

STANDARD BY-LAWS

_____ COUNCIL NO _____

PREAMBLE.

The members of _____ Council, Royal and Select Masters, No. _____ established under the authority of the Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters, do adopt the following as the By-Laws and Rules of said Council:

ARTICLE I.

Officers, Election of Officers, and the Time of Meeting.

Section 1. The Officers shall be the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Sentinel and Chaplain.

The Office of Secretary and Treasurer may be filled by the same person, if the Council so desires.

Section 2. The regular Assembly of this Council shall be on the _____ in each month, with the following exceptions if any: _____. The time of the meeting shall be _____.

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.

Section 3. The annual election of officers shall be at the last regular Assembly preceding the end of the calendar year, and shall be by ballot; and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for an election. The officers elected may be installed at that meeting, or as early as convenient thereafter, as may be ordered by the Illustrious Master or Council. They shall hold their offices, unless suspended or expelled, until their successors are elected and installed. If an election should fail to be held at the stated time, it may take place at a regular meeting as early as practicable thereafter, of which due notice must be given, and as authorized by dispensation from Grand Council.

ARTICLE II

Application for the Degrees-Balloting, Etc.

Section 1. Application for the degrees conferred in this Council must be made in writing, and the candidate vouched for by two members. He must be of the degree of a Royal Arch Mason, and in good standing with his Blue Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter. After the petition is read, it shall be referred to a committee of three members, who shall rigidly inquire into the character, worth and standing of the applicant, and report at a subsequent meeting. This report shall be read at a regular Assembly and noted on the minutes before ballot is had. The votes must be unanimous for admission. In balloting, should there be one black ball, the petition may again be balloted on immediately, and if a black ball again appears, the candidate shall be declared rejected. When a candidate is rejected by the Council, his petition cannot again be received under six months. Any candidate elected for, and not appearing within six months to receive the degrees, without acceptable excuse to the Council, shall be ineligible to take them, unless upon a new petition and balloting.

Section 2. The members of the Council shall consist of Council Masons. Any Council Mason wishing to unite with this Council must apply by a written petition signed by two Companions who are members, and give satisfactory evidence of his good standing with any Council of which he has been a member. The petition must be referred to a committee of three and lie over until next regular assembly, when it shall be again read and balloted upon; as in the case of applying for degrees, he must receive a unanimous vote. (If the Council desires to make a charge for affiliation, amount should be entered here \$ _____.)

Section 3. Any member desirous of demitting must signify it by a written petition, which shall be granted on it appearing that he is in good standing, and has paid all dues required of him to the Council, The vote then to be taken by a show of hands.

Section 4. A Finance Committee shall be appointed by the presiding officer to examine the books of the Recorder and Treasurer, and report at the Assembly set apart for the annual election of officers. Previous to the election, unless otherwise ordered by the Council, said report shall be read and entered on the minutes.

Section 5. The Council shall be opened and closed in due form at each Assembly.

ARTICLE III.

Government and Fiscal Concerns.

Section 1. The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work and Recorder, or any two of them, shall constitute a Committee of Charity in the recess between the regular Assemblies, and have power to appropriate and draw on the Treasurer for any sums not exceeding \$ _____ for that purpose.

Section 2. The fees for the degrees in this Council shall be \$._____ and must be paid in full before the Council degrees can be conferred. The Super Excellent Master Degree is an honorary Degree and each Select Master shall be entitled to receive it without additional cost.

Section 3. The Treasurer may be exempted from dues if the Council so votes. All other members, except such as are exempt under Grand Council Law, shall pay into the funds of the Council the sum of \$_____ per year as dues, payable on January 1 of each year, in advance. Should any member fail to pay his dues for two years, he may after due notice of at least 20 days, be suspended without trial.

Section 4. The Sentinel may receive such amount as the Council may from time to time determine for his attendance at each Assembly of the Council. It shall be his duty to prepare the hall for the meetings, and at the close of the Assembly, to place all the furniture, jewels, etc., of a movable character, in such private place as the Council may provide therefore.

Section 5. The Recorder shall collect all moneys due the Council, keep proper entries of the same, pay them over to the Treasurer, and at all times have his books and vouchers ready for the inspection of the Council, for which he shall receive the sum of \$...... per annum, or such commission as the Council may name, as his compensation. It shall be his duty to keep a book for visitors, to record their names, etc.; he shall conduct such correspondence as may be ordered by the Council, have charge of its seal, and give timely notice of all in arrears for dues of its members. He shall, whenever required by the Illustrious Master or Senior Officer of the Council, issue summons for Assemblies, which shall be served by the Sentinel on the members, personally, or left at their places of residence or business, or mailed to the last known address, by certified or registered letter.

ARTICLE IV.

Masonic Conduct, and Offenses.

Section 1. The Grand Council of Georgia and its subordinate Councils will accept the discipline inflicted on Council Masons of this Jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge of Georgia under the provisions of its Penal Code as they now or hereafter read.

ARTICLE V.

Amendments

Section 1. Any amendment or alteration to these By-Laws shall be proposed in writing, at a regular Assembly, and read and noted on the minutes. It shall then lie over until the next regular Assembly, when the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present and voting shall be required for its adoption.

Date of First Reading of these By-Laws: _____

Date of Second Reading and Adoption of these By-Laws: _____

ATTEST: _____, Recorder