

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
GRAND CHAPTER  
OF  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MISSOURI



REVISED MAY 18, 2007

The Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri has reviewed the current Constitution and By-Laws and recommends the additions, deletions, and grammatical corrections described, but more specifically the correction of section numbering and inclusion of action dates with reference given to the 1954 and 1968 published revisions of the same.

There have been many suggestions for particular changes, all of which have been reviewed and considered. Some of those suggestions have been incorporated while others have not. The decisions were made in what the Committee believes to be in the best interest of our fraternity. We appreciate the interest and cooperation by those who have been part of this arduous task.

The pages which follow contain the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri as amended up to and including the May 19, 2006 Annual Convocation, and are hereby promulgated as the Law of this Jurisdiction.

Stanton T. Brown, PHP

Robert R. Anderson, Jr., PGHP

Robert W. Schilchter, PGHP  
Chairman, Grand Chapter Jurisprudence Committee

Attest: Kevin B. Sample, HPGHP  
Grand Secretary

William B. Stephenson, Jr.,  
Grand High Priest, 2006-2007

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

### *Title*

**Section 1.** This Grand Chapter shall be known and designated as “The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri”.

## ARTICLE II

### *Jurisdiction*

**Section 1.** Its jurisdiction shall be the territorial limits of the State of Missouri.

## ARTICLE III

### *Of Whom Concerned*

**Section 1.** The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri shall consist of the following officers and members:

- A. The Grand High Priest,  
Grand King,  
Grand Scribe,  
Grand Treasurer,  
Grand Secretary,  
Grand Chaplain,  
Grand Captain of the Host,  
Grand Principal Sojourner,  
Grand Royal Arch Captain,  
Grand Master or the Third Veil,  
Grand Master of the Second Veil,  
Grand Master of the First Veil,  
Grand Historian, (*Amended May 18, 2007*)  
Grand Chorister, (*Amended May 18, 2007*)  
Grand Lecturer, (*Amended May 18, 2007*)  
Grand Sentinel, and  
Grand Organist. (*Amended April 29, 1975*)

**B.** The High Priest,  
The King,  
Scribe, and the  
Secretary of each chartered chapter working under this Grand Chapter. (*Amended May 20, 2005*)

**C.** All Past Grand High Priests of chapters working under this Grand Chapter, so long as they remain members of chapters in the jurisdiction; provided, however, that a Past High Priest from under another jurisdiction residing in this jurisdiction, and a member of a chapter therein, may be elected to membership in this Grand Chapter by a majority vote of the members present at an annual convocation, such membership to continue so long as he is a member of a chapter in this jurisdiction. (*Amended April 29, 1975*)

**ARTICLE IV**

***Proxies***

**Section 1.** The High Priest, King, or Scribe of any chapter may appoint any member of his own chapter as his proxy to represent him in the Grand Chapter. Such proxy shall be in writing and signed by the officer appointing him.

**ARTICLE V**

***Annual Convocation***

**Section 1.** This Grand Chapter shall hold an annual convocation every year at such time and place as shall be provided in the By-Laws, Provided that, in the event of a war emergency making it difficult or impossible to hold such stated annual convocation, two of the first three principle officers of this Grand Chapter, at least thirty days prior to any scheduled convocation, according to the By-Laws of this Grand Chapter, may postpone such scheduled convocation not more than one year.

**ARTICLE VI**

***Officers***

**Section 1.** The elective officers of this Grand Chapter shall be elected by ballot, and by a majority of the votes cast for that purpose, at each annual convocation.

**Section 2.** The appointive officers of this Grand Chapter shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest immediately preceding his installation. (*Amended April 29, 1975*)

**ARTICLE VII**

***Voting***

**Section 1.** On all questions in the Grand Chapter, each member shall have one vote and no more, provided, that at the written request of the representatives of ten or more chapters, the vote shall be taken by chapters, in which event there shall be no individual vote.

**ARTICLE VIII**

***Powers of the Grand Chapter***

**Section 1.** The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri is the highest source of authority in Royal Arch Masonry within said state. It claims, and of right enjoys, the sole government and superintendence of all chapters of Royal Arch Masons within said jurisdiction.

It may therefore grant charters and dispensations for holding regular chapters of Royal Arch Masons, with the right to confer therein the several degrees of Freemasonry denominated Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason and when deemed expedient and for good cause may annul, revoke or amend such charter or dispensation, or any per-existing charter or dispensation.

It may assign the limits of each chapter under its jurisdiction, and settle all controversies that may arise between them; and it has the final decision and determination of all matters of controversy and grievances that may be brought up by appeal or otherwise.

It may reprimand, suspend or expel from its own body and member for a violation of this Constitution or the By-Laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

It may assess and collect from the several chapters under its jurisdiction such sums of money, annually, as may from time to time be found necessary for the support and maintenance of the Grand Chapter.

It may supervise the state and condition of its own finances, and adopt such measures in relation thereto as may be for the good of the fraternity.

It may make and adopt laws and general regulations for the government of the chapters under its jurisdiction, and at pleasure alter, amend or repeal the same.

It shall, at each annual convocation, consider and review the reports and doings of the grand officers for the preceding year, as well as those of the several chapters under its jurisdiction.

It may arrange for and obtain a blanket surety bond to cover the fidelity of all the secretaries and treasurers of its subordinate chapters and charge and collect from them the pro rata premiums thereof; or, it may itself underwrite said risk and become surety for the same, upon such plan, terms and conditions as to it may seem best, by appropriate resolution adopted by a majority vote at any annual convocation.

And finally, it may consider and do whatever it may regard as necessary or appertaining to the wellbeing and perpetuity of Royal Arch Masonry in the State of Missouri.

**A.** Palmyra Chapter No. 2, because of its historical significance to the Grand Chapter of Missouri, is hereby designated an historical Chapter for the purpose of serving as a single repository for educational material, printed materials, videos, films or any other media having historical reference to the Royal Arch in Missouri except for those files in use by the Grand Secretary or Grand Treasurer in the performance of their Statutory duties. Governance of Palmyra Chapter No. 2 shall be as stipulated in the Standing Resolution as adopted May 14, 2004, and amended May 20, 2005, and such other by-laws as may be adopted by the membership and approved by the Grand High Priest. *(Adopted May 20, 2005, Amended May 19, 2006)*

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***Alteration or Amendment***

**Section 1.** Any alteration or amendment of this Constitution shall be proposed in writing, at an annual convocation, shall lay over until the next annual convocation, and be published with the proceedings; when, if adopted by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present, the same shall become a part of this Constitution, and not otherwise.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### *Convocations of the Grand Chapter*

**Section 1. Annual Convocations.** The annual convocation of this Grand Chapter shall be as designated and approved by the Committee on Time and Place, as outlined in Article X, Section 47, subsection (7), and Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution, provided that time or place of meeting for the next succeeding annual convocation may be changed by a majority vote of the Grand Chapter at any annual convocation, or as provided for in the Constitution, as amended in Article V, Section 1.

**Section 2. Special Convocations.** Special convocations of the Grand Chapter may be held at such times and at such places as the Grand High Priest may designate, due notice thereof having been given to each chapter, and to each officer and past grand officer of the Grand Chapter, but no business shall be transacted except that for which it shall have been specially convened.

**Section 3. Change of Place of Meeting.** In case of an emergency, epidemic or other occasion or circumstance making it advisable or expedient, the Grand High Priest, with the written consent of the Grand King and the Grand Scribe or either one of such officers, may change the place or time of holding the next annual convocation of this Grand Chapter.

**Section 4. Quorum.** At any annual or special convocation of this Grand Chapter, the representatives from not less than nine chapters shall be present to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 5. Who to Preside.** The Grand High Priest shall preside in the Grand Chapter. In his absence the Grand King, and the Grand Scribe in the order named shall preside; and in the absence of the first three grand officers, a Past Grand High Priest, a High Priest or a Past High Priest may be selected to preside.

### ARTICLE II

#### *Grand Officers*

**Section 6. Who are eligible?** Any Companion shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Chapter who is, at the time of election or appointment, a Past High Priest, or a High Priest, and a member of this Grand Chapter, except Grand Chaplain, Grand Sentinel and Grand Organist, who shall be members in good standing of a Chapter in this jurisdiction, provided that not more than one elected officer may be a member of the same Chapter. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 7. Not to serve as Officers of Chapter.** Neither the Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe shall serve as High Priest, King, or Scribe of a chapter.

**Section 8. Elections.** The election of officers of this Grand Chapter shall be held at each annual convocation at ten o'clock of the second day of the convocation unless a one day convocation be held, in which case the elections shall be held on the first day at eleven o'clock. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 9A. Elective Officers.** The elective officers of this Grand Chapter shall be a  
Grand High Priest,  
Grand King,  
Grand Scribe,

Grand Treasurer,  
Grand Secretary,  
Grand Captain of the Host,  
Grand Principal Sojourner,  
Grand Royal Arch Captain,  
Grand Master of the Third Veil,  
Grand Master of the Second Veil, and  
Grand Master of the First Veil.

A majority of the votes cast shall elect, and such elected officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are installed. (*Amended May 1, 1976, Amended April 25, 1981*)

**Section 9B. Grand Historian.** A Grand Historian shall be elected for a three-year term which shall be subject to re-election for one additional three year term. The duties of the Grand Historian shall be to collect and assemble historical data pertinent to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons State of Missouri. Such data shall be published annually in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter. In addition to Proceedings publication, such newly accumulated data will be made available in printed form to each companion attending the Annual Convocation. The Grand Historian will be free to determine his choice of historical data to be compiled each year. The Grand Historian shall be free to publish his assembled data in other publications of Masonic character without prior approval of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. The Grand Historian will receive no compensation but, if he is not a Past Grand High Priest, he shall receive mileage and per diem for his attendance at the Annual Convocation, providing such payments are currently in effect for other Grand Officers. The honorary title of the Grand Historian will be Right Excellent Companion or the highest honorary title held by that individual in the Grand Chapter. (*Adopted May 14, 1999*)

**Section 10. Appointive Officers.** The appointive officers of this Grand Chapter shall be a Grand Chaplain,  
Grand Sentinel,  
Grand Organist,  
Grand Chorister, and  
Grand Lecturer.

They shall serve for one year under the Grand High Priest making the appointment. They may succeed themselves by further appointment or may be elected to the progressive line as provided by Section 9. (*Amended April 29, 1975, Amended May 1, 1976, Amended April 25, 1981, Amended May 8, 2001*)

**Section 11. Titles.** The honorary title of the Grand High Priest is “Most Excellent”, and the official title is “Grand High Priest”. The honorary title of a Past Grand High Priest is “Most Excellent”, and the official title is “Past Grand High Priest”. The honorary title of the Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary is “Right Excellent”. Their official titles are Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary respectively. One who has served a full term as a grand officer is entitled to prefix the word “Past” to the title acquired. The honorary title of the other Grand Officers is “Excellent”.

**Section 12. Installation.** The officers of the Grand Chapter shall be installed at the annual convocation; provided that should any officer not be present, he shall be installed at such a time and place as the Grand High Priest may direct.

**ARTICLE III**  
***Powers and Duties of the Grand High Priest***

**Section 13. *General Duties.***

**A.** The Grand High Priest has a watchful care and supervision over the chapters in this jurisdiction and he shall see that the Constitution, laws, and edicts of the Grand Chapter are strictly and promptly obeyed.

**B.** The Grand High Priest shall divide the State of Missouri into seven regions, to conform as closely as practicable to similar geographical regions as now established by the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery. He will also divide the regions into districts and will appoint one District Deputy Grand High Priest (D.D.G.H.P.) in each District.

**C.** The duties and responsibilities of the D.D.G.H.P. shall be such as are prescribed and assigned by the Grand High Priest. One D.D.G.H.P. will be assigned the additional responsibility of assisting the Grand High Priest in promoting York Rite programs and activities in each region and working with such regional officers as may be appointed by the Grand Council and Grand Commandery.

**D.** When the condition of any chapter is such as to endanger its own best interests or the welfare of Capitular Freemasonry in its jurisdiction, the Grand High Priest may, in his discretion, place such chapter under probation and appoint a committee which shall have general supervision of the work and conduct of the affairs of the chapter. If such chapter or its officers shall fail to observe the directions of such committee, the Grand High Priest may arrest the charter of the chapter or suspend the offending officer or officers until the next annual convocation of this grand chapter.

**E.** For any gross irregularity or willful violation of the law, the Grand High Priest may arrest the charter of a chapter or suspend an officer until the next annual convocation of this Grand Chapter. (*Amended April 21, 1970, Amended April 25, 1981*)

**Section 14. *Dispensations.*** He may grant dispensations for the formation of new chapters, and such other dispensations as are in accordance with the laws of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 15. *Institute New Chapters.*** He shall either in person or by proxy, institute and set to work all the chapters under dispensation. Such proxy shall either be a Past Grand High Priest, High Priest, or Past High Priest.

**Section 16. *Convene Chapters.*** He may convene chapters at pleasure, preside therein, inspect their books, records and work, and give such instructions relative to the same as may be necessary to ensure a strict conformity to the Constitution, laws and edicts of this Grand Chapter.

**Section 17. *Official Decisions.*** He may render official decisions which shall be effective until the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter and if approved by a majority vote of the Grand Chapter they become the law of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 18. *Arrest Charter, Suspend Labors of.*** He has the power for good cause, to suspend the labors of a chapter, and if he deems it necessary, to arrest its charter until the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 19. *Appointments.*** He shall appoint all standing committees, all special committees whose appointment is not otherwise provided for, and shall fill all vacancies.

**Section 19A.** (*Adopted May 3, 1997, Repealed May 9, 1998*)

**Section 20. *Representatives.*** He may appoint representatives of this Grand Chapter near other Grand Chapters and may receive and accredit representatives of such other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter. When such a representative shall fail to attend the annual convocation

of the Grand Chapter for two consecutive years, the Grand High Priest shall request the Grand High Priest of the jurisdiction which he represents to declare the position vacant and recommend some suitable companion to be his successor.

**Section 21. *Suspend Grand Officer.*** He may, for good cause, and with the written concurrence of the Grand King and Grand Scribe, or any one of them, suspend from office any officer of the Grand Chapter until the next annual convocation.

**Section 22. *Suspend Officer of Chapter.*** He may suspend from office any officer of a chapter, subject to the decision of the Grand Chapter at its next annual convocation to which he shall report his action, with the reasons therefor, and a detailed statement of the facts. He may, for good cause shown, order charges to be filed under Article XXV and Section 205 of these By-Laws, and trial had in chapter having jurisdiction.

**Section 23. *Annual Address.*** At the opening of each annual convocation he shall make a written report to the Grand Chapter of his official acts and doings and such other matters as he may deem necessary for the consideration of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 24. *Appointment of Auditor, and Other Duties.*** He shall appoint an auditor, whose duty shall immediately prior to the annual convocation to examine and audit the accounts and vouchers of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and certify the facts, as found, to the Grand Chapter.

**Section 25. *Miscellaneous Powers.***

**A.** The Grand High Priest shall perform such other duties as the nature of his station may require, or the ceremonies and ritual of the Royal Craft may impose. For the purpose of defraying the expenses of administering the affairs and duties of his office, the Grand High Priest shall receive such sum as may be fixed by the Grand Chapter annually upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The exact amount shall be fixed by the Finance Committee, reported in the annual budget, and paid out under the instructions of said committee. The Grand High Priest may, on retiring from office, receive a Past Grand High Priest jewel, or token.

**B.** The Grand High Priest or his designee shall make an annual pilgrimage to the site of the time capsule in Branson, MO to ensure that the site is being maintained in a proper manner and present a report of condition at the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter. The time and date of the visit may be scheduled to coincide with the visits of the Grand Master of the Grand Council and the Right Eminent Grand Commander. (*Amended April 30, 1977, Amended May 18, 2001*)

## **ARTICLE IV** ***Grand Officers***

**Section 26. *Grand Officers.***

**A.** Any Office of the Grand Chapter becomes vacant upon death, by the resignation of the incumbent, or by any case which permanently incapacitates him from the discharge of his duties.

**B.** The Grand High Priest fills all vacancies in the appointive offices by appointment and subsequent installation. But the Grand High Priest may not fill vacancies in the elective offices except the offices of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary.

**C.** In the case of a vacancy in the office of the Grand High Priest, from any cause, the Grand King and Grand Scribe shall in succession assume his prerogatives, powers, and duties for all purposes. Vacancies in the offices of Grand King and Grand Scribe shall be filled at the next

annual convocation.

**D.** In case of a vacancy in the Offices of Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, the Grand High Priest may make such necessary appointment as necessary to expedite the business of the Grand Chapter until in unison with the Grand Master and Grand Commander, he shall appoint a Special Committee to search for and recommend to the respective Presiding Grand Officers qualified York Rite Masons for the Office of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary/Recorder. The Search Committee shall be composed of three Capitular Masons, three Cryptic Masons, and three Chivalric Masons named by the Grand High Priest, the Grand Master, and the Grand Commander on a geographical basis.

**E.** At the first meeting the members of the Search Committee, as a union, shall review the duties of the vacant office and discuss the professional qualifications, as well as the personal characteristics held to be desirable. Further, the search should include the desirability of seeking qualified York Rite Masons who would be prepared to serve for several years.

**F.** In the spirit of Fraternal Unity, the Grand High Priest and the Grand Master, and the Grand Commander shall make official notification of the vacancy in the Office of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary/Recorder by one (1) combined OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION together with the appropriate invitation for the submission of resumes by Companions and Fraters who might be interested in serving as the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary/Recorder to all Chapters, all Councils, all Commanderies, District Deputy Grand High Priests, Regional Grand Masters, Regional Grand Commanders, Grand Officers of the Three York Rite Bodies, and Past Presiding Grand Officers of said Grand Bodies.

**G.** Candidates for the vacant offices shall forward their written resumes in sealed envelopes to the Special Search Committee by first class U.S. Mail, addressed as follows:

Special Search Committee  
c/o Grand York Rite Office  
Other appropriate lines of address information

**H.** Personnel of the Grand York Rite Office shall transmit the sealed correspondence, identified by way of the specified envelope address as prescribed to the Search Committee for consideration at an agreed upon PLACE and TIME. Each member of the Special Committee shall review all as may be deemed appropriate toward the goal of SELECTION of three (3) individuals to be invited to meet the Committee for personal interviews. Following the interviews the Committee will communicate their recommendations to the Grand High Priest, the Grand Master, the Grand Commander, who in UNITY, will select one to fill the vacancy, make the appointment, and subsequently to duly install one whom the COMMITTEE had endorsed to serve as Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary/Recorder until the next Annual Convention, Assembly, and Conclave when the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery will hold election of officers respectively. The Companion and Frater who has been recommended and endorsed by the members of the Search Committee, appointed by the Presiding Grand Officers, and duly installed by them must know and understand that there is no assurance or promise of his being elected by the vote of the membership present at the Grand Chapter Convocation, the Grand Council Assembly, and the Grand Commandery Conclave.

**I.** Finally, the Companions and Fraters who constitute the Special Search Committee must know and understand that their service is ADVISORY ONLY. (*Amended May 3, 1997, Amended May 9, 1998*)

**ARTICLE V**  
***Grand Treasurer***

**Section 27. *Grand Treasurer.*** The Grand Treasurer shall receive from the Grand Secretary all funds and securities of the Grand Chapter, and deposit the same in the name of the Grand Chapter in some bank or trust company, to be approved by the Grand High Priest and Chairman of the Committee on Finance. He shall attend the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, and when required, meet the Grand Officers with his books and all necessary documents relating to his office, turn said books over to the auditor when requested, make a full report at the annual convocation; pay all warrants drawn on him by authority of the Grand Chapter and at the commencement of his term of office, each year, execute and file with the Grand High Priest his official bond with some reliable company as surety thereon, in such sum as the Grand Chapter shall determine, to be renewed as to the amount of surety, when required by the Grand High Priest or Grand Chapter; the cost of such bond to be paid by the Grand Chapter. Such bond to be conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office, account for all money or property of the Grand Chapter that may come into his hands; produce on demand of the Grand Chapter, Grand High Priest, or his successor in office the same, together with all books, papers, vouchers, securities jewels, etc., belonging to the Grand Chapter. He shall take duplicate receipts for same, one of which shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary. The salary of the Grand Treasurer shall be fixed by the Grand Chapter annually, upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee. (*Amended April 24, 1973, Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 28. *Bond and Securities.*** All bonds and securities shall be deposited in a safe deposit box in a bank to be approved by the Grand High Priest and Chairman of the Committee on Finance, access to which may be had by the Grand Treasurer accompanied by one of the following; the Grand High Priest, his designate, the Grand Secretary, or Chairman of the Committee on Finance; provided, however, that in the event of death or disability of the Grand Treasurer, access to the box may be had by any other bonded officer of this Grand Chapter accompanied by any one of the following: the Grand High Priest, his designate, the Grand Secretary, or the Chairman of the Committee on Finance: provided further, however, that the bank be notified in advance of such entry to said box in the event of death or disability of Grand Treasurer.

**ARTICLE VI**  
***Grand Secretary***

**Section 29. *Grand Secretary.***

**A.** The Grand Secretary shall attend upon the convocations of the Grand Chapter, observe and record the proceedings thereof, and preserve the same in suitable books kept for that purpose. He shall receive all moneys due to the Grand Chapter and deposit the same to the credit of the Grand Treasurer as received, taking his receipt therefor.

**B.** He shall keep suitable books of accounts, and carefully record therein all accounts of the several chapters. He shall report to the Grand Chapter his official acts, and communicate all matters that may be deemed of interest to the Grand Chapter.

**C.** He shall receive all petitions, applications and appeals to the Grand Chapter, and report them to the next annual convocation.

**D.** He shall have custody of the seal of the Grand Chapter.

**E.** He shall prepare, sign and seal all charters, commissions and certificates, or other instruments of writing emanating from the Grand Chapter.

**F.** He shall furnish each chapter duplicate blanks for annual returns.

**G.** He shall annually give an official bond, with some reliable company as surety thereon, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, to be approved by the Grand High Priest conditioned on the faithful discharge of his duties, and that he will promptly pay to the Grand Treasurer all moneys of the Grand Chapter that come into his hands; the cost of such bond to be paid by the Grand Chapter.

**Section 30. *Standing Resolutions.*** He shall print on replacement pages all the standing resolutions and amendments, as adopted, and shall mail a copy to each secretary, Past Grand High Priest and officer of the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

**Section 31. *Returns to General Grand Chapter.*** He shall forward to the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter the annual returns and dues of this Grand Chapter as provided by the laws of the General Grand Chapter.

**Section 32. *Special Duties.*** He shall perform all such other duties as may pertain to his office as Grand Secretary, together with such as may from time to time be directed by the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest.

**Section 33. *Salary.*** The salary of the Grand Secretary shall be fixed by the Grand Chapter annually, upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

**Section 33A. *Retirement Plan.***

**A.** *(Amended April 24, 1973, Amended May 3, 1997, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

**B.** *(Amended April 24, 1973, Amended May 3, 1997, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

**C.** *(Amended April 24, 1973, Amended May 3, 1997, Amended May 18, 2001, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

**D.** *(Amended May 9, 1998, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

**E.** *(Adopted May 18, 2001, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

**F.** *(Adopted April 24, 1973, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

## **ARTICLE VII**

### ***District Deputy Grand Lecturers***

**Section 34. *Duties.*** The Grand High Priest shall appoint a District Deputy Grand Lecturer to each established district in each established region. The District Deputy Grand lecturers shall have in special care the work, as approved by the Grand Chapter, and shall see that no other work is taught or practiced. *(Amended April 29, 1975, Amended May 18, 2001)*

**Section 35. *Ritual Committee.*** The ritual committee shall be composed of the Grand Lecturer, and District Deputy Grand Lecturers, including ex-officio members, and chaired by the Grand Lecturer. The ritual committee shall meet periodically at a location to be designated by the Chairman for the purpose of reviewing and maintaining ritualistic perfection. Any changes in ritual and/or procedures suggested by the ritual committee must be presented to and approved by the Grand Chapter before such changes become mandatory. *(Amended April 29, 1975, Amended May 9, 1998, Amended May 18, 2001)*

**Section 36. *Annual Report.*** The Grand Lecturer shall make annually a report to the Grand Chapter of all official duties performed by himself and the District Deputy Grand Lecturers, along with the actions of the Ritual Committee. *(Amended April 29, 1975, Amended May 18, 2001)*

**Section 37. Compensation.** No salary will be paid to the Grand Lecturer or to District Deputy Grand Lecturers. Other compensation will be as determined by the Grand High Priest and the Finance Committee. (*Amended April 29, 1975, Amended May 18, 2001*)

**ARTICLE VIII**  
***Remaining Grand Officers***

**Section 38. Duties.** The duties of all other Grand Officers shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations, and such as may be allotted to them from time to time by order of the Grand High Priest or by the Grand Chapter.

**ARTICLE IX**  
***Revenues of the Grand Chapter***

**Section 39. Fees for Dispensation and Chapter.** Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons obtaining a dispensation shall pay to the Grand Chapter the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

**Section 40. Annual Dues.** Every chartered Chapter shall annually pay to the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Grand Chapter, seven dollars and fifty cents per capita for each member borne on the rolls of the Chapter, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, preceding the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, plus the per capita of the General Grand Chapter, and the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) for all members whose dues have been remitted by Subordinate Chapters. (*Amended April 25, 1981, Amended April 30, 1983, Amended April 27, 1989, Amended May 3, 1997, Amended May 17, 2002, Amended May 19, 2006*)

**Section 41. Fiscal Year.** The statistical year of the Grand Chapter shall end on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of each year, but the books and accounts of the Grand Chapter shall be closed and balanced as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. (*Amended May 16, 2003*)

**Section 42. Time of Making Annual Returns.** Chapters shall make their returns to the Grand Secretary, on or before the first day of March of each year. (*Amended May 19, 2006*)

**Section 43. Failing to Make Returns or Pay Dues.** Any chapter failing to make returns or to pay dues for two years, thereby forfeits its charter, and shall not resume labor except by authority from the Grand High Priest or Grand Chapter.

**Section 44. Investments.** The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and the Committee on Finance are authorized, for and in behalf of this Grand Chapter, and in the name of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, to invest any surplus funds of the Grand Chapter in an amount not less than one-half of all investments in obligations of the United States, or in the securities or accounts fully insured or guaranteed by the United States or an agency of the United States, except for those received by gift or bequest which may be retained in kind. The remainder may be invested in common stock or equal securities in nationally known corporations traded on the New York Stock Exchange, and rated "A": or better by Standard and Poore's or Moody's or by some equally well recognized investment rating service. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and the Committee on Finance are authorized, for and in behalf of this Grand Chapter, and in the name of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, to invest any surplus funds of the Grand Chapter, in direct U.S. Government obligations, from time to time, as they may deem advisable, and from time to time sell, exchange, transfer, or reinvest such funds in direct U.S. Government obligations. (*Amended May 9, 1998, Amended May 19, 2000*)

**Section 45. *Royal Arch Foundation.*** There is hereby created a Foundation to be known as the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri Foundation as the assignee and successor of the Bublitz Foundation Fund, the income from its investments to be used for religious, educational, and charitable gifts. All funds placed in the above named fund shall be separate and apart from the general fund of the Grand Chapter. All warrants drawn against this account shall be signed by the Grand High Priest and the Grand Secretary, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and shall be paid by the Grand Treasurer. (*Amended April 27, 1985*)

**ARTICLE X**  
***Standing Committees***

**Section 46. *Standing Committees.*** The Grand High Priest shall appoint the following standing committees:

- A. Credentials
- B. Address of Grand High Priest
- C. Triennial Committee
- D. Jurisprudence
- E. Finance
- F. Returns of Chapters
- G. Place of Annual Convocation
- H. Education,

and he may appoint such special committees as his judgment may dictate. (*Amended May 17, 2002*)

**Section 47. *Duties of Committees.***

**A. *The Committee on Credentials*** shall examine the credentials of the members of the Grand Chapter, and shall report a list and the number of officers, members and the representatives present. (*Amended May 17, 2002*)

**B. *The Committee on the Address of the Grand High Priest*** shall report a distribution of the Address of the Grand High Priest to the proper committees.

**C. *The Triennial Committee*** shall consist of three Past Grand High Priests and one Grand Chapter Officer, to be appointed at the annual convocation following the convocation of the General Grand Chapter, and who shall serve for three years. The Chairman of the Triennial Committee shall receive the accumulated funds from the Grand Treasurer and pay them out according to the provisions of Article XXVI, Section 214. The Triennial Committee will be responsible for arranging for a State dinner and entertainment, at no cost to either the Chairman or to the Grand Chapter of Missouri, for the assembled Missouri companions and ladies. The Chairman will also give a report of his actions at the annual convocation following the Convocation of General Grand Chapter. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**D. *The Committee on Jurisprudence*** shall consider the decisions made by the Grand High Priest and all questions of law and report a brief statement of its findings for the action of the Grand Chapter.

**E. *The Committee on Finance and Accounts*** shall examine the financial statements of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and auditor's report, and report upon the same. It shall also report upon all matters touching the finances of the Grand Chapter; and no appropriations shall be made without having been considered and reported on by this Committee. It shall be a committee of three. The first appointment shall be for one year, one for two years, and one for

three years. Each year, the Grand High Priest shall designate the chairman for the ensuing year.

**1.** In addition, in the event of death or disability of either the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, the Finance Committee together with the concurrence of the Grand High Priest shall have the authority to remove all ledgers and other financial records and shall retain a qualified auditor not previously involved who shall perform a complete audit of such records. These actions shall be conducted with expediency so as not to unduly interfere with the operations of the specific office. *(Amended May 9, 1998)*

**F. The Committee on Returns of Chapters** shall examine the returns made by the chapters and report such errors, omissions or irregularities, if any, as they may discover and make such recommendations as may be pertinent.

**G. The Committee on Time and Place of Annual Convocation** shall submit a motion to the Grand Chapter for their approval designating the date(s) of the Annual Convocation, the headquarters and geographic location. *(Amended May 9, 1998)*

**H. The Committee on Education** shall have charge of the educational program of the Grand Chapter. It shall also be the duty of this Committee to use their best endeavors to promote Masonic education in Missouri, to furnish chapters with lists of available literature, lists of suitable speakers for Masonic programs, and to perform such other function, as will tend to spread Masonic light and knowledge.

