so notify the old Council as of the Charter date.

(e) The Recorder of a Council Under Dispensation shall, by July 1st, make a proper Annual Report and remit Annual Returns to the Grand Recorder in accordance with Sections 67. He shall return the Letters of Dispensation with the report. Returns shall include per capita tax on all members of the Council, with the exclusion of those exempt by law.

(f) A petition for a Charter may accompany such report and returns, signed only by those who signed the petition for Letters of Dispensation and members Greeted while the Council was under Dispensation.

(g) After making such report and returns no Council Under Dispensation shall hold Assemblies until the Grand Council has either continued the Letters of Dispensation or a Charter has been granted and the Council has been Constituted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his proxy.

(h) A Council Under Dispensation is not entitled to voting representatives at the Stated Annual Assembly of this Grand Council; no ballot shall be issued until after a Charter has been granted and the Council has been Constituted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his proxy, and if this were to occur at a Stated Annual Assembly, no ballot shall be issued until the next Stated Annual Assembly.

Adopted 7/26/79, Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC. 73 MINUTES – FORM OF**

Council Recorders are instructed to study, if necessary, the “Suggested Form of Minutes” printed in the Codes of the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and Grand Commandery, of the State of Illinois, so that proper record of Council proceedings may be kept.

**SEC. 74 COURTESY DEGREES**

An Illinois Council may confer the degrees for another; PROVIDED, that arrangements are made and an understanding as to which Council will retain the fees therefor, in no case to exceed those charged by the electing Council. Where other jurisdictions are involved, the Correspondence must be through both Grand Masters and have the approval of both.

**SEC. 75 APRONS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS**

Aprons for Select Masters shall be the size worn by Master Masons; the color white, bordered on the sides and bottom and lower edge of the triangular flap, with purple and with purple strings. An equilateral triangle shall be embroidered on the flap in purple. Aprons will be worn outside the coats at all times.

**SEC 76 Repealed August 8, 2015**

**SEC. 77 CHARGES OF UNMASONIC CONDUCT**

When charges are preferred in a Council it shall immediately advise the Grand Master, before taking action thereon. The Grand Master may choose to lay the matter before the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., who may wish to have the matter decided in the Companion's Lodge. If not, the Grand Master will instruct the Council to observe general Masonic procedure, as to method of trial, and discipline if found guilty.

**SEC. 78 SOJOURNERS**

A Council may take cognizance of the conduct of any sojourning member of the Rite.

**SEC. 79 SUSPENSION, OR EXPULSION IN LODGE OR CHAPTER AND REINSTATEMENT**

Suspension or expulsion of a Select Master in his Lodge or in his Chapter, shall automatically suspend or expel him in his Council, and the Recorder shall so notify him. If so suspended or expelled, reinstatement in Lodge or Chapter shall automatically reinstate him in his Council, and the Recorder shall so notify him.

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 80 NON-AFFILIATION IN LODGE OR CHAPTER AND REINSTATEMENT**

A select Master holding a demit from his Lodge or Chapter for more than one year, is excluded from his Council for such non-affiliation. Presentation of evidence that he is reinstated to good standing in his Lodge or Chapter restores him to good standing in his Council.

Adopted 7/18/91

**SEC. 81 NO DUES ACCRUE**

No dues accrue against a Select Master while expelled or suspended in his Council.

Adopted 7/18/91, Revised August 8, 2015

**SEC 82 CONSOLIDATION**

When two or more Councils in the same general territory wish to consolidate, the Councils involved may do so by:

- (a) notifying their memberships;

- (b) approving the merger by a three-fourths majority in each Council at a Stated Assembly;
- (c) assuming the obligations of all Councils involved;
- (d) agreement upon name and number of Charter to be kept or secured;
- (e) returning vacated Charters to the Grand Recorder;
- (f) If a change is to be made in the name on a surviving Charter, a fee of \$25.00 shall be charged; if a new (or replacement) Charter is requested, a fee set by the Grand Recorder shall be charged.

**SEC. 83        REMOVAL TO NEW LOCATION**

No Council shall move from the place named in its Charter until a proposal has been made in writing at a Stated Assembly, three-fourths of those voting have voted favorably at a subsequent Stated Assembly after due notification was given to its resident members, and the approval of the Grand Council or the Grand Master is given.

Adopted August 8, 2015

**SEC. 84        JEWELS AND REGALIA**

Without the prior approval of this Grand Council, no Constituent Council may use any type of jewel, robe or other regalia other than those of traditional Cryptic usage.

Adopter August 8, 2015

**SEC. 85        QUESTIONS**

Constituent Councils shall decide questions in their assemblies by a simple majority vote, except where otherwise dictated in these Bylaws or the bylaws of the Council--see Voting Chart--provided, that the bylaws of the Constituent Council may not otherwise dictate without the customary prior approval of this Grand Council.

Adopted August 8, 2015

**SEC. 86        HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

A Constituent Council may grant, and terminate, honorary membership therein, according to general Masonic procedure.

**SEC. 87        AMENDMENTS**

The By-Laws of any Constituent Council may be amended, if the change is proposed in writing at a stated assembly and mailed to the membership at least ten days prior to the date of the subsequent stated assembly at which the vote is to be taken and if the change is then approved by two-thirds majority vote. Such By-Laws may also be amended, if the change is proposed in writing and carried by three-fourths Majority vote at the Stated Annual Assembly. Failing such three-fourths approval, the proponent may request that a copy of the proposed change be mailed to the membership; at a subsequent stated assembly, the change may be then approved by a two-thirds majority vote, provided said ten days' notice was given.

Revised 7/26/01

**The numbers between the current Section 87 AMENDMENTS and Section 100 VOTING CHART are reserved.**

**SEC. 100 VOTING CHART**

<b>VOTE TO</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>HOW TAKEN</b>	<b>REQUIRED</b>
Charges Unmasonic	77	paper ballot	majority
All General Motions	85	show of hands	majority
Amend By-Laws, Council	87	paper ballot	three-fourths
Change Location	83	show of hands	majority
Consolidate Councils	82	show of hands	three-fourths
Courtesy Degrees	74	show of hands	majority
Elect Officers	60	write name	majority
Elect Honorary Member	86	Ballot Box	unanimous
Elect to Membership	43	Ask if any objection	unanimous
Establish Guilt (written verdict)	77	“guilty” or “not guilty”	two-thirds
Fix Punishment (start with severest)	77	paper, yes or no	two-thirds
Receive Petitions	41	Ask if any objection	unanimous
Recommend a New Council	25	paper ballot	two-thirds
Recommend for Restoration	77	paper ballot	two-thirds
Reinstate	66	paper ballot	three-fourths
Remit Dues	65	show of hands	majority
Remove from Location	83	paper ballot	three-fourths
Request Dispensation to Confer	74	ballot box	unanimous
Request Trial by Commission	77	show of hands	majority
Suspend for Nonpayment	65	automatic	
Terminate Honorary Membership	86	paper ballot	three-fourths
Withdraw Charges	77	paper ballot	two-thirds

**PAPER BALLOTS** not otherwise described should indicate “yes” or “no”.

**SEC. 101 - 125      COUNCIL OF ISH SODI**

**SEC. 126 - 150      Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters**