



**CONSTITUTION,
STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS OF
THE GRAND COUNCIL OF
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

REVISED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE MOST ILLUSTRIOS GRAND MASTER
JOHN C. MILLER, 2025-2026
AND SUPERVISED BY THE GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

REVISED AND EDITED BY
JOE E. TURNER, PIGM, HON, CHAIRMAN, CODE REVISION
RYAN C. NEALEY, PIGM; MEMBER, CODE REVISION
WILLIAM T. WHITE; MEMBER, CODE REVISION

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ATTEST:
MARK A. BRADLEY, PGHP
RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS GRAND RECORDER

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CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

CONSTITUTION

1.0 CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF GEORGIA

1.1. GENERAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1.1.1. Title. The title of this body is the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia.

1.1.2. Jurisdiction. Its jurisdiction shall be the territorial limits of the State of Georgia.

1.1.3. Seal. It shall have a seal bearing such devices and inscriptions as by it have heretofore been, or may hereafter be determined, which shall be affixed to all instruments issued by, or under its authority. Seal Resolution for new Seal adopted in 2016.

1.2. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

1.2.1. General Powers. This Grand Council shall have and exercise supreme power and authority over Cryptic Masonry within the State of Georgia. It has, and of right exercises the sole power of government, superintendence, and control over all Councils of Royal and Select Masters in its jurisdiction.

1.2.2. Special Powers. It has power especially:

- 1) To enact and enforce all laws and regulations for the government of the Fraternity, and to alter, amend and repeal the same at pleasure;
- 2) To constitute new Councils by granting Dispensations and Charters under seal, and for good cause, to suspend, revoke, and annul the same at pleasure;
- 3) To establish and preserve a uniform mode of Work and Lectures;
- 4) To reprimand, suspend, or expel from its own body any member for a violation of its Constitution or the By-Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council made in pursuance thereof;
- 5) To supervise the state and condition of its own finances, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed for the good of the Order;
- 6) To assess and collect from the several Councils under its jurisdiction such sums of money, annually, as may be, from time to time, deemed necessary for the support and maintenance of the Grand Council;
- 7) At each Annual Assembly to consider and review the reports and doings of the Grand Officers for the preceding year, as well

as those of the several Councils under its jurisdiction;

- 8) To settle all controversies that may arise between the Constituent Councils;
- 9) To consider and do whatever it may regard as necessary, appertaining to the well-being and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in the State of Georgia.

1.3. OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS

1.3.1. Members, Titles. This Grand Council shall be composed of the following Officers and Members, with the following ranks and Titles:

1. Most Illustrious Grand Master;
2. Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master;
3. Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of Work;
4. Right Illustrious Grand Recorder;
5. Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
6. Illustrious Grand Captain of Guard;
7. Illustrious Grand Conductor of Council;
8. Illustrious Grand Chaplain;
9. Illustrious Grand Organist;
10. Illustrious Grand Marshal;
11. Illustrious Grand Steward;
12. Illustrious Grand Sentinel;
13. All Past Illustrious Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Principal Conductors of Work, by service in this jurisdiction;
14. All Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of Work, for the time being, of Constituent Councils in its jurisdiction and all Past Illustrious Masters of such Constituent Councils, so long as they remain members of Councils in this jurisdiction.

1.3.1.5. Honorary Titles. Honorary titles may be conferred upon a Companion who has rendered LONG, OUTSTANDING AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE in the cause of Cryptic Masonry. This Grand Council may confer the honorary title of Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Honorary, Grand Treasurer Emeritus, and Grand Recorder Emeritus on a Companion who is proposed in writing by a member of Grand Council to the Grand Recorder's office by March 1, and is approved by the Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, Grand Captain of the Guard and the Grand Recorder who shall then forward the nomination with supporting documentation to the General Grand Master of General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, if required, for his approval. Such nomination shall then be presented at the Grand Assembly Session of Grand Council for approval by a 3/4 majority of the voting members.

The holder of such honorary title shall have no right, by virtue of such honorary title, to exercise any of the functions or powers of the office as to which he holds an honorary title, nor shall he by virtue of such honorary title wear the jewel of the office to which such title pertains. There may be conferred upon him a jewel and apron, but this shall not be required.

1.3.2 Election and Appointment of Grand Officers. All Grand Officers except those appointed by the Grand Illustrious Master shall be Past or Present Illustrious Masters and Members of this Grand Council.

1.3.2.1. Any Qualified Companion who wishes to be considered for election to the lowest open office in the Grand Officer line, shall submit a Declaration of Intent for Elected Office to the Grand Recorder's office by January 1 or any calendar year, with a letter of recommendation from his local Council, in which he gives his Masonic information and other qualifications. The Grand Recorder shall submit all declarations of Intent for Elected Office to Grand Officers and all local Council Recorders and all local Recorders to be read at two meetings prior to May 1.

1.3.2.2 Auditing Committee Report Required Before Election.

Before a vote is taken, a report must be obtained from the Auditing Committee as to the number of eligible votes present. If more votes should be cast than are reported by the Auditing Committee, the Illustrious Grand Master shall declare "NO BALLOT", obtain a recount of votes present and then proceed with the election.

1.33

1). The Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Marshal, and Grand Steward shall be elected by written ballot or by acclamation if approved by a majority of those present, and a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. Appointed Grand Officers shall be appointed by the newly elected Illustrious Grand Master before his installation.

2). Candidates for the lowest open elective offices (where openings have been created by the advancement of senior officers) shall be nominated from the floor by a proposer and a seconder, the nominating speeches being limited to two minutes each. If more than one candidate is to be nominated, the proposers shall make themselves known and arrange among themselves the order of nomination. There being no further nominations, the candidates shall present themselves jointly west of the Holy Altar for the information of those present

- 3). In the case that only one Candidate has filed a Letter of Declaration of Intent for Elected Office of the Grand Council or Royal and Select Masters of Georgia is to be held, and that Candidate passes away or withdraws after January 1, then nominations from the floor are acceptable.
- 4). A Candidate for office may not nominate himself.
- 5). Balloting, if required, shall be only for those candidates nominated, any ballots cast for other Candidates shall be discarded by the Tellers, and not counted in the Total number of votes.
- 6.) A majority of the votes cast for the nominated candidates shall be necessary to elect.

1.3.4. Election, Time of. The election of Grand Officers of this Grand Council shall be held at each Annual Assembly at such hour as may be agreed upon.

1.3.5. Installation, Time of. The Officers of this Grand Council shall be installed immediately prior to the final closing of the Annual Assembly, and when duly installed they shall hold their respective offices until their successors have been duly chosen and installed.

1.4. MEETINGS

1.4.1. Time and Place of Meetings. This Grand Council shall hold an Annual Assembly, at such time and place as shall be provided in its By-Laws.

1.4.2. Special Assemblies. Special Assemblies may be convened at the pleasure of the Illustrious Grand Master, but no business shall be transacted at a Special Assembly other than that specified in the notice for the Assembly.

1.4.3. Quorum. At any Annual or Special Assembly of this Grand Council representatives from not less than ten of the Constituent Councils must be present in order to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

1.5. MISCELLANEOUS

1.5.1. Questions not Covered by this Constitution. In questions where the Laws of the Grand Council and this Grand Constitution are silent, the Laws of the Grand Lodge, covering similar questions will obtain and govern the case.

1.5.2. Meetings of Grand Officers and District Grand Deputies. The Grand Council Officers, the State Chairman of the District Grand Deputies, and the District Deputies are directed to meet once during the first four months of the Grand Council year, and may at the discretion of dais officers meet three times during the recess of the Grand Council, at a time and place to be designated by the Illustrious Grand Master, at which time they shall discuss the individual Councils by Districts, and formulate plans to promote the work in the Councils in the areas of greatest need,

helping such Councils to attain a high standard of proficiency on a broad scale.

1.99. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1.99.1. Amendments, How Made. This Constitution Section upon the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present at any Annual Assembly, may be revised, amended, or altered, provided, however, that a written copy of the motion so to revise, amend, or alter shall be filed with the Grand Recorder by March 1st provided further, that with the unanimous consent of the members present, any member may introduce such an amendment in writing during the Annual Assembly of Grand Council.

BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

2.1. GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES

2.1.1. Regular Assemblies. The Grand Council shall meet annually in May in the City of Macon, Georgia, Grand Chapter Building. Beginning in 2023, the Grand Commandery will open at 8:00 A.M. on the first Friday in May, followed by the Grand Chapter and Grand Council at times to be determined. In 2024 the Grand Chapter will open at 8:00 A.M. on the first Friday in May, followed by the Grand Council and Grand Commandery at times to be determined. In 2025, the Grand Council will open at 8:00 A.M. on the first Friday in May, followed by the Grand Commandery and Grand Chapter at times to be determined. This rotation shall continue on a yearly basis unless changed by amendment.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances, The Grand Council may conduct a Grand Assembly by electronic means. A virtual meeting shall be held by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of Grand Council. A dispensation from the Most Puissant General Grand Master if necessary, shall be obtained to hold such meeting and no ritual work may be performed.

2.1.2. Who Shall Preside. At any Assembly or Session of this Grand Council, should all of the first three elective Grand Officers be absent, the Junior Past Illustrious Grand Master present shall be empowered to open and preside, and if he be not present, then the Grand Council may call upon any Past or Present Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council to take the chair.

2.1.3. Grand Officers and Permanent Members Have One Vote. All Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and Past Illustrious Masters, not representing Councils, shall be entitled to one vote

each.

2.1.4. Each Council Entitled to Three Votes. Each Subordinate Council shall be entitled to three votes on all questions when represented in the Assemblies of this Grand Council by its Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of Work. If the three ranking elective officers are in attendance, each is entitled to one vote and cannot delegate his voting power to another. But the Representatives of a Council shall not vote upon any questions, when that Council or its conduct is before the Grand Council for action.

2.1.4.1. Proxies, How Appointed. If either the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of Work or all of them be not present, and if through them or either of them, the Council is to be represented by Proxy, it shall be necessary for the Proxy to have a legal proxy from said officer or officers, duly signed, and the holding of said proxy shall disqualify the holder from the right to cast his own vote as a Past Illustrious Master. A proxy of either of the above named Council Officers may be held by a Recorder or other member of the same Council who may not be a Past Illustrious Master, but he shall have no vote in his own name.

2.1.4.2. Past Grand Officer as a Representative of His Council. A Past Grand Officer, representing his Council, shall be entitled to his own vote only.

2.2. COMMITTEES OF GRAND COUNCIL

2.2.1. Standing Committees Names. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Grand Master at each Annual Assembly.

1. On Credentials
2. On Grand Master's Address
3. On Jurisprudence
4. On Finance
5. On Charters and By-Laws
6. On Necrology
7. On Foreign Correspondence
8. On Work

Provided; that the Grand Master may, immediately after his installation, appoint each of the said Committees or the Chairmen thereof.

2.2.1.1. Committee on Credentials. The committee on Credentials shall examine the credentials of the members of this Grand Council, and report a list of Officers, members and representatives present, prior to the transaction of any business by this Grand Council.

2.2.1.2. Committee on Grand Master's Address. The Committee on Grand Master's Address shall report on the several topics of the Grand Master's Address, together with all accompanying

documents, so far as occasion may require, and shall consider and report upon all matters contained therein not especially assigned to any other Committee.

2.2.1.3. Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consider all decisions by the Grand Master and all questions of law referred to it. All proposals to alter, amend, or repeal any part of the Constitution or By-Laws of this Grand Council shall also be referred to this Committee.

2.2.1.4. Committee on Finance. The Committee on Finance shall consist of three Companions appointed by the incoming Illustrious Grand Master, one of whom he shall designate as chairman of the committee. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the dispatch of business. The Committee on Finance shall meet at least once annually. The committee on finance shall prepare a full and complete report of the financial condition of the Grand Council and shall present a balanced budget proposal for the next year to be acted upon by the Grand Council at its annual Assembly.

2.2.1.6. Committee on Charters and By-Laws. The Committee on Charters and By-laws shall examine the original records of the Councils under dispensation and the statements submitted by them, and report their recommendations thereon and also report upon all petitions for charters for new Councils made to this Grand Council. New Councils must submit a copy of their By-Laws, and this committee must pass upon the same, and make its recommendation to this Grand Council.

2.2.1.8. Committee on Necrology. The Committee on Necrology shall submit a report on the death of all members of this Grand Council as may be referred to it, together with a list of such distinguished members of other Grand Councils as may come to their attention.

2.2.1.9. Committee on Foreign Correspondence. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall be appointed by the Illustrious Grand Master after his installation, and shall consist of at least one member. The Committee shall make a report at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall receive as compensation for its services such sum as this Grand Council may, from time to time, determine.

2.2.1.10. Committee on Work. The Committee on Work shall consist of up to two members whose title shall be Grand Custodian. It shall be their duty to exercise a general supervision over the promotion of all Ritualistic work. They shall be allowed travel expense to the extent that the Grand Council from time to time shall authorize. They shall make an annual written report to the Grand Council and shall report to the Illustrious Grand Master at such

times as he may direct.

2.2.2. Special Committees.

2.2.2.2. All Others. The Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint all other Committees authorized by the Grand Council for the transaction of its business, unless appointed by resolution of this Grand Council.

2.2.3. Reports of Committees. The reports of all Committees must be submitted in writing.

2.3. GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

2.3.1. Illustrious Grand Master.

2.3.1.1. Power and Authority. The Illustrious Grand Master, during the interval between sessions of the Grand Council, may exercise, when occasion requires, all the executive powers of the Grand Council, as herein defined, except the granting of charters. By virtue hereof, authority is given him, among other things:

- 1) To issue such dispensations as are permitted by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Council;
- 2) To arrest the Charter of any Council for good cause, and report his action to the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, with a detailed statement of the facts, and his reasons therefor;
- 3) To suspend, for good cause, from the functions of his office any Officer of this Grand Council, or of a Constituent Council, but such suspension shall not affect the standing in the Order of such Officer, or his membership in the Council; and he shall report his action thereon in full to the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council for its final action;
- 4) To preside at any Constituent Council in this jurisdiction, whose Assembly he may attend.

2.3.1.2. Duties. It shall be the duty of the Illustrious Grand Master:

- 1) To preside over all Assemblies of this Grand Council, and have a general supervision over the craft in all things appertaining to Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction;
- 2) At each Annual Assembly, to present a written report of his official acts during the recess of this Grand Council, and the condition of the Order within this jurisdiction, together with such recommendations as he may deem conducive to the prosperity and advancement of the Order;
- 3) To constitute in person, or by duly authorized proxy, all Councils of Royal and Select Masters for which warrants have been previously granted by this Grand Council, and install the Officers thereof;
- 4) To appoint all Standing Committees of this Grand Council;
- 5) To appoint and commission representatives of this Grand

Council near other Grand Councils, and also to receive and accredit representatives from such other Grand Councils, who must be permanent members of this Grand Council.

2.3.2. Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of Work.

2.3.2.1. Duties, Preside When. It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Principal Conductor of Work to assist the Illustrious Grand Master at all assemblies of the Grand Council; and in his absence to preside therein in the order of their rank; and, in the case of death, absence from the State, or inability from any cause to act, they shall, in the order of their rank, succeed to and be charged with all the powers and duties of the Illustrious Grand Master.

2.3.3. Grand Treasurer.

2.3.3.1. Duties. It shall be the duties of the Grand Treasurer:

- 1) To receive from the Grand Recorder all moneys, bonds, stocks, evidences of securities for debt, and other property of the Grand Council (except such as is to be kept by the Grand Recorder);
- 2) To deposit all moneys, immediately on receipt thereof, in a bank to be selected as the depository with the approval of the Illustrious Grand Master, have possession and custody of all funds and other securities belonging to this Grand Council; to pay out such sums of money as may be ordered by this Grand Council, on warrants or drafts drawn by the Illustrious Grand Master and countersigned by the Chairman of the Committee on Finance and the Grand Recorder;
- 3) To keep a true and correct record of all receipts and disbursements in a book provided for the purpose, and at each Annual Assembly, submit a detailed report, in writing, of the receipts and disbursements of his office, and show clearly the exact state of the Treasury;
- 4) To attend the Grand Council at all its Assemblies, and at any time, on demand of the Illustrious Grand Master, or any duly authorized committee, to submit all books, papers, and records for examination;
- 5) At the expiration of his term of office, to deliver to his successor all books, papers, vouchers, moneys, and other property of this Grand Council which may be in his custody;
- 6) At each Annual Assembly, to submit a detailed report in writing, of all business appertaining to his office, together with such statistics and general information concerning the Constituent Councils as may be proper for the information and action of this Grand Council;

- 7) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by this Grand Council or the Illustrious Grand Master and such as are traditionally appropriate to his station.

2.3.3.2. Salary. The Grand Treasurer shall receive as compensation for his services such sum as this Grand Council may, from time to time, determine.

2.3.3.3. Bond. The Grand Treasurer shall file with the Illustrious Grand Master a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, or such other amount as may be fixed by the Finance Committee, conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties of that office, such bond to be approved by the Illustrious Grand Master. The cost of this bond shall be paid by this Grand Council.

2.3.3.4. Investments. All funds and investment monies of the Grand Council of Georgia held in charge of the Grand Treasurer shall be invested in accordance with the investment guidance of such investment fund manager or trust manager as may from time to time be selected by the Educational Foundation Committee of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

2.3.4. Grand Recorder.

2.3.4.1. Duties. It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder:

- 1) To make an annual communication to the Grand Recorders of each of the other Grand Councils with which this Grand Council is in fraternal relations; such communications shall embrace the roll of the Grand Officers, and such other matters as may pertain to the general good of the Order;
- 2) To attend all Assemblies of this Grand Council; keep a true record of all its proceedings proper to be written, and make annual publication thereof, under the direction of this Grand Council. Such publication may be in printed book format, compact disk, or other available media. He shall forward one copy to each of the Grand Recorders of the several Grand Councils; one copy to the Grand Officers, and Past Grand Masters of this Grand Council; one copy to each of the Constituent Councils in this jurisdiction; one copy to the General Grand Recorder of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, Int.; the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia and one to each of such Masonic Libraries and Masonic periodicals as in the judgment of the Grand Recorder, with the advice and consent of the Illustrious Grand Master, may be proper recipients thereof. Any copies remaining are to be bound in volume form and filed in the Office of the Grand Recorder for reference. He shall also keep on hand at least three loose copies in his office;
- 3) To collect all moneys due this Grand Council; keep a correct account thereof in proper books, open at all times to the

inspection of the Grand Council, its officers, and its committees appointed for the purpose, and immediately upon receipt thereof, to transmit all such collections to the Grand Treasurer;

- 4) At any time, on demand of the Illustrious Grand Master, or any duly authorized committee, to submit all books, papers, and records for examination;
- 5) At the expiration of his term of office, to deliver to his successor all books, papers, vouchers, moneys, and other property of this Grand Council which may be in his custody;
- 6) At each Annual Assembly, to submit a detailed report in writing, of all business appertaining to his office, together with such statistics and general information concerning the Constituent Councils as may be proper for the information and action of this Grand Council;
- 7) To have the custody of the seal of this Grand Council; and to prepare, sign, and duly seal letters of dispensation, charters, commissions, certificates, or other official documents ordered by the Illustrious Grand Master, or emanating from this Grand Council;
- 8) To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Council;
- 9) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by this Grand Council or the Illustrious Grand Master and such as are traditionally appropriate to his station.

2.3.4.2. Salary. The Grand Recorder shall receive as compensation for his services such sum as this Grand Council may, from time to time, determine.

2.3.4.3. Bond. The Grand Recorder shall file with the Illustrious Grand Master a bond in the sum of five thousand dollars, or such other amount as may be fixed by the Finance Committee, conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties of that office, such bond to be approved by the Illustrious Grand Master. The cost of this bond shall be paid by this Grand Council.

2.3.5. Other Grand Officers. The Grand Organist, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of Council, Grand Marshall, Grand Steward, Grand Chaplain, and Grand Sentinel shall perform all the duties assigned to them in their installation charges.

2.3.6. Vacancies in Office:

- (A) In case of a vacancy in the Office of Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of Council, Grand Marshall, caused by death, permanent disability, or other causes, of such officer, the Officer of next lower rank, in the order named, shall succeed to such office, its title and prerogatives, and each of such Officers of lower rank shall likewise be advanced. Each Office, or Offices, thus made

vacant at the foot of such list shall remain vacant until the next Annual Assembly, provided, however, that the Illustrious Grand Master may appoint a Past Illustrious Grand Master to fill such vacant office, or offices, temporarily effective until the next Annual Assembly

(B) In the event of a vacancy in any other elective Grand Office between Annual Assemblies, such vacancy shall be filled by a temporary appointment by the Illustrious Grand Master, effective until the next Annual Convocation

2.4. GRAND COUNCIL FEES AND FUNDS

2.4.1. General Fees. The revenue of this Grand Council shall be derived from the following sources:

1. For each dispensation to form and open a new Council there shall be paid the sum of one hundred dollars, which must accompany the petition. No extra fee shall be charged when the Charter is granted.
2. Should this Grand Council grant a Charter to petitioners direct, who have not worked under dispensation, the fee shall be one hundred dollars, which must accompany the petition.
3. For each Special Dispensation to receive, read, and ballot on petitions for the degrees at one and the same time at a Special Assembly, the fee shall be \$2.00; for special dispensations for any other purpose the fee shall be \$2.00.
4. For each Select Master whose name is on roll as of December 31, except those elsewhere excluded, \$26.00 plus any assessments levied by General Grand Council. An additional increase of \$1.00 per year shall automatically be added beginning in 2025 and continuing for five (5) years unless changed or amended by this Grand Council
5. For each Select Master Degree conferred, the Constituent Council, whether Chartered or Under Dispensation, shall pay \$4.00.
6. For each reinstatement, a fee of \$7.00 shall be paid to this Grand Council.
7. The fees enumerated in Paragraphs 2, 4, 5, and 6 of this Section must be paid to the Office of the Grand Recorder before March 1st of each year. Constituent Councils failing to make payment as aforesaid shall be assessed a penalty of 10 percent for such delinquency.

2.5. PRESENTATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2.5.1. Any member of the Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters, desiring a Bill or Resolution to be considered, adding to or changing the Royal and Select Master Code, or concerning the expenditure of money, shall file not less than an original and three (3) copies of such Bill or Resolution with the

Grand Recorder no later than March 1st in order for such Bill or Resolution to be acted upon at the Grand Council Assembly next following. No such Bill or Resolution shall be considered exempt from the provisions of this Section.

2.6. CHARTERS

2.6.1. Legal Custodian. The Illustrious Master, and no other, is the legal custodian of the charter of his Council.

2.6.2. Duplicate Charter. When a charter has been lost or destroyed, the Grand Recorder, on being satisfied of the fact, shall furnish a copy at cost, plus handling charges.

2.6.3. Surrender, How. Any proposal to surrender the charter of a Council shall be made at a Stated Assembly, and the consideration of the same lie over until the next Stated Assembly. All resident members shall be duly notified of the proposed action, and, if a majority of those present vote to surrender, the charter shall be surrendered.

2.6.4. Forfeiture. A Council shall not forfeit its charter for failure to hold Assemblies except by action of this Grand Council.

2.6.5. Forfeiture of Charter, Effect on Members. When the charter of a Council shall have been surrendered or arrested, the members thereof in good standing shall, upon payment to this Grand Council of such dues, as may be owing to such Council, be entitled to a certificate of good standing from the Grand Recorder. However, in the case of the arrest of the charter, the Illustrious Grand Master may suspend, and this Grand Council may prohibit the issuing of such certificates to those whose actions or neglect of duty may have caused the arrest of the charter.

2.6.6. Forfeiture of Charter, Disposal of Property. Whenever a Council forfeits its charter, the funds, books, seal, and other property of the extinct Council become the property of this Grand Council which may make such disposition thereof as it deems proper.

2.7. BY-LAWS

2.7.1. Every Council to Have. A Constituent Council chartered by this Grand Council shall adopt By-Laws for its government; provided, that the same shall conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Council. Each Council shall, in its By-Laws, fix the time of its stated Assemblies, the fees, the annual dues of its members, and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary for its government. Each Council shall submit its By-Laws to this Grand Council for approval or revision and a copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the Grand Recorder.

2.7.2. May Alter or Amend. A Constituent Council has the right to alter or amend its By-Laws in the manner provided in such By-Laws. All such alterations or amendments except as to dates/times of

Assemblies must be reported to this Grand Council for approval or revision. The Grand Recorder shall be notified of any change as to the date and/or hour of the stated Assemblies of a Constituent Council.

2.7.3. Not Suspended. A Council may not suspend its By-Laws, or any part of them.

2.8. SUBORDINATE COUNCILS

2.8.1. Council, General.

2.8.1.1. Officers and Members of a Constituent Council shall consist of the following members:

- 1) The Illustrious Master
- 2) The Deputy Master
- 3) The Principal Conductor of Work
- 4) The Recorder
- 5) The Treasurer
- 6) The Captain of the Guard
- 7) The Conductor of Council
- 8) The Marshal (Optional)
- 9) The Steward
- 10) The Sentinel
- 11) The Chaplain
- 12) The Organist

The Illustrious Master has it in special charge to see that the By-Laws of his Council are duly observed, as well as the Statutes, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Council; that accurate records are made, and just accounts rendered, that regular returns are made to this Grand Council, and that the annual dues are promptly paid. It is his duty to preside at all Assemblies of his Council, and he is responsible for the proper conduct of its affairs. It is his duty, either in person or by proxy, to attend all Assemblies of this Grand Council and to see that the Recorder of his Council promptly discharges his duty in reference to Council returns and dues. The duties of the remaining officers are such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations or as may be specifically set forth in regulations to that effect.

2.8.1.2. Seal. Every Constituent Council must have a seal and all official papers issued by the Council must be attested by impression of the seal. An impression of the official seal must be filed in the Office of the Grand Recorder.

2.8.1.3. Vacancies in Office. If a vacancy occurs in any office, other than the Illustrious Master, the Illustrious Grand Master may authorize a new election, upon request to that effect by the Council, PROVIDED, however in the case of a vacancy in both the offices of Illustrious Master and Deputy Master, the Principal Conductor of the Work shall succeed to the duties and powers of the Illustrious

Master without an election.

2.8.1.4. Returns to Grand Council. The Grand York Rite Bodies adopted a new database effective July 8, 2019. The new database mandates that the Secretary/Recorders update and maintain current roster information on the database.

Additionally, the Secretary/Recorders are mandated to Confirm Maintenance between the 1st and 5th of each month. Failure to make returns or pay dues for two consecutive years subjects the Council to forfeiture of its Charter unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Council.

2.8.1.5. Council Under Dispensation not Liable for Per Capita Tax. Councils under dispensation do not pay Grand Council dues

on their members, but pay fees on Degrees conferred; the same as chartered Councils, as shown by Section 2.4.1, Paragraph (5).

2.8.1.6. Place of Meeting.

- 1) Councils must hold all their Assemblies in some suitable room at the place named in the dispensation, or charter, and in no case are they permitted to change their place of meeting without special leave of the Illustrious Grand Master; provided, that no Council shall be allowed to remove its place of meeting to another City or Town except the same be approved by not less than two-thirds of all members present at a Stated Assembly, or at a Special Assembly set apart for that purpose. All resident members of the Council must have at least ten days' notice of the proposed removal and the time for taking action thereon.
- 2) If the hall of the Council authorized in the dispensation, or charter, becomes an unfit or improper place from any cause for holding the Assemblies, the Illustrious Grand Master may authorize it to hold its Assemblies elsewhere in the same City or Town as is specified in the dispensation or charter.
- 3) A Council desiring to move from one City or Town to another must also obtain the permission of the Illustrious Grand Master.
- 4) In the event of extraordinary circumstances, the Council may conduct an Assembly by electronic means. A virtual meeting shall be held by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Council. A dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall be necessary to hold such meeting and no ritual work may be performed.

2.8.2. New Councils.

2.8.2.1. Dispensation for Council Granted Nine Members, When.

No dispensation shall be granted for the creation of a new Council except on the petition of nine or more Royal and Select Masters, who are members of some regular Council, directed to the Grand Council and recommended by the Council nearest the place where

the new Council is to be located. Attached to this petition must be a Certificate from the Recorder of each Council to which said petitioners belong, showing that each of them is clear of all demands and indebtedness to their old Council, and that there are not any charges pending against them. No dispensation shall be issued until the Illustrious Grand Master is satisfied that the petitioners are skillful and well qualified to confer the Degrees, and that the interests of the Order will be well served by the formation of such new Council

2.8.2.2. Name of Council. No Council shall be named for, nor may a Council change its name, to that of a living person or any person who has been deceased less than 3 years, nor a name held by an active Council of this Grand Jurisdiction.

2.8.2.3. Membership as Between Old and New Councils. The members of a Council under Dispensation continue to be members of the Council to which they belonged when the dispensation was granted. Any Petitioner for a Dispensation for a new Council may sever his connection with such new Council at any time before a Charter is granted by notice to the Grand Recorder, and the new Council, and his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit shall be returned; and his membership shall remain with his former Council. Whenever the new Council is chartered and constituted, the members immediately become members of the new Council, and their membership in the former Council ceases without the necessity of obtaining a demit. Such member may signify their desire to hold dual membership and they will continue as dual members. The Recorder of the new Council shall notify the Recorder of the former Council to which the Companion belonged of their intention to hold dual membership.

2.8.2.4. Council Under Dispensation, Powers. A Council under dispensation may confer the Degrees upon candidates; and do all other things clearly expressed in its dispensation.

2.8.2.5. Dispensation Withdrawn or Charter Refused, Effect on Petitioners. If the dispensation should be withdrawn or a charter refused, the affiliated Companions who petitioned therefor resume their membership in their former Councils without petition or other action.

2.8.2.6. Report to Grand Recorder. The Recorders of Councils under dispensation shall forward to the Grand Recorder, not later than February 1st, a list of all members enrolled on December 31st.

2.8.2.7. Council Under Dispensation, Constituted by Whom. A Council under dispensation shall be constituted by the Illustrious Grand Master or by some present or past Illustrious Master by him specially deputized.

2.8.2.8. Report of Constitution Required. When constituted,

report thereof shall be made to the Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Recorder.

2.8.2.9. Suitable Hall Required. No Council shall be constituted until it is provided with a suitable hall, properly furnished.

2.8.2.10. Reading of Dispensation Required. When a new Council commences work, the dispensation must be read and recorded in full in the book of records.

2.8.2.11. Notice to Other Councils Required. When a charter is granted, and the Council has been constituted, the Grand Recorder shall certify the fact to each Council to which any of the petitioning Companions belonged.

2.8.2.12. Appointment of Three Principal Officers. The Offices of Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of Work of a Council under dispensation shall be filled by appointment of the Illustrious Grand Master, and all the other officers shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master. The Officers of a Council under dispensation shall hold office during the continuance of the dispensation, but the Illustrious Grand Master shall have the power to relieve any officer and appoint another in his stead.

2.8.2.13. Chartered Council Constituted by Whom. A chartered Council may be constituted only by the Illustrious Grand Master, or his duly appointed proxy.

2.8.2.14. Charters Granted, When and How. Charters shall be granted by a vote of this Grand Council at the Annual Assembly only.

2.8.3. Chartered Councils.

2.8.3.1. Who Presides in the Absence of Illustrious Master. In the absence of the Illustrious Master, the Deputy Master, and in the absence of both, the Principal Conductor of Work, and in the absence of all three, the Junior Past Illustrious Master present shall preside.

2.8.3.2. Disability of the Illustrious Master. In the case of the death or disability of the Illustrious Master, the Deputy Master shall assume his prerogatives and duties.

2.8.3.3. Removal of Illustrious Master. When the Illustrious Master changes his place of residence beyond the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, the Illustrious Grand Master may vacate his office, and he can exercise its powers no longer.

2.8.3.4. Stated Assemblies. The Stated Assemblies of a Council shall be held at the time specified in the By-laws, which must require an Assembly at least once in three months, except that Constituent Councils may, if they so desire, dispense with the Stated Assemblies in the months of June, July, and August.

2.8.3.5. Special Assemblies. Special Assemblies of a Council may

be held at the pleasure of the Illustrious Master, and the purpose of such Special Assembly must be distinctly stated in the notice. No other business shall be transacted but that for which the Special Assembly was convened.

2.8.3.6. Quorum Required. In the absence of a quorum (9 or more), no business may be transacted; but a quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid. A Council may open in the Royal Master's Degree, with a minimum of five members present, to transact business as necessary, except that balloting on petitions and officers may take place on the Royal Master's Degree only by dispensation granted by the Illustrious Grand Master in his discretion.

2.8.3.7. Business. All business of the Council must be transacted at a Stated Assembly, or at a Special Assembly, of which the notice of the said Special Assembly and of the business to be transacted shall have been given to each resident member of the Council.

2.8.3.8. Questions Determined. At every Assembly all questions (except upon the acceptance of candidates for the Degrees, of membership, and suspension, expulsion and restoration of Companions, and changing of By-Laws) shall be determined by a majority of votes. In case the votes are equally divided, the Illustrious Master shall cast the deciding vote.

2.8.3.9. No Appeal from Master's Decision. No appeal shall lie to the Council from the decision of the Illustrious Master. His decisions may only be reviewed by the Illustrious Grand Master during the recess of this Grand Council, or by appeal direct to this Grand Council.

2.8.3.10. Notice. A notice is a request to attend the Council, made by order of the Council or the Illustrious Master, and should be obeyed in good faith, unless the Companion receiving it should be unavoidably prevented from attending. When it shall become necessary to give notice to resident members of a Council of any matter to be acted upon by the Council, the Recorder shall issue a notice setting forth the subject to be considered by the Council and when it is to be acted upon, and notifying the members to be present; he shall, at least three days before such action is to be taken, deposit in the Post Office a copy of such notice, sealed, addressed to such member of said Council residing in the territorial jurisdiction of such Council; or he shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, a copy of said notice to each of said members at least three days before such action is to be taken, and shall make return in writing on said notice, of the service thereof, which notice and return shall be spread upon the records.

2.8.4. Membership.

2.8.4.1. Ipso Facto Members. Those to whom a charter is issued

and those who receive the Degrees in a Council are ipso facto members thereof, whether such Council be chartered or under dispensation.

2.8.4.2. Membership in More Than One Council. A Companion may be a member of more than one Council; provided, however, that he must pay full dues in each Council and not hold emeritus membership in more than one Council, and that he may not be a voting representative to the Grand Council from more than one Council at the same time.

2.8.4.3. Members of Extinct Councils May Join Another Council.

When a Council has ceased to exist, any member thereof may join another Council upon petition and certificate from the Grand Recorder that his standing therein was good when said Council ceased to exist, and that all dues or other liabilities have been paid. Companions suspended by an extinct Council for non-payment of dues may be reinstated at the discretion of the Grand Recorder upon payment of all arrearages plus the reinstatement fee, and the Grand Recorder may thereafter issue a certificate of good standing. A member of an extinct Council is not liable for dues after the Council has become extinct. But this Grand Council has the right to collect from members all dues chargeable against him up to the time it became extinct, and to discipline those who refuse or neglect to pay the same.

2.8.4.4. Right to Demit. A member of a Council shall be entitled to receive a demit at a Stated Assembly upon his written request by a show of hands; PROVIDED, his dues shall have been paid and no charges are pending against him. And this severs the membership, whether a certificate issues or no. No Council shall grant a demit to any of its members until dues have been paid or remitted, nor to one who is under charges; nor to one who has, in his official capacity, become indebted to the Council, so long as such indebtedness remains.

2.8.4.5. Non-Affiliate. A Select Master becomes a non-affiliate whenever he demits from his Council, or ceases to be a member thereof by any means other than suspension or expulsion. Voluntary non-affiliation by demit or otherwise, in a Lodge or Chapter, for six months, without any effort to become affiliated, shall result in a Select Master forfeiting his membership in the Council.

2.8.4.6. Transfer of Membership by Certificate of Good Standing.

If a Companion, against whom no charges are pending and who is otherwise in good standing with current dues paid, desires to transfer his membership to or affiliate with another

Council without taking a demit, he shall be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing upon application therefore, the vote to be taken as for a demit. In the event of a failure on the part of his Council to hold an Assembly for three months or in the event the vote does not grant the Certificate and no charges are preferred against the Companion by the end of the next regular Assembly, the Illustrious Master shall order the Certificate of Good Standing issued to him. The Companion may then attach such certificate to a petition for affiliation and submit it to any Council with which he desires to affiliate, and if his petition is granted, the Recorder of the affiliating Council shall notify the Recorder of the Council that issued the Certificate and the Grand Recorder of the affiliation and whether the affiliation is a transfer of membership or for membership in more than one Council.

2.8.4.7. Affiliation Requirements. A petitioner for affiliation in a Council under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Georgia, must be a member of some Symbolic Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Georgia and of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and his petition shall give the name and the number, and the location of the Lodge and the Chapter of which he is a member.

2.8.4.8. Visitation Limited. No Select Master, who shall voluntarily remain unaffiliated for more than six months, shall be permitted to visit any Council in this jurisdiction, nor shall he appear in any procession of Cryptic Masons, nor shall he be entitled to receive Masonic relief from any Council.

2.8.5. Elections.

2.8.5.1. Officers Must be Elected. All the officers of the Council shall be elective, unless otherwise provided in the By-Laws of such Council.

2.8.5.2. Eligibility for Office. Every member in good standing is eligible for any office in the Council.

2.8.5.3. Elections, When. All elections of officers in Constituent Councils must be by ballot, at the last Stated Assembly previous to December 27 in each year, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

2.8.5.4. Postponement of Election. Should any Council fail to elect its officers at the time prescribed by its By-Laws, it shall forthwith lay the matter before the Illustrious Grand Master, who, for good cause shown, may grant a dispensation to hold an election as soon thereafter as may be practicable; and all members shall be duly notified of the time set for such election. Such dispensation shall be entered upon the records of the Council.

2.8.5.5. Tenure of Office. The several officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors have been duly elected and

installed.

2.8.5.6. Council Must Have Been Constituted. The officers may only be elected and installed after the Council shall have been duly constituted, in the presence of at least nine of its members.

2.8.5.7. Public Installation. A Council may hold a public installation in its own hall without a special dispensation from the Illustrious Grand Master, but such dispensation is required in order to hold a public installation in any other place.

2.8.5.8. Failure to Be Installed. If an officer, duly elected or appointed, shall, without reasonable excuse, neglect to attend at the time fixed for installation, his election or appointment may be declared void by a vote of the Body which elected him.

2.8.6. Dues to Constituent Councils.

2.8.6.1. Remission of Dues.

- 1) The dues of any member of a Council may be remitted, in whole or in part, for inability to pay upon proper application in person or in writing or upon the statement of facts of a Companion, justifying such action.
- 2) A Council may, for good cause, remit the dues of a Companion, who has been suspended for the non-payment of dues, and such remission shall have the same effect as payment thereof would have.
- 3) A Constituent Council may not remit the dues of a member until they have accrued.
- 4) A Constituent Council having upon proper motion remitted the dues of a member, no reconsideration at a subsequent Assembly is permissible. If imposition has been practiced in obtaining the remission of dues, the Companion guilty of the imposition should be disciplined.
- 5) Constituent Councils will not be assessed for per capita tax on members whose dues have been remitted under authority of this section.

2.8.6.2. Non-Payment of Dues.

2.8.6.3. Dues Payable on January 1. The dues of Constituent Councils are payable on January 1st of each year, in advance.

2.8.6.4. Recorder Must Issue Notice. Whenever a member shall fail to pay his dues at the time when the same became due and payable, as fixed by the By-Laws of the Council, it shall be the duty of the Recorder to notify him of such delinquency by delivering to him, in person, a bill for such indebtedness, or by mailing the same in a sealed envelope, addressed to him at his present or last known place of residence; should the delinquent refuse or fail to pay the dues within twelve months after the issuance of such notice, it shall

be the duty of the Recorder to notify the Illustrious Master of such failure, who shall at the next Stated Assembly of the Council, order a notice to be given the delinquent by the Recorder, requiring him to appear at a specified subsequent Stated Assembly, to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues, which notice shall be in the following form:

NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE

Hall of _____ Council No. _____, R. & S.M.
_____, 20____

Companion:

You are hereby notified to appear before _____
Council No. _____, R. & S.M., at its Assembly to be held on the
_____ day of _____, 20____, and show cause
why you should not be suspended for non-payment of dues.

By order of the Illustrious Master.

(Seal) _____, Recorder

2.8.6.5. Twenty Days Notice Required. Such notice shall be served by the Recorder by mailing to last known address or causing same to be delivered by a Companion, to that delinquent, twenty days before the Assembly at which he is to appear.

2.8.6.6. Suspension. Should the delinquent fail to appear, his dues remain unpaid, or the same be not remitted for good cause, or the time for payment extended by a majority vote of the members present, the Illustrious Master, upon proof of notice and the fact of arrearage shall put the question: "Shall Companion _____ be suspended for non-payment of dues?" which shall be determined by a *viva voce* vote, and if the majority of those present vote in the affirmative, the Illustrious Master shall declare the Companion suspended.

2.8.6.7. Payment of Dues Before Ballot or Within Twelve

Months After Suspension. Payment of dues before the ballot is taken shall stop proceedings, and after suspension, if paid within twelve months, shall reinstate the Companion. If paid after suspension the Recorder shall report the same to the Council, and the fact of such payment shall be noted in the proceedings of the Council.

2.8.6.8. Petition for Reinstatement Required After Twelve

Months. No Companion who shall remain in arrears for one year after his suspension shall be reinstated except on a unanimous vote of the members of the Council present at the time of his application

being acted upon and shall be read by the Recorder.

2.8.6.9. Petition for Reinstatement Must be Received. Neither the Illustrious Master nor the Council may refuse to entertain the petition for reinstatement of a Companion who has been suspended for non-payment of dues.

2.8.6.10. Petition for Reinstatement May Be Referred to Committee. The Council has the right when deemed advisable, to appoint a Committee to inquire into the character and conduct of the petitioner for reinstatement who has been suspended for more than one year for non-payment of dues.

2.8.6.11. A Petition for Reinstatement May Be Renewed. A Companion who has been suspended for non-payment of dues for one year or more, and whose petition for reinstatement has been rejected, may renew his petition at any subsequent Assembly of the Council.

2.8.6.12. Emeritus Members. Effective July 1, 2013, new emeritus memberships were discontinued. Those emeritus members already holding emeritus membership will continue to be exempt from per capita tax.

2.8.6.13. Perpetual Membership. Provided similar action is approved by the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar, this Grand Council does hereby authorize the creation and the joint operation of a Perpetual Membership Program under the name and style of the York Rite Perpetual Membership Fund of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia. This Fund shall be administered by a joint committee of the said three Grand Bodies which committee shall be known as the Fund Committee.

The Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint one companion for a term of one year, another companion for two years, and another companion for three years who shall serve on the joint Fund Committee. Annually thereafter the incoming Illustrious Grand Master shall **NOMINATE** one companion for a three year term, who shall be **ELECTED** at the Annual Assembly beginning in 2022. The Grand Recorder and the Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of this Fund Committee. The Fund Committee shall make an annual report to this Grand Council.

The joint Fund Committee shall be responsible for setting up the program of Perpetual Memberships, prescribing rules for determining eligibility costs, transfers, terminations, and other matters; and shall also be responsible for investing the funds received and prescribing the amounts to be paid annually to each Chapter, Council, and Commandery. Provided, however that no funds may be withdrawn from the corpus funds paid to obtain a

Perpetual Membership, except under such extreme conditions as may be determined and approved by the Fund Committee and as permitted under the Laws of the State of Georgia for executors and trustees. The Fund Committee may alter, amend, and/or revise its rules and regulations from time to time in order to maintain a sound program.

2.9. JURISDICTION OF CANDIDATES

2.9.1. Petition for Degrees. Any qualified Royal Arch Mason may receive the Cryptic Degrees in any Council within the State of Georgia. All Councils will hold concurrent jurisdiction over candidates. (EFFECTIVE 2023)

2.9.2. Violation of Jurisdiction. DELETED 2023

2.9.3. Conferring Degrees by Request. When a Council confers the Degrees at the request of another Council, it does not thereby acquire jurisdiction, and the fees belong to the requesting Council, unless it shall see fit to relinquish them. The Council may confer the Degrees by request only upon a candidate elected by another Council within this Grand Jurisdiction.

2.9.4. Invasion of Territory. DELETED 2023

2.9.5. Waiver of Jurisdiction. A Council may not waive jurisdiction over one whose petition has been received and referred to Committee.

2.9.6. Residence. A Council may not receive the petition of one who has no residence—no settled home.

2.9.7. Petitioner from Another Jurisdiction. No Council in this Grand Jurisdiction shall receive the petition of a petitioner for the Degrees, who resides in another Grand Jurisdiction, without the consent of the Illustrious Grand Master or the Constituent Council within whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides; nor may a Constituent Council of this Grand Jurisdiction waive the jurisdiction of its members in favor of a Constituent Council of a sister Grand Jurisdiction without the consent of the Illustrious Grand Master.

2.10. CANDIDATES

2.10.1. Qualification by Residence. No petition for the Degrees of the Council shall be entertained by any Council in this jurisdiction, unless the petitioner shall have resided six months in the jurisdiction of the Council.

2.10.2. Qualification by Affiliation. No petition for the Degrees of the Council may be received from one who is not at the time an affiliated member of a Blue Lodge and a Royal Arch Chapter or is currently petitioning a Royal Arch Chapter.

2.10.3. Petition Forms. Every petition for the Degrees shall comply in substance with the form prescribed by this Grand Council.

2.10.4. Must Be Signed. No petition may be received unless signed by the petitioner in person, giving his full name, date of birth,

residence, and occupation.

2.10.5. Must Be Recommended. Each petition must be signed by two recommenders, who are members of the Council to which the petition is presented.

2.10.6. Petition Received, When. Petitions may be received or acted upon only at Stated Assemblies, unless by unanimous consent of all members present at a Special Assembly, at least three days' notice of which has been given by the Recorder by mail or otherwise to all members.

2.10.7. Must Be Referred. Without a dispensation, no ballot may be had upon a petition until after it has been referred to a committee of three members of the Council at one Assembly, and that Committee has reported, at a subsequent Assembly. An unfavorable report does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot, which must be taken in all cases. The fact of the report having been made, and not its character (whether favorable or unfavorable) should be entered on the minutes.

2.10.8. Failure to Take Degrees. If an applicant is elected to take the degrees and fails to present himself for initiation within six months thereafter without acceptable excuse to the Council, his election shall be void. A Council cannot confer the degrees unless such person is re-elected upon a new application.

2.10.9. Minimum Fee. The minimum fee for the Council Degrees shall be thirty five dollars, which amount must accompany the petition. Exemptions may not be granted from the payment of the fee, and this shall not be violated under any circumstances by the return of all or any part of said sum, as a donation, loan, or otherwise.

2.10.10. Withdrawal of Petition. When a petition has been presented to a Council, it may not be withdrawn unless it shall appear that the Council does not have jurisdiction over the petitioner.

2.10.11. Rejected Applicants. The petition of one who has been rejected may not be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after such rejection. It may then be received by the Council in whose jurisdiction the petitioner then resides.

2.11. BALLOT

2.11.1. All Must Vote. Every member present when a ballot is taken is required to vote, unless excused by the Illustrious Master before the balloting has commenced.

2.11.2. Secrecy. The ballot upon a petition for the Degrees or membership must be secret.

2.11.3. Examination of Ballot. After a ballot on the petition for the Degrees has been taken and examined, according to custom, the

result shall be declared by the Illustrious Master, unless only one negative vote appears, in which case he shall order a second ballot, which shall in all cases be final; PROVIDED, that the Illustrious Grand Master may, in his discretion, and for good cause, grant a dispensation authorizing another ballot at a Stated Assembly of the Council, to be by him designated, of which ballot, all members shall have notice. The same course of procedure shall be had on a ballot for affiliation.

2.12. OBJECTIONS

2.12.1. Objection After Election of Candidate. If, after a candidate has been elected to receive the degrees in Council, and before he shall have received the degree of Royal Master, an objection may be made by a member of the Council in good standing to his receiving the degrees. If the objection be recorded upon the minutes, it holds for twelve months, unless withdrawn. If made to the Illustrious Master, it holds during his term of office, but may be withdrawn. The Illustrious Master should inquire of the objecting Companion whether his objection is based upon a violation of the moral law or the laws of the land involving moral turpitude, and if not, it is not valid. The Illustrious Master may, in his discretion, delay the advancement of any candidate without an objection should the circumstances require it.

2.12.2. Objection After Conferral of Royal Master Degree. If, after a candidate shall have received the degree of Royal Master and before he has received the Select Master degree, further advancement may be stopped by charges or written objection. If by objection, the reason shall be based upon a violation of the moral law, the laws of Masonry, or the laws of the land involving moral turpitude. Such objection shall terminate at the expiration of three months unless withdrawn. If charges, be preferred, this stops any further advancement until such time as the charges are adjudicated and a verdict of not guilty returned.

2.13. DEGREES

2.13.1. Manner of Conferral. The Degrees in the Council shall be conferred in the following manner:

1. Royal Master
2. Select Master

2.13.2. Super-Excellent Master Degree. The Degree of Super-Excellent Master is recognized as an honorary Degree, and each Select Master is entitled to the same without additional cost. Where Councils are not prepared to confer this Degree in full dramatic form, the Illustrious Master should obligate the candidate, explain signs, words, and grips, and read or recite the "Lecture" provided in the ritual. Should there be present at any time when this Degree is conferred, a Companion Select Master who has not previously

received the Degree, he shall be entitled to assume the obligation with the regular candidates without cost, and the Recorder of the Council shall furnish such Companion with a Certificate under seal, and it shall be the duty of such Companion to file this certificate with the Recorder of the Council of which he is a member and he shall make a record of the same.

2.20. MISCELLANEOUS

2.20.1. Minutes. The minutes of every Assembly shall be read, corrected, and approved, and entered on the record at the next Stated Assembly by the Council, and signed by the Illustrious Master and the Recorder.

2.20.2. Sunday Assemblies. No Assembly shall be held on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday.

2.20.3. Bonds. A Council may require by its By-Laws that the Treasurer and the Recorder shall give bonds for their faithful performance of their duties.

2.20.4. Assessments Forbidden. Constituent Councils shall not assess members, except in the way of dues, the amount of which shall be fixed by its By-Laws, and not less.

2.20.5. Objection to Visitors. No visitor may be admitted into any Council if a member of such Council who is present, objects; PROVIDED, that no objection shall be valid against the Illustrious Grand Master, nor against any Grand Officer visiting in an official capacity, nor against anyone specially deputized by the Illustrious Grand Master to visit said Council, nor against a Companion Select Master in good standing, who is acting as counsel for a Companion on trial. Such objection shall not extend beyond the meeting at which it is made, and shall not be recorded.

2.20.6. Exclusion of Members. The Illustrious Master has a right and it is his duty to exclude from the Council a Companion who, by his perverseness, or customary contumacy, may interfere with the proper working of the council or disturb its harmony.

2.25. SUMMONS

2.25.1. Right to Summons. The Illustrious Master, or the Council, has the right to summon any member of the Council for any purpose within the scope and business of Cryptic Masonry, and every Select Master is bound to obey such summons, unless unavoidably prevented. This great power should only be exercised in cases of extreme emergency. While it is left to the discretion of the Illustrious Master or the Council, as to when such emergency exists, the Illustrious Master, or the Council, must be held to accountability for any arbitrary exercise of this discretion, as for any other willful abuse of official authority.

2.25.2. Contents. Summons issued by a Constituent Council, or the Illustrious Master thereof, must be written or printed and under the

seal of the Council, and need not contain anything beyond the requirement to attend.

2.25.3. Service of Summons. A summons may be served by mailing to last known address, delivery by any Select Master designated for that purpose by the Illustrious Master, such delivery to be made in person to the party named in the summons. The summons should be returned on or before the return day with an endorsement of the time of service or a statement of reasons for failure to serve.

2.25.4. Summons Binding. Every Royal and Select Master is bound to obey a summons; and for failure, without good and sufficient cause, may be notified to appear before the Council at its next Stated Assembly; and if a satisfactory excuse is not rendered, charges shall be preferred against him, and, upon trial, he may be punished as the Council may determine

2.26. DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

2.26.1. How Constituted. There shall be several Royal and Select Master Council Districts in the State in which there may be held annually, a Royal and Select Master Council Convention. These Districts shall be established or closed or merged with other districts as deemed appropriate by the Illustrious Grand Master.

2.26.2. Membership. All Councils in a respective District shall be members of that District Convention unless permitted by Grand Council, upon written request, to affiliate with another District Convention.

2.26.3. Officers. The officers of a District Convention shall be the same as those of a subordinate Council. They shall be first nominated and then elected in the manner prescribed by the By-Laws of the Convention. Eligibility to hold office in the Convention shall be determined by the Convention By-Laws.

2.26.4. By-Laws. The By-Laws governing Royal and Select Master Council District Conventions shall be subject to the same laws and provisions of the Code as are those of Subordinate Councils.

2.26.5. Sessions. Conventions may assemble as an ordinary deliberative body, or a Council may be opened by the duly qualified and regular officers of a local Council with which the Convention meets. At the close of the Convention, the Council should be closed by the Convention Officers or by the Officers of the local Council. The same precautions as to security from the presence of unauthorized persons should be exercised as by a Subordinate Council. While the work of any or all degrees may be exemplified by the Officers of the Convention, no actual candidate shall be greeted or advanced unless the regular Council has been duly opened therefor. In such event, if the sessions of the Convention be held elsewhere than at the Council room of the local Council, a special

dispensation must be procured from the Illustrious Grand Master.