**Section 48. All Committee Reports** shall be submitted in typed form to the Grand Secretary at least 30 days prior to the Annual Convocation or at the date requested by the Grand High Priest. It is acknowledged that some reports due to their nature can not be completed and made available until the date of the Annual Convocation and this will be permitted by recommendation of the Grand High Priest. *(Amended May 9, 1998)*

**Section 49. Committee on Review.** *(Amended May 9, 1998, Repealed May 14, 1999)*

**Section 49A. Grand Historian.** *(Repealed May 18, 2007)*

## **ARTICLE XI**

### ***New Chapters***

**Section 50. Dispensation, Limits as to Time.** No chapter shall be formed under dispensation within three months next preceding the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 51. Chapters Under Dispensation.** Dispensation for forming and opening new chapters may be issued by order of the Grand High Priest during recess of the Grand Chapter. Dispensations so issued shall be in force only until the succeeding Annual Convocation of this body, unless continued by vote thereof; provided, that no dispensation shall be issued to a less number than twenty-five regular Royal Arch Masons.

**Section 52. Petitioners Need Not Demit.** Members of chapters in this jurisdiction, who are not officers, may petition for authority to form a new chapter without demitting from their chapters, but they must furnish certificates from the secretaries of their respective chapters that they are in good standing, not in arrears for dues, nor under charges, nor indebted in any official capacity to their chapters. All other petitioners must present demits or Grand Chapter certificates of good standing not more than one year old. Should a new chapter be formed, the secretary of such chapter shall notify the chapters to which the members of the new chapter formerly belonged, of its formation and that they are members thereof, and such members thereby cease to be members of their former chapters. If, for any reason, a dispensation shall be withdrawn by the Grand High Priest or Grand Chapter, or a charter refused, the Grand Secretary shall return their

dimits or other evidence of good standing.

**Section 53. *Officers Under Dispensation.*** The offices of High Priest, King, and Scribe of a chapter under dispensation shall be filled by appointment of the Grand High Priest.

**Section 54. *Chapters U.D., How Set To Work.*** Chapters under dispensation shall be set to work by the Grand High Priest in person, or by some High Priest, Past High Priest or Past Grand High Priest duly authorized to perform that duty as the proxy of the Grand High Priest.

**Section 55. *Chapters U.D., Powers of.*** Chapters under dispensation may do all things expressed in the letters of dispensation, conferring of degrees, affiliate Royal Arch Masons by petition, grant demits, and form a code of By-Laws; provided that they act in strict accordance with the rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 56. *Shall Forward Books, Records, Dispensations, etc.*** at least thirty days before the first day of the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, chapters under dispensation shall forward to the Grand Secretary their books and records, together with the dispensation and a copy of their By-Laws.

**Section 57. *Furniture.*** No chapter shall be set to work under dispensation until it shall have provided all furniture, implements or other things necessary and proper to give due effect to the ceremonies of the several degrees, and show proficiency in the ritual.

**Section 58. *Charters.*** Charters shall be granted by the Grand Chapter only, and at an Annual Convocation. The Grand Chapter will in no case, in the first instance issue a charter direct, but may grant a dispensation to form a chapter. A chapter receiving a dispensation direct from the Grand Chapter shall serve under such dispensation until the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter. The dispensation so issued shall be subject to all the requirements of the Grand Chapter By-Laws.

**Section 59. *Must be Constituted.*** When a charter is issued by order of the Grand Chapter, before any such chapter can lawfully meet, they must assemble by authority of the Grand High Priest; the chapter shall be duly constituted, and the officers named in the charter duly installed, said officers shall be the same as those who acted while under dispensation.

**Section 60. *Officers, U.D.*** The High Priest when installed shall fill by appointment all other officers than those named in the charter necessary for the organization of the chapter, and all other officers will then serve as such until their successors are duly selected and installed at the time provided for in the By-laws of such chapter.

## **ARTICLE XII** ***Chartered Chapters***

**Section 61. *Officers of a Chapter.*** Every chapter of Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction shall consist of a:

- High Priest,
- King,
- Scribe,
- Treasurer,
- Secretary,
- Chaplain,
- Captain of the Host,
- Principal Sojourner,
- Royal Arch Captain,

Master of the Third Veil,  
Master of the Second Veil,  
Master of the First Veil,  
Sentinel,

and as many members as may be found convenient for work and good government.

**Section 62. *Honorary Title.*** The honorary title of the High Priest, or Past High Priest, is “Excellent”. His official title is “High Priest”.

**Section 63. *By-Laws.*** Every chartered chapter shall have by-laws for its government; the same to conform to the laws of the Grand Chapter and be approved by the Grand High Priest. Such chapter shall, in its by-laws, select its name, fix the time of its stated convocations, the fees for the degrees, the annual dues of members, and the time for the election of officers.

**Section 64. *Amended By-Laws.*** A chapter may revise, alter or amend its by-laws in the manner provided in such by-laws. If no provision is made therein for such alteration or amendment, it may be done by a majority vote, after such proposition to amend has been submitted at a stated convocation and has laid over until the next stated convocation.

**Section 65. *Cannot Suspend By-Laws.*** No chapter may suspend any of its by-laws.

**Section 66. *Chapters Must be Opened Properly: Quorum.*** Before proceeding to the transaction of business in any degree, the chapter must be opened in that particular degree with the prescribed ceremonies; and when the business for which the degree was opened shall have been performed, it must then be closed with the prescribed ceremony. No chapter can be opened or transact business unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons. (*Amended May 4, 1996, Amended May 3, 1997*)

**Section 67. *Protection of Charters.*** Any chapter desiring to protect its charter from the danger of loss or destruction may place and keep the same in a locked fire-proof vault and in lieu thereof keep and display in its chapter hall a photographic reproduction of its original charter authenticated by the Grand Secretary under the seal of this Grand Chapter.

**Section 68. *Duplicate Charters.*** Whenever the charter of a chapter shall be lost, destroyed, defaced, or illegible, thereby rendering it unfit for use, the Grand High Priest shall order a duplicate to be issued, which shall contain the names of the original officers, and date of issuance; the names of the Grand Officers at the time the original charter was issued must be appended to the charter. The duplicate charter shall be attested by the Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Grand Chapter. The charter so furnished must show on the margin the reason for its issuance, and the chapter shall pay the actual cost of the same.

**Section 69. *Seal.*** Every chartered chapter shall have a seal, and all official papers shall be attested by an impression of the same.

**Section 70. *Objection to Visitors.*** (*Repealed May 9, 1998*)

**Section 71. *Lawful information.*** Lawful information is declared to be as follows:

**A.** Companion A, having sat in a chapter of Royal Arch Masons with Companion B, thereby obtains lawful information that the latter is a Royal Arch Mason, and can vouch for him as such.

**B.** Companion A vouches to Companion B (each knowing the other to be a Royal Arch Mason), that C is a Royal Arch Mason, C being present; then B is in possession of such lawful information as will enable him to vouch for C, anywhere.

**Section 72. *Visitors.*** A chapter shall not admit a visitor who shall be unable to establish by documentary evidence and examination, or by personal voucher, that he hails from some regular chapter in this jurisdiction or within the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter recognized by the Grand

Chapter of Missouri. Documentary evidence shall be the receipt of dues for the current year, bearing the seal of the chapter and the signature of the secretary of the chapter, together with the signature of the Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction from which said visitor may hail; or a diploma, duly authenticated by the signature of the Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction, together with the seal thereof. All of which designates a chapter under the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter recognized by the Grand Chapter of Missouri. And such documentary evidence shall bear date not more than twelve months past.

**Section 73. *Stated Convocations.*** The stated convocations of a chapter shall be at least once a month, provided however, that by vote of the chapter, it may dispense with meetings during the summer months.

**Section 74. *Minutes Approval.*** The minutes of a chapter are not adopted, but approved as a true recording of the proceedings. If they do not furnish a correct statement of the transactions of the chapter, they ought to be revised and made to conform to the facts. Objections to minutes can only be entertained when they point out errors or omissions in the records, and the High Priest should give opportunity for such corrections. If none are suggested, he should announce the minutes approved and order the fact noted.

**Section 75. *Cannot Call Off.*** All convocations of chapters must be closed on the day when opened, as such meetings cannot be continued from day to day. Trials commenced at stated or special convocations may be continued from time to time, but such convocations must be regularly opened and closed.

**Section 76. *To Meet Temporarily.*** Should it be impossible for a chapter to hold a convocation at its regular place of meeting, by reason of its destruction, insecurity, or other good and sufficient reason, on the statement of that fact to the Grand High Priest, a dispensation may be issued by him permitting the chapter to meet temporarily at such other places as it may select, until its permanent place of meeting shall be determined.

**Section 77. *Business.*** All business must be transacted in the Royal Arch Degree, except the conferring of the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master, which must be done in the proper lodges respectively.

**Section 78. *Reconsideration.*** A chapter may reconsider any motion or action at the same or a succeeding stated convocation; provided, that the same has not gone into effect.

**Section 79. *Chapters Not to Be Opened During Grand Chapter.*** During the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, no chapter shall be opened, nor any business transacted therein without permission of the Grand High Priest.

**Section 80. *Sunday.*** No convocation shall be held on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, for any purpose other than the burial of a deceased companion, or uniting with a lodge, at its invitation, in funeral services. A chapter may convene for public worship on Sunday.

**Section 81. *Opening and Closing Must Be Performed.*** Neither chapters nor dependent lodges may be declared opened or closed, but the forms provided in the ritual shall be used.

**Section 82. *Fees.*** No chapter shall confer the degrees for a less sum than thirty dollars, which amount shall accompany the petition, ten dollars of which shall be an exaltation fee to the Grand Chapter on all exaltations after July 1, 1968, and shall be paid to the Grand Secretary with the annual returns; provided, that in cities and towns where there are two or more chapters, no one of them shall be permitted to change its fee to a sum less than the lowest fee fixed by any of the other chapters having concurrent jurisdiction; provided further, that a new chapter established in a city or town where there are one or two more chapters, shall not fix its fee at a less sum than the lowest fee fixed in such jurisdiction.

**Section 83. *Degrees Conferred Without Fee.*** A chapter may lawfully confer, without charge, the degree of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master, or any of them, on worthy companions from without the United States who have regularly received the Royal Arch Degree, but such companions cannot be admitted to any chapter or witness the conferring of any of the degrees, until they shall have received such of the degrees as had not previously been conferred upon them.

**Section 84. *Incorporation.*** No chapter in this jurisdiction shall be incorporated under the laws of any state.

***Limitation on Halls, Buildings, and Temples.*** No chapter shall erect or purchase, participate in the erection of, or purchase, become interested in, use, or occupy a Masonic Temple or building, until the plans for the same, and the financing thereof, shall have been first submitted to and consented to by the Grand High Priest. Nothing herein stated shall apply to any Masonic Temple, hall or building already erected, or purchased, or paid for. Neither the Grand Chapter, nor any officer or member thereof, as such, shall be liable for any indebtedness hitherto, now, or hereinafter incurred by any chapter, or building or temple association.

**Section 85. *Appeal From High Priest's Decision.*** No appeal lies to a chapter from a decision of the High Priest. His decision can be reviewed only by the Grand High Priest during the recess of the Grand Chapter, subject to a final action by the Grand Chapter, or by appeal directly to the Grand Chapter.

**Section 86. *Substitutes.*** Chapters are directed in all cases where it is convenient to have three candidates in the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree; but while not recommended, one or two substitutes may be used without violating any of the fundamental principles of Royal Arch Masonry.

**Section 87. *Appearance in Public.*** No chapter shall appear in public for any purpose except on funeral occasions, religious services or for installation of officers, without the consent of the Grand Chapter or that of the Grand High Priest.

**Section 88. *Removals.*** A chapter may remove from one hall to another, in the same city or town when two-thirds of the members present at a stated convocation (after due notice to resident members) shall vote therefor and the hall shall have been inspected and approved by someone specially deputed by the Grand High Priest and the hall shall be dedicated and consecrated.

**Section 89. *Change of Location.*** A chapter wishing to remove from one town or place to another place not in the same town, in addition to the requirements of Section 88, must obtain the consent of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 90. *Notice to Members.*** When it shall be necessary to give notice to resident members of a chapter of any matter to be acted upon by such a chapter, the secretary shall issue a notice stating the matter to be considered, when it is to be acted upon and directing said members to be present at such convocation. Said members shall have a copy of said notice delivered to them personally or said notice be delivered by United States mail in a sealed envelope with sufficient postage thereon at least five days prior to the date of said convocation. The secretary shall make written report to the chapter how notices were served.

**Section 91. *Summons.*** A summons issued by a chapter or the High Priest thereof, must be written or printed, and under the seal of the chapter, and need not contain anything beyond the requisition to attend.

**Section 92. *Service of Summons.*** A summons may be served by any Royal Arch Mason designated for that purpose by the High Priest, by delivering a copy thereof in person to the party

named in the summons. The summons shall be returned on or before the return day with an endorsement of the time of service, or a statement of reasons for a failure to serve.

**Section 93. *Summons Must be Obeyed.*** Every Royal Arch Mason is bound to obey a summons, and for failure without good and sufficient cause, shall be notified to appear before the chapter at its next meeting, and if a satisfactory excuse be not rendered, charges shall be preferred against him and upon trial, he may be punished as the chapter may determine.

**Section 94. *Right to Summons.*** The High Priest or the chapter has the right to summons any member of the chapter for any purpose within the scope and business of Freemasonry, and every Royal Arch Mason is bound to obey such summons unless unavoidably prevented.

**Section 95. *Notification.*** In any city or town where two or more chapters are situated, the secretary of each chapter shall notify every other chapter in said city or town of all petitions for degrees or membership, and of all rejections, suspensions, expulsions or reinstatements which shall be read in the chapter to which sent at the next stated convocation, and placed on file.

**Section 96. *Consolidation.*** Whenever two or more chapters in the vicinity of each other shall desire to consolidate and form one chapter, under the name and charter of one of said chapters, the same may be consummated in the following manner:

Such desire being made known to the High Priest of each of said chapters, he shall cause all the resident members of his chapter to be notified to attend a stated or special convocation of the chapter for the purpose of considering a proposition to consolidate with \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter under the same name and charter of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, R.A.M., at which convocation the High Priest shall submit the question to the chapter as follows: "Will this chapter consolidate with \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter under the name and charter of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_ R.A.M.? And should three-fourths of the members present vote "Yes", the proposition shall be declared adopted; otherwise the High Priest shall declare the same rejected and order the secretary to record the result and report the same to the other chapter; PROVIDED, no such proposition shall be declared adopted if as many as twenty-five (25) members of the Chapter proposing to give up the name and charter vote against the proposition. (*Amended May 1, 1993*)

Should said proposition be adopted, as above, by the chapters, parties to such consolidation, then the charter of the chapter agreeing to surrender its name and charter, shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary to be cancelled, and the members of such chapter shall become members of the chapter whose name and number assumed, as fully, as though they had regularly petitioned and had been elected members thereof. The books, property and furniture, money on hand and due, or to become due, to the chapter so surrendering its charter shall be and become the property of the chapter whose name, number and charter has been assumed and said last mentioned chapter shall be and become liable for all debts of said chapter so consolidated with it. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 96A. *Change in Chapter Name.*** Any proposition to change the name of any Chapter shall be made in writing at any stated convocation, and the consideration of the same shall be laid over until the next stated convocation, and all resident members shall be notified of the proposed action. If a majority vote favors said change it shall be declared adopted and noted in the minutes of the Chapter.