2.26.6. Functions of District Illustrious Masters, etc. The

Illustrious Master may provide for the exemplification of one or more degrees at such convention and shall:

(A) Cause Masonic Instruction in the traditions and principles of the Order to be given to the craft on the occasion of the session of the Convention and provide the same for the craft of the District between sessions.

(B) Appoint Instructors in the Work when certified by the District Grand Deputy as proficient, and assign same, upon the request of the Illustrious Master of a Council, to such Council or Councils as may be in need of and find their services useful.

(C) Appoint a Committee on Program and Education. This Committee shall assist the Illustrious Master and his Officers working in harmony with the District Grand Deputies, in providing the Councils of the District with Masonic Information and Education, and in helping to organize the Program when called upon.

(D) Assign Councils to each District Officer for visitation by him, and if deemed advisable, select and appoint other well versed Royal and Select Masters to assist.

(E) Secure the help of the District Deputy for Schools of Instruction and such other Programs as may be needed by the Councils and the Convention.

(F) Secure the services of the Grand Council Officer nearest when needed.

(G) Hold meetings of the District Officers at least two times each year between Convention Sessions to review the condition of the Councils in the District and all other matters of Royal and Select Masters Masonic Welfare and to devise plans and programs to promote the best interests of the Craft.

(H) Plan well in advance the District Convention, and include in the planning the Grand Council Officer nearest and the District Grand Deputy.

2.26.7. Line Officers. The District Convention Line Officers shall:

(A) Visit quarterly such Councils as are assigned to them.

(B) Make written report of the true condition of the Council to the District Illustrious Master.

(C) Arrange, with the consent of the District Illustrious Master, for a school or Schools of Instruction as needed.

(D) Secure the help of the District Grand Deputies to the Illustrious Grand Master and the Committee on Program and Education in obtaining Masonic literature and assistance as needed in aiding the Councils in preparing programs promoting the purposes, traditions, and principles of Masonry, particularly Royal and Select Masters Masonry.

2.26.8. Constituent Council Officers and Members. The Illustrious Master, Officers, and Members of the Councils in the District are requested to give close cooperation to the District Illustrious Master and those others herein provided and assigned for work in the quarry of Royal and Select Master Masonry.

2.26.9. Reports. It shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master of each District Convention to forward to the Illustrious Grand Master a report of the proceedings of Sessions held in his District and the condition of the Craft in such District. Following the meeting of the District Convention, the Recorder shall send to the Grand Recorder as soon as possible, notification of the new District Officers and the date, time, and location of the next Convention.

2.26.8. Balloting at District Conventions or York Rite

Festivals. No petition shall be balloted upon at a District Convention or York Rite Festival. All candidates for the degrees conferred at District Conventions or York Rite Festivals shall be elected by their respective Council at a regular communication. Candidate's election must be attested to by the Recorder of his Council to the Recorder of the convention or festival.

2.27. DISTRICT GRAND DEPUTIES AND STATE CHAIRMAN

2.27.1. Appointment of District Grand Deputies. The Illustrious Grand Master may appoint District Grand Deputies who shall be a liaison between the Illustrious Grand Master and the subordinate Councils. There may be at least one District Deputy in each District and the total shall not exceed 22 Deputies. It shall be the duty of the District Grand Deputy, when called upon, to assist the District and local Councils in his District in planning programs and for degree work. It shall also be his duty to visit the Councils assigned to him in his District at least twice each year and review the condition of the Council and make a report on or before April 1st of each year to the State Chairman of the District Deputies on forms furnished by the Grand Recorder.

2.27.2. Appointment of State Chairman of District

Deputies. The Illustrious Grand Master may appoint a State Chairman of the District Grand Deputies. He shall be a Past Illustrious Master who is well versed in the knowledge of the customs, laws, ritual, and usages of Royal and Select Masters Masonry. He does not have to be, or have been, one of the District Grand Deputies. The State Chairman shall coordinate the activities and work of the District Grand Deputies, and perform such other duties as the Illustrious Grand Master may request. He shall report annually on the activities of the District Grand Deputies.

2.27.3. Disposition of Reports. When the visitations have been completed the reports shall be forwarded to the State Chairman of the District Deputies. The State Chairman shall furnish the Illustrious Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Principal Conductor of Work a copy.

2.30. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER THAN THE CONSTITUTION SECTION

2.30.1. Amendments, How Made. The By-Laws Section of this Code, upon the concurrence of two-thirds of its members present at any Annual Assembly, may be revised, amended, or altered, provided, however, that a written copy of the motion so to revise, amend, or alter shall be filed with the Grand Recorder by March 1st, provided further, that with the unanimous consent of the members present, any member may introduce such an amendment in writing during the Annual Assembly of Grand Council.

3.0. PENAL CODE

3.0.1. Trial, Offenses. The Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters, and its subordinate Councils will accept the discipline inflicted on Royal and Select Masters of this Jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge of Georgia under the provisions of its Penal Code.

APRONS, DRESS, AND JEWELS

APRONS

The aprons are of such form and size as are usually worn by Master Masons. They are white, bordered on the sides and bottom of the apron and lower edges of the flap with a band of purple, and are provided with purple strings or tape.

DRESS

The dress for the first three officers of the Constituent Council is as follows:

- The Illustrious Master is dressed in a royal robe of purple, with a crown upon his head and a scepter in his hand.
- The Deputy Master is dressed in a royal robe of purple, with a crown upon his head and scepter in his hand.
- The Principal Conductor of the Work is dressed in a robe of orange, with a turban on his head and mallet and trowel in his hand.

The appropriate dress for the remaining officers (fourth to ninth, inclusive) and active members is a robe or gown of purple, and a

purple turban on the head. The sixth, eighth and ninth officers, viz: the Captain of the Guard, the Steward, and Sentinel may, however, be clothed in ancient military costume, with a helmet on the head and a sword in the hand.

JEWELS FOR OFFICERS OF A GRAND COUNCIL

The distinctive jewel of the Grand Council is a circle (not less than two and one-half inches in diameter) with a convex front surface, on which is formed, or cut in relief, a wreath of almond buds and leaves, tied at its base by an ornamental knot. An equilateral triangle is rigidly fastened at its points within the circle, and within triangle the emblem of the particular office is also rigidly fastened. At the upper points of the wreath, and placed upon the front convex surface of the circle, is a star of eight points, presenting on its center, in high relief, a Delta on which is engraved in Hebrew the ineffable WORD. The circle is attached by a small ring to an ornamental horizontal bar, and like parallel bar provided with a pin for fastening the jewel to the coat lapel over the left breast. (Gold or some other yellow metal should be used.)

The jewels for the respective Grand Officers are distinguished by the use of the following emblems placed within the triangle:

- The square and compasses joined with the trowel for the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
- The level joined with the trowel for the Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master.
- The plum joined with the trowel for the Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.
- The crossed keys joined with the trowel for the Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer.
- The crossed pens joined with the trowel for the Right Illustrious Grand Recorder.
- The battle-ax joined with the trowel for the Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard.
- The baton joined with the sword for the Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council.
- The crossed swords joined with the trowel for the Illustrious Grand Steward.
- The sword joined with the trowel for the Illustrious Grand Sentinel.
- The jewels for the remaining active members may be an equilateral triangle, similar in size and form to that for the officers of Constituent Councils, but having a trowel only fastened rigidly within the triangle.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

At the time appointed for installation, the chair shall be taken by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or a Past Illustrious Grand Master, selected by the Illustrious Grand Master-elect who will be assisted by the Installing Grand Marshal. (Aprons may be placed at the stations in advance if desired and the words amended as required.)

Installing Officer: Companions, ladies and guests of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Georgia. We are now to install the Grand Council Officers for the ensuing term.

USE THIS IF NO INSTALLATION OF THESE OFFICERS: *The Grand Recorder, Right Illustrious Companion _____ and the Grand Treasurer, Right Illustrious Companion _____ and the Grand Organist, Illustrious Companion _____ have previously been installed and need no further installation.*

Installing Officer: Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, you will announce the names of the companions who have been elected and appointed to fill the several stations and places in this Grand Council. As the names are called the officers-elected and appointed will take positions as indicated by the Installing Grand Marshal, with the Illustrious Grand Master-elect at the altar.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, the officers-elect are before you.

Installing Officer: Companions: You have heard the names of the officers, both elected and appointed, as reported by the Grand Recorder. If any member of the Grand Council knows a just reason why any of these officers should not be installed, let him speak now, or forever after be silent. (*If no objection is made he proceeds.*) We are pleased to observe that you still approve the choice made, and we will now proceed with their installation. Masonry teaches that before entering upon any great or important undertaking, we should invoke the blessing of God. Let us, therefore, bow in prayer with our Installing Grand Chaplain.

Installing Officer: Installing Grand Marshal: You will present the Installing Grand Chaplain at the altar. ***

*(Illustrious Grand Chaplain offers prayer. When finished, the Installing Grand Marshal re-conducts the Installing Grand Chaplain to his place.) **

Installing Officer: Installing Grand Marshal, present the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect for installation.

(The Grand Marshal then introduces the Grand Master-Elect to the Installing Officer.)

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I here present for installation, Companion _____, who has been duly elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, and now declares himself ready for installation.

Installing Officer: Companion _____, before proceeding further, it is necessary for me to administer to you the obligation of office. You will therefore, kneel at the Holy Altar and place both hands on the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses. *(When MIGM-Elect is in position:)* You will say I, pronounce your name in full, and then repeat after me:

Do solemnly promise that I will serve as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, for the term for which I have been elected, and will perform all the duties appertaining to that office to the best of my ability, and that I will support and maintain the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, so help me God.

Installing Officer: Arise. *(The Installing Officer will then deliver the following:)*

CHARGE

Installing Officer: By the voice of your Companions you have been chosen to occupy the most honorable office in their power to bestow, and to me has been entrusted the pleasing duty of investing you with its insignia. Installing Grand Marshal, you will invest the Most Illustrious Grand Master with the jewel of his office. The Joseph P. Bowdoin Past Illustrious Grand Masters Jewel from 1913, worn by each Illustrious Grand Master since 1990 (Done.)

I do not doubt that you will watch with fidelity and judgment the conduct of the Constituent Bodies within your jurisdiction; and while tempering justice with mercy will require from every member a due obedience to the rules and regulations of our institution. May He, without whose approbation all our labors are in vain, give strength to

your endeavors and support to your exertions. You will now assume your appropriate station. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the MIGM to the East. (Done.) ***

Installing Grand Marshal: MIGM, behold your Companions; Companions, behold your MIGM, and join me in York Rite Grand Honors, three times three.

Installing Officer: MIGM, I present you with the gavel and invite you to seat the Companions on the side.

MIGM: *

Installing Officer: MIGM, if you wish, I will proceed with the installation.

MIGM: Please do.

Installing Officer: Installing Grand Marshal, present the other officers for installation.