Any Chapter that may have changed its name as herein provided shall at once forward to the Grand Secretary a copy of the resolution adopted by said chapter duly certified to by the High Priest and Secretary showing the date of such adoptions, together with the original charter of said chapter.

The Grand Secretary shall examine the papers submitted and submit the same to the Grand High Priest, who when satisfied of the validity of said papers and when deemed to be in the best interest of Royal Arch Masonry that said change in name be made, shall cause to be made in the margin of said charter his certificate approving said change to be attested by the Grand Secretary with the seal of the Grand Chapter thereon, and the chapter shall be from the date of said certificate known and recognized by its name as adopted and approved. (*Adopted April 21, 1970, Reiterated in the By-laws revision of May 9, 1998*)

**Section 97. *Surrender of Charter.*** Any proposition to surrender the charter of a chapter shall be made at a stated convocation, and the consideration of the same shall lie over until the next stated convocation, and all resident members shall be notified of the proposed action, and, if there are twenty-five negative votes, the charter shall not be surrendered.

**Section 98. *Charter Arrested.*** When the charter of a chapter has been arrested by the Grand High Priest, the rights, privileges and jurisdiction of the chapter are not destroyed, but remain in abeyance until the Grand Chapter passes on the arrest.

**Section 99. *Chapter Property.*** Chapters ceasing to exist, from any cause (except in case of consolidation), forfeit to the Grand Chapter, all of their property and effects; and the last High Priest, Treasurer, or Secretary of a chapter, extinct from any cause, shall forward to the Grand Secretary all the books, papers, jewels, funds, charter and the seal of the chapter, and hold all other property of the same subject to order.

**Section 100. *Dues of Members of Extinct Chapters.*** The Grand Chapter has the right to collect dues from members of extinct chapters all dues chargeable against them up to the time chapter became extinct.

**Section 101. *Members of Extinct Chapters.*** When a chapter has ceased to exist, any member thereof may petition another chapter by filing with his petition a certificate of good standing from the Grand Secretary.

**Section 102. *Illegal Chapters.*** No chapter is legal unless under a dispensation or charter as prescribed by the laws of this Grand Chapter, a recognized Grand Chapter, or the General Grand Chapter; and all communication with such bodies is forbidden, and all recognition and intercourse with the members, as Royal Arch Masons, is prohibited.

**Section 103. *Annual Returns.*** Each chapter shall, on or before the first day of March of each year, make and transmit by mail to the Grand Secretary an annual report, according to the form furnished by the Grand Secretary. Failure to make such return as provided shall subject the chapter to a fine of ten dollars for each period of thirty days, or fraction thereof, said return is withheld. Any Chapter that does not submit an annual return and/or any late filing fees to the Grand Secretary's office not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Grand Session, shall forfeit all rights and privileges to representation and voting at the annual Grand Session. (*Amended May 20, 2005, Amended May 19, 2006*)

**Section 104A. *Annual Audit.*** There shall be a complete and careful audit of the financial affairs of each subordinate chapter and of the books, accounts, and vouchers of the Secretary and Treasurer and of others handling, and having in charge, money or property of the chapter. Such audit shall cover the period from the last previous audit up to and including the thirty-first day of December of each year.

Upon his election, or as soon thereafter as is possible, the High Priest-elect, shall appoint an auditing committee of three or more members, whose duty it shall be forthwith to audit the books and accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary of the chapter. If the chapter has trustees, or other custodians of property or funds, then their books, accounts, and vouchers shall

also be audited, and the securities or other property checked, inspected, etc. The books, accounts and vouchers of any other officer, member or committee may also be designated by the High Priest-elect, and may be subject to an audit.

The High Priest-elect, may in lieu of an auditing committee designate any certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants to make the final audit, provided that the certified public accountant or member of a firm of the same is not related by blood or marriage to the out-going High Priest, Secretary, or Treasurer.

The report of audit shall be in duplicate, in writing, and be signed by the Auditing Committee or by the C.P.A., or firm of C.P.A.'s who made the audit.

One copy of the report shall be delivered forthwith to the High Priest-elect, who shall see that the same is presented to and read in open chapter at the next stated convocation following its date and be spread upon the records thereof; and the other copy shall be transmitted to or filed with the Grand Secretary on or before the first day of March (that being the date for the transmittal to or filing with the Grand Secretary of the annual returns of the chapter).

All of the actions contemplated herein shall be performed with a view to having the audit completed and the report made prior to the first day of March in each year.

Said report of audit shall be made upon standard printed forms provided by the Grand Secretary, but nothing contained in or omitted from such printed forms shall relieve the auditing committee or C.P.A., or firm of C.P.A.'s from reporting fully and completely their findings in the premises. (*Amended May 19, 2006*)

**Section 104B.** A chapter which opens no stated convocation within a period of twelve consecutive months forfeits its charter. (*Adopted May 8, 1986*)

**Section 104C.** If a chapter is not legally represented at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary will notify the High Priest and Secretary of the chapter within sixty (60) days after the Grand Chapter session is complete of such lack in participation, by first class, fully prepaid, United States mail. A copy of this notice will be sent to the District Deputy Grand High Priest in which such chapter is located. (*Adopted May 8, 1986*)

**Section 104D.** If at two consecutive Annual Convocations of the Grand Chapter, held after 1986, any chartered chapter shall not (1) be represented by any one of its High Priest, King of Scribe, or their legally appointed proxies, or (2) have in attendance a companion who is a member of the chapter appointed by action of the chapter to attend and who shall have exhibited satisfactory evidence of such appointment to the Committee on Credentials, or (3) have in attendance a Past High Priest who is a member of the Chapter, as determined by the Records of the Committee on Credentials, the functions of the chapter are suspended. (*Adopted May 8, 1986*)

**Section 104E.** A chapter which shall forfeit its Charter or the functions of which shall have been suspended pursuant to Section 104B may resume labor only by the authority of the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest, provided that said suspension of functions shall not occur if the Grand High Priest shall have found, within three months after failure to be so represented, that the chapter was not so represented for good cause shown. (*Adopted May 8, 1986*)

### **ARTICLE XIII** *Officers*

**Section 105. *Officers How Chosen.*** The first five officers of a chapter shall be elected annually by ballot; the remaining officers shall be elected or appointed as may be provided in the

by-laws of the chapter.

**Section 106. *Presiding Officers.*** In the absence of the High Priest from any meeting of the chapter, the King, or Scribe in succession may preside; in the absence of all three of the principal officers any Past High Priest may preside.

**Section 107. *Succession.*** In the case of death or disability of the High Priest, the King and Scribe will, in succession assume his prerogatives and duties for all purposes, except such as pertain to the installation of officers.

**Section 108. *Vacancy in Principal Stations.*** Should the station of High Priest, King, and Scribe of a chapter all become vacant by death or otherwise, at the same time, the Grand High Priest, may on proper application grant a dispensation for an election to fill such vacancies. He shall appoint some Past High Priest to call a meeting of the chapter and preside at the election and install the officers when elected, or he may himself call such meeting and preside in person. In either case due notice of such meeting shall be given to all resident members of the chapter.

**Section 109. *Vacancy in Any Office.*** A vacancy in an elective office may be filled by ballot, without dispensation, at any stated convocation, after notice to the members except as provided in Section 108.

**A.** A vacancy in any appointive office may be filled at any time. When a High Priest or Secretary is elected to fill a vacancy the name of such High Priest or Secretary shall be immediately certified to the Grand Secretary.