(The other officers are then presented in a body to the Installing Officer, who administers to them the following obligation.)

Installing Officer: Each of you will place your right hand over heart, say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me:

Do solemnly promise that I will faithfully perform all the duties of the office to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability, and that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, so help me God. You may lower your hands. Installing Grand Marshal, present the Deputy Grand Master-Elect for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Installing Officer: VERY ILLUSTRIOS COMPANION, you have been elected Deputy Grand Master and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.) The important station to which you have been elected requires from you exemplary conduct, and its duties demand your most assiduous attention. In the absence of the Most Illustrious Grand Master you are to preside; in his presence you are to strengthen and support his authority by your counsel and advice.

Let the bright example of the Illustrious Monarch of Tyre, who, by his power and wealth, gave strength to the labors of King Solomon, stimulate you to the faithful discharge of your duties; and when the King of Kings shall summon you to His immediate presence, from His hands may you receive a crown of glory that shall never fade. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master to his Station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work-Elect for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

Installing Officer: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS COMPANION, you have been elected Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.) The office to which you have been elected is one of great importance. In the absence of your superior officers it is your prerogative to succeed them, and to perform their duties; you will therefore perceive the necessity there is of your possessing such qualifications as will enable you to accomplish those duties which are incumbent upon you in your appropriate station, as well as those which may occasionally devolve upon you by the absence of your superiors.

Remember the example of that Illustrious Artist at Jerusalem, who was ever ready, as a mediator to cause justice to be tempered with mercy, and to preserve peace and order among the Craft. Let it remind you that the harmony and unanimity of the Order should be your constant aim; and as the glorious sun at its meridian height dispels the mists and clouds which obscure its horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the clouds of jealousy and discord when-so-ever they may appear. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to his station. (Done.)

USE ONLY IF NEW OFFICER TO BE INSTALLED:

Installing Officer: *Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Recorder-Elect for installation.*

INSTALLING GRAND MARSHALL: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Recorder of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND RECORDER

Installing Officer: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS COMPANION, you have

been elected to the important office of Grand Recorder, and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.)

It is your duty to receive all moneys due the Grand Council, and pay them over to the Grand Treasurer; to observe the proceedings of the Grand Council, and to make a true record of all things proper to be written. You are also the official organ of the Grand Council, and in that capacity will conduct its various correspondences, and act as the medium of intercourse between the Fraternity and their presiding officer. In the discharge of these extensive duties, let your carriage and behavior be marked with that promptitude and discretion that will at once reflect credit upon yourself and honor on the body that you represent. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Right Illustrious Grand Recorder to his station. (Done)

USE ONLY IF NEW OFFICER TO BE INSTALLED:

Installing Officer: *Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Treasurer-Elect for installation.*

INSTALLING GRAND MARSHALL: *Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Treasurer of this Grand Council.*

CHARGE TO THE GRAND TREASURER

Installing Officer: **RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS COMPANION**, you have been elected to the important office of Grand Treasurer, and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.)

It is your duty to receive all moneys from the Grand Recorder, make due entries of the same, and pay them out on order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Council. In the discharge of these duties, your interest in this Grand Council and your attachment to the Craft will reflect credit upon yourself and honor on the body that you represent. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Captain of the Guard-Elect for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: *Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Captain of the Guard of this Grand Council.*

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Installing Officer: **ILLUSTRIOS COMPANION**, you have been chosen Grand Captain of the Guard, and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.)

Guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but the select, the

faithful, and the worthy. Be ever attentive to the commands of your chief and prompt to see them duly executed. You are now invested with this sword as the appropriate implement of your office.

Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Conductor of the Council-Elect for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Conductor of the Council of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

Installing Officer: ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION, you have been chosen Grand Conductor of the Council, and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.)

Be fervent and zealous in the discharge of your duties; let justice and mercy mark your conduct, and predominate in your character through life. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Chaplain for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been appointed Grand Chaplain of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CHAPLAIN

Installing Officer: ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION, the position of Grand Chaplain has been entrusted to your care and you are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.)

In the discharge of your duties you will be required to lead the devotional exercise of our Annual Assemblies, and to perform the sacred functions of your holy calling at our public ceremonies. I do not doubt that you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well doing. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Chaplain to his station. (Done.)

USE ONLY IF NEW OFFICER TO BE INSTALLED:

Installing Officer: *Installing Grand Marshal: You will present the Grand Organist appointed at the altar.*

INSTALLING GRAND MARSHALL: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been appointed Grand Organist of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND ORGANIST

Installing Officer: Companion _____ You have been appointed as Illustrious Grand Organist of the Grand Council, and will now be invested with the jewel and apron of your office.

Your duty, as the title implies, is to provide music for the Grand Council at appropriate times, such as prelude music prior to the opening of Grand Council, during introductions of distinguished guests, installation of officers and at other times when requested. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Organist to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Marshal-Elect for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Marshal of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MARSHAL

Installing Officer: ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION, you have been chosen Grand Marshal, and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office; and this baton, as the ensign of your authority. (Done.)

It is your duty to arrange all the processions of the Grand Council, and to preserve order according to the forms prescribed. Skill and precision are essentially necessary to the faithful discharge of these duties. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Marshal to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Steward-Elect for installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been elected Grand Steward of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND STEWARD

Installing Officer: ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION, you have been chosen Grand Steward of the Grand Council, and are now invested with the jewel of your office. (Done.)

In the discharge of your duties, your station is near the door, where you will receive all reports from the Grand Sentinel, and announce the name and Masonic rank of all who desire admission. You will see that none enter except such as are duly qualified. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Steward to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, present the Grand Sentinel for

installation.

Installing Grand Marshall: Most Illustrious Sir, I present _____, who has been appointed Grand Sentinel of this Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SENTINEL

Installing Officer: ILLUSTRIOS COMPANION, you have been appointed Grand Sentinel, and are now invested with the jewel and apron of your office. (Done.) This sword is placed in your hands, the more effectually to enable you to repel the approach of intruders and to guard against surprise.

It is your duty to guard the door of the Grand Council, on the outside; to report to the Grand Steward those who desire to be admitted; to place the Council chamber in order for Assemblies, and to attend to such other duties as may be required of you by the Grand Council. Your early and punctual attendance is essentially necessary. Installing Grand Marshal, conduct the Illustrious Grand Sentinel to his station. (Done.) Installing Grand Marshal, you will make the proclamation.

The Installing Grand Marshal then makes the following proclamation.

Installing Grand Marshall: In the name, and under the auspices of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, I proclaim that the Grand Officers have been installed in ample form.

Installing Officer: This concludes the Ceremony of Installation of the Officers of the Grand Council.

INSTITUTING A COUNCIL UNDER DISPENSATION

The Time having arrived for the ceremony, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, or his duly appointed Deputy (WHO MUST BE AN ILLUSTRIOS OR PAST ILLUSTRIOS MASTER), assumes the chair, and fills the station with proper officers, opens the Council in the degree of Select Master, and reads the letter of dispensation. He then causes the three principal officers named in the dispensation to assume their stations, and delivers to them and the other officers appropriate charges and instructions. The subordinate officers under dispensation are appointed by the Illustrious Master. Officers of Councils under dispensation are not installed.

The following is the form to be used when officers of a Council under dispensation are assigned to their stations:

CHARGE TO THE ILLUSTRIOS MASTER

COMPANION _____: you have been appointed Illustrious Master. The superintendence and government of the Companions who are to compose this Council while under dispensation having been committed to your care, you cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head; nor of your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties appertaining to your appointment. Conduct the affairs of the Council wisely and well, perpetuate your organization and in due time you will be granted a charter.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Deputy Master of this Council while under dispensation, and will now assume the duties of your station. It will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office. In his absence you are to preside and perform his duties.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Principal Conductor of the Work of this Council while under dispensation, and will now assume the duties of your station. In the absence of both your superior officers, it will be your duty to preside over the Council.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Recorder of this Council, and are now assigned to your office. Your duties are important, requiring promptness accuracy and fidelity. Let your record and conduct command the approval and merit the confidence of your Companions.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

COMPANION _____: Having been appointed Treasurer of this Council, you will enter upon the discharge of your duties. These you will perform with fidelity and care, thus proving your devotion to our Order.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Captain of the Guard, and you will now assume the duties of your station. Guard well you post, and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful and the worthy. Be ever attentive to the

commands of your chief, and prompt to see them duly executed.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Conductor of the Council, and will now assume the duties of your station. Be fervent and zealous in the discharge of your duties; let justice and mercy mark your conduct, and predominate in your character through life.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Steward of this Council, and will now assume the duties of your station. You will see that none enter except such as are duly qualified.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

COMPANION _____: You have been appointed Sentinel of this Council, and will now assume the duties of your station. Be attentive, vigilant and faithful.

(The presiding officer may conclude with such personal instructions and advice as he deems proper, and then he proclaims the Council duly instituted and regularly at work, as follows:)

In the name and by authority of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, I declare this Council duly instituted under dispensation, and regularly at work, with the officers in their proper stations.

(Handing the Illustrious Master the dispensation and the gavel, he takes his seat beside the Master, and the Council proceeds with its regular business.)

CONSTITUTING A COUNCIL UNDER CHARTER

The Grand Master, or his duly appointed proxy, assumes the chair and fills the various station with suitable Companions who may be present, and opens the Council on the degree of Select Master. He then explains the object of the Assembly and causes to be read the charter under which the new Council is to be constituted. An ode may be sung, or appropriate music rendered. Then the Chaplain shall offer the following, or some other suitable prayer.

Chaplain: Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, the Grand Architect of the Universe, Thou who governs the world in the secrecy and silence of thine omniscient Councils, and who shovest mercy unto all who trust in Thy Holy, Ineffable name; we invoke Thy benediction upon the purposes of our present Assembly. May this Council be

established to Thy honor, and consecrated to Thy glory; may its officers be endowed with wisdom to discern and fidelity to pursue its true interest, and may its members, remembering that they have been chosen as a select band to preserve for the Craft that Divine Truth which is the foundation stone of all Masonry, be ever mindful of the duty which they owe to Thee, the Eternal Builder, the obedience they owe to their superior, the love they owe to their equals, and the good will they owe to all mankind. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

The constituting officer then causes the members of the new Council to be formed in line West of the altar, facing the East. He then rises and constitutes the new Council in the following form, all the Companions standing.

Constituting Officer: In the name and by the authority of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, I do now form and constitute you, my worthy Companions, into a regular Council of Royal and Select Masters by the name of

_____ Council No. ____: henceforth you and your successors are authorized and empowered to open and hold said Council, and to do and perform all such things as may appertain thereunto; conforming in all your doings to the Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia; and may the God of our fathers be with you to guide and direct you in all your doings. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

The following Dedicatory Declaration shall then be pronounced by the Grand Master.

Grand Master: To our Ancient and Most Illustrious Grand Master, Solomon, King of Israel, we solemnly dedicate this Council; may the blessing of Him who presides in the Grand Council above, descend and rest upon its members, and may He so direct their labors that His name may be magnified, now and forever. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

These ceremonies may be interspersed with suitable music. The Constituting Officer then causes an election to be held for all the officers of the new Council. He then appoints some suitable Companion to act as Marshal and proceeds to install the newly elected and appointed officers.

An oration may here be delivered or appropriate addresses may be

made by the Grand Master and other Companions. The new Council will now proceed with its regular business, and after all business is transacted the Council should be closed in due form.

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A CHARTERED COUNCIL

At the time appointed for the installation, the Council being opened in the degree of Select Master, the Illustrious Master (or a Past Master acting) will appoint some suitable Companion to act as Marshal.

Installing Officer: *** Companion Marshal, present the Illustrious Master-Elect for Installation.

The Marshal will then present the Illustrious Master-Elect to the Installing Officer, saying:

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I here present for installation, Companion _____, who has been duly elected to serve this Council as Illustrious Master for the ensuing year.

Installing Officer: We are taught as Masons before entering upon any great or important undertaking, to invoke the aid of Almighty God. Companion Marshal, conduct the Installing Chaplain to the Altar.

The Chaplain offers prayer. When finished, the Installing Marshal re-conducts the Installing Chaplain to his place.

The Installing Officer then addresses the IM-Elect as follows.

Installing Officer: Companion _____, I feel much satisfaction in installing you into the office of Illustrious Master of this Council. It is a station highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties connected therewith. But, before investing you with the appropriate insignia of your office, I shall propose certain questions, to which I must require your unequivocal answers:

- (1) Do you solemnly promise that you will use your utmost endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals and promote the happiness of your Companions?
- (2) That you will never suffer any person to pass the circle in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence?

- (3) That you will not acknowledge or hold intercourse with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority?
- (4) That you will admit no visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the Council degrees?
- (5) That you will faithfully observe the By-Laws of your Council, and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council?
- (6) That in the government of your Council you will administer justice tempered with mercy?
- (7) That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers when duly installed, and sustain them in the discharge of their duties?

Do you submit to all these requirements, and do you promise to observe them faithfully?

Illustrious Master-Elect: I do.

Installing Officer: Your answers are satisfactory; but before proceeding further in your installation, it is necessary that I should administer to you the obligation of office. You will kneel on both knees, both hands resting on the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses. (Done.) You will say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me:

Do solemnly promise that I will serve as Illustrious Master of this Council for the term for which I have been elected, and that I will perform all the duties appertaining to that office to the best of my ability, so help me God. (*When finished repeating:*) Arise.

CHARGE TO THE ILLUSTRIOS MASTER

Installing Officer: Illustrious Master: With entire confidence in the rectitude of your intentions, and in the integrity of your character as a Select Master, you are now invested with the appropriate badge of your office. (Done.)

Having been elevated by the voice of your Companions to the highest station in their gift, you are now to assume the functions of that office. It is your duty to set an example of diligence, industry and fidelity; to see that the officers associated with you faithfully perform their respective duties; and that the interests and reputation of your Council are not endangered by impudence or neglect. The important trust committed to your care will call for your best exertions, and the exercise of your best faculties. As the representative of Solomon, King of Israel, it will be your duty to recite the secret traditions, illustrate the moral principles of our Order, cherish the worthy, and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

By a frequent recurrence to the By-Laws of your Council, and the general regulations of the Fraternity, together with a constant study of the legends and symbols of the Order, as explained in the history and lectures of the several degrees, you will be enabled to fulfill the important obligations resting upon you, with honor to yourself and advantage to the Craft. And may He, without whose approbation all our labors are in vain, give wisdom to your counsels and strength to your exertions. You will now assume your appropriate station. Companion Marshal, conduct the IM to the East.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, behold your companions, companions, behold your Illustrious Master and join me in York Rite Grand Honors, three times three.

Installing Officer: Companion Marshal, present the other officers for installation.

(The remaining officers are then presented in a body by the Marshal, and the Installing Officer administers the following obligation.)

Installing Officer: Each of you will place your right hand over your heart, say I, pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me:

Do solemnly promise that I will faithfully perform all duties of the office to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability, so help me God.

You may lower your hands. Companion Marshal, present the Deputy Master-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Deputy Master of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER

Installing Officer: Companion _____, you have been elected to the second office in this Council, and are invested with the appropriate badge of your office. (Done.)

The duties of the important office to which your Companions have elevated you will require your constant and earnest attention. You are to occupy the second seat in the Council, and it will be your duty to aid and support your Chief in all the requirements in his office. In his absence you are to preside and perform his duties.

Although the representative of a King, and therefore elevated in rank above your Companions, you should never forget that in all the duties which you owe to God, your neighbor, and yourself, you and they stand upon the same level of equality. Let the bright example of your Illustrious predecessor in the Grand Council at Jerusalem

stimulate you to the lawful performance of every duty; and when the King of Kings shall summon you into his immediate presence, from His hand may you receive a crown of glory which shall never fade. Companion Marshal, conduct the Deputy Master to his station.

(Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Principal Conductor of the Work-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Principal Conductor of the Work of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

Installing Officer: Companion _____, as the third officer of this Council, and are invested with the appropriate badge of your office. (Done.)

It is your duty to sound the silver trumpet at early dawn and eve of day, when the suns first and last rays gild the mountain tops, to announce high twelve, and proclaim the time of labor and of rest.

In the absence of both your superior officers you will be called upon to preside; and as the interests of the Council should never be permitted to suffer through a want of intelligence in its officers, you will allow me to urge upon you the necessity of being always prepared and qualified to meet such an emergency.

Having been admitted to the fellowship of kings, you will be appropriately reminded that the office of Mediator is one of great responsibility, as well as honor. Let it, therefore, be your constant care to preserve harmony and unanimity of sentiment among the members of your Council. Discountenance whatever may tend to create division and dissension among the Companions; and as the glorious sun, when at its meridian height, dispels the mists and clouds that obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the mists of jealousy and discord, should they ever unfortunately arise in your Council.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Principal Conductor of the Work to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Recorder-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Recorder of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

Installing Officer: Companion _____, you have been elected Recorder of this Council, and are invested you with the badge of your office. (Done.)

The possession of the requisite qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for this office; and I do not doubt that you will discharge its duties with fidelity and diligence. And when you shall have completed the record of your probation, may you be admitted into the Grand Council above, and find your name recorded in the Book of Life eternal.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Recorder to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Treasurer-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Treasurer of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

Installing Officer: Companion _____, you have been elected Treasurer of this Council, and are invested with the badge of your office. (Done.)

Your interest in this Council, your attachment to the Craft and your known integrity of character are a sufficient guarantee that the duties of your office will be faithfully performed.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Treasurer to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Captain of the Guard-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Captain of the Guard of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Installing Officer: Companion _____, having been chosen Captain of the Guard, and are invested with the badge and appropriate implement of your office. (Done.) Guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful and the worthy.

Be ever attentive to the commands of your chief and prompt to see them duly executed.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Captain of the Guard to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Conductor of the Council-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Conductor of the Council of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

Installing Officer: Companion _____, you have been

chosen Conductor of the Council, and are invested with the badge of your office. (Done.)

Be fervent and zealous in the discharge of your duties; let justice and mercy mark your conduct, and predominate in your character through life.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Conductor of the Council to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Chaplain for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been appointed Chaplain of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN

Installing Officer: Companion _____, having been chosen Chaplain of this Council, and are invested with the badge of your office. (Done.)

It is your duty to lead the Council in its devotions. As you do so you will give the spiritual inspiration that helps us to do our work well. It is important, therefore, that you be present at all assemblies of this Council and fill your station with reverence and diligence.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Chaplain to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Steward-Elect for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been elected Steward of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

Installing Officer: Companion _____, you have been chosen Steward of this Council, and are invested with the badge of your office. (Done.)

In the discharge of your duties, your station is near the door, where you will receive all the reports from the Sentinel, and announce the name and Masonic rank of all who desire admission. You will see that none enter except such as are duly qualified.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Steward to his station. (Done.) Companion Marshal, present the Sentinel for installation.

Marshal: Illustrious Master, I present _____, who has been appointed Sentinel of this Council for the ensuing year.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

Installing Officer: Companion _____, you have been elected Sentinel of this Council, and are invested with the badge

and this implement of your office. (Done.)

As the sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to guard the sanctuary and entrance to the secret passage with sleepless vigilance against intruders, so it should morally serve as a constant admonition to us to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions; thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word and deed, and enabling us to preserve consciences void of offense toward God and men.

Companion Marshal, conduct the Sentinel to his station. (Done.)

CHARGE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Installing Officer: Companions, from the nature of the constitution of every society, some must rule and others obey. And while justice and moderation are required of the officers in the discharge of their official duties, subordination and respect for their rulers are equally demanded of members. The relation is reciprocal. The interests of both are inseparable, and without mutual cooperation, the labors of neither can succeed. Let therefore, brotherly love prevail among you; let each be emulous of the others in all good works, in promoting peace and unity, and in striving to see who can best rule and best obey. Let the avenues to your passions be strictly guarded; let no curious intruder find his way into the secret recesses of your retirement, to disturb the harmony which should ever prevail among the select and chosen. Companion Marshal, you will make the Proclamation.

(The Marshal will then make the following proclamation.)

Marshal: In the name and under the auspices of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, I do hereby proclaim the officers of _____ Council No. _____ Royal and Select Masters, to be duly installed.

Installing Officer: This concludes the Ceremony of Installation of the Officers of a Chartered Council.

ABBREVIATED INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS (FOR USE AT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS)

Installing Officer: Companion Marshal, present the officers elected and appointed who are present west of the Holy Altar to be installed. (Done.)

Installing Officer: We are taught as Masons before entering upon any great or important undertaking to invoke the aid of Almighty God. Companion Marshal, conduct the installing Chaplain to the Altar. (Done.)

(Chaplain offers prayer. Installing Marshal re-conducts the Installing Chaplain to his place.)

Installing Officer: Each of you will place your right hand over your heart, say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me: do solemnly promise that I will faithfully perform all the duties of the office to which I have been chosen to the best of my ability, so help me God. You may lower your hands. Companion Marshal, conduct the District Illustrious Master to the East. (Done.)

Marshal: District Illustrious Master, behold your Companions. Companions, behold your District Illustrious Master and join me in York Rite Grand Honors, three times three. (Done.)

Installing Officer: District Illustrious Master, I present you with the gavel and invite you to seat your Companions on the sides. * (Done.) If you wish, I will proceed with the installation.

District Illustrious Master: Please do.

Installing Officer: Companion Marshal, conduct the District officers to their stations. (Done.) Companion Marshal, you will make the proclamation.

Marshal: In the name and under the auspices of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Georgia, I proclaim the officers (present) of the _____ District Council Convention have been installed in ample form.

Installing Officer: This concludes the Ceremony of Installation of Officers for the _____ District Council Convention.