**B.** When an elected officer of a Subordinate Chapter shall absent himself from three (3) consecutive stated meetings of his Chapter without sufficient cause and notification in advance to the High Priest, the High Priest of said Chapter may, at his discretion, declare the office vacant and, upon due notification to the membership of said Chapter, may call a special election to fill the vacant office in accordance with ARTICLE XIII. Sections 109, 110, 111 and 113 of the Grand Chapter By-laws. The High Priest of a Subordinate Chapter may, under similar circumstances, declare any appointive office vacant and, appoint a Companion member of his Chapter in good standing to fill the vacated office for the unexpired term. (*Amended May 20, 2005 by adoption of Subsection 1*)

**Section 110. *Election of Officers.*** In all elections of officers in a chapter, a majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect. Blank ballots shall not be counted. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 111. *Eligibility of Office.*** Any member in good standing is eligible to any office in the chapter.

**Section 112. *Special Election.*** In case of failure to elect officers at the time specified in the by-laws, the High Priest shall fix the date for the election of officers, and notify the members of said election.

**Section 113. *Officers, Length of Service, Rank.*** The officers of a chapter are elected to serve for a term as provided in the by-laws of the chapter, except when chosen to fill vacancies, and in all cases shall hold office until their successors are elected and installed. One who has been elected and installed High Priest of a chapter, and who shall have served for the time which he was elected, is entitled to the rank of Past High Priest.

**Section 114. *Term of Office.*** The officers of a chapter shall be elected annually at a convocation specified in the by-laws of the chapter.

**Section 115. *Resignation.*** Any officer of a chapter may resign.

**Section 116. *Chapters May be Opened for Installation.*** An installation of officers of a chapter may be held either in public or private and the opening of the chapter may be omitted for

a public installation. In the event the opening ceremony is omitted for a public installation, the approval of the installation must be made a matter of record in the minutes at the next stated convocation of the chapter. In any event, the records of the chapter must show the installation of its officers. No officer can be installed by proxy.

**Section 117. *Joint Installations.*** Two or more chapters may have a joint installation of officers in the Hall of any said chapter and the opening ceremony may be omitted as provided in Section 116. Accurate records of the installation of each chapter must be kept by the respective chapters.

**Section 118. *Installing Officers.*** None but Grand Chapter officers, High Priests, or Past High Priests are qualified to install the officers of a chapter.

**Section 119. *Officers Re-elected.*** Any officer of a chapter re-elected or re-appointed to the same office need not be reinstalled.

## ARTICLE XIV

### *Petitions*

**Section 120. *Petitions.*** All applications for the degrees or membership shall be done by petition, signed by the applicant in person and in the form prescribed.

**Section 121. *Petitions Presented.*** A petition for the degree or membership must be presented at a stated or special convocation of the chapter, but may be withdrawn at any time before it is reported.

**Section 122. *Committee of Investigation.*** *(Repealed May 10, 1990)*

**Section 123. *Majority Must Report.*** *(Repealed May 10, 1990)*

**Section 124. *New Committee.*** *(Repealed May 10, 1990)*

**Section 125. *Physical Disqualification's.*** It is incompetent for any chapter in this jurisdiction to confer any of the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry upon any person whose physical defects are such as to prevent him from receiving and imparting the ceremonies of the several degrees. Nothing herein contained shall be so constructed as to render anyone ineligible to the privileges of Capitular Masonry, who can by the aid of physical appliances, conform to the necessary ceremonies. In all cases where doubt exists as to the ability of a petitioner to conform to the ceremonies of the several degrees, the matter shall be submitted to the Grand High Priest for his consideration and final decision.

**Section 126. *Failure of Petitioner to Present Himself.*** A petitioner for the degrees who fails to present himself for the degrees within six months after he shall be duly notified of his election, shall forfeit the fee paid: provided he does not give a satisfactory excuse for his failure to appear, and of the sufficiency of his excuse, the majority of the members present must judge; if the time exceed one year the previous election shall be void; but if such candidate make satisfactory excuse to the chapter, he may regularly petition again without repayment of the fee.

**Section 127. *Petitioner From Extinct Chapter.*** A Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master, whose chapter is extinct, may present his petition accompanied with documentary evidence of his good standing, to the chapter in whose jurisdiction he resides, to affiliate as such, stating in his petition the name, number and location of his chapter, when in existence, and the status of such petitioner in the chapter, if elected, shall be that of a Freemason of like advancement who has been initiated therein; provided that no such petition shall be received until the chapter is satisfied by examination or lawful information that said petitioner is a Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master as the case may be.

**Section 128. *After Rejection.*** A petitioner for the degrees who has been rejected, may after the lapse of six months, petition the chapter which rejected him or any other chapter in whose jurisdiction he resides.

**Section 129. *Residence.*** No petition for the degrees shall be entertained in any chapter in this jurisdiction, unless the petitioner shall have resided twelve months in the state, six of which shall have been within the jurisdiction of the chapter, by residence, as here used, is meant a permanent, settled domicile, or fixed abode. A chapter cannot receive the petition for the degrees of one who has no settled home; except in case of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, whose petition may be received and the degrees conferred, provided he is, at the time of petitioning stationed in this jurisdiction. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 130. *Balloting Elects for All Degrees.*** A petition for the chapter degrees shall be for the four degrees, namely: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Royal Arch.

**Section 131. *Degrees Conferred on Affiliated Master Masons Only, Fees.*** No chapter in this jurisdiction shall receive a petition from or confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason upon anyone who is not at the time a Master Mason and a member of a lodge in good standing nor for a less sum than thirty dollars, and the fee must accompany the petition.

**Section 132. *Affiliation, Dimit.*** A Royal Arch Mason who desires to transfer his membership to another chapter in this jurisdiction may do so without first terminating his membership in his own chapter. He shall give written notice to his chapter of his intention to affiliate with some other chapter, stating the name, location, number of the chapter with which he desires to affiliate; if he is not in arrears for dues, nor under charges, nor indebted in any official capacity to his chapter, his chapter shall grant him a certificate of good standing, which shall be delivered to him but addressed to the chapter selected for affiliation. This certificate shall constitute and be documentary evidence as provided in Section 72, and shall accompany the petition for affiliation. Said petition shall take the usual course of petitions for affiliation, and the chapter receiving it shall, within ten days after the ballot is taken, certify the results thereof to the chapter from which the certificate came. If the petitioner is elected, his own chapter shall at once forward to the chapter selected for affiliation his dimit, which shall terminate his membership in the chapter which issued the certificate and his membership in the new chapter shall begin as the date of issuance of the dimit. The member transferring his membership pay dues to the chapter from which he is transferred to the date of said dimit. Should the ballot in the chapter for affiliation be unfavorable, his membership shall remain in the chapter which issued the certificate.

**Section 133. *Requisites for Petition.*** A petition for the degrees shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant; shall state the age, date, and place of birth, residence and occupation of the petitioner and that the petitioner has not been rejected by any chapter within six months past. It shall also state the lodge in which the petitioner received the degrees, and also the lodge with which he is then affiliated, and such other biographical matter as may add value and information to the petition.

**Section 134. *Petitions Must Be Recommended.*** No petition for the degrees or for membership shall be received, unless recommended by two members of the chapter whose names shall be recorded in the minutes.

**Section 135. *Rejected Candidates.*** In case of the rejection of a candidate, the secretary shall return to him his fee and inform him of the rejection of his petition.

## ARTICLE XV

### *Ballot*

**Section 136. *Ballot at Stated or Special Convocation.*** A chapter may receive petitions, ballot on same and confer the degrees upon all who shall have been elected, at any stated or special convocation of the chapter upon three days notice by mail or publication to all resident members. A chapter may receive petitions, ballot on same and confer the degrees upon all who shall have been elected, at any stated or special convocation of the chapter upon three days notice by mail or publication to all resident members. (*Amended 1960*)

**Section 137. *Ballot for Degrees or Membership.*** Three negative votes on application for membership or degrees shall reject the applicant; otherwise he shall be declared elected.

**Section 138. *All Must Vote.*** In balloting all members of the chapter present must vote.

**Section 139. *Collective Balloting.*** The chapter may ballot on any number of petitions for the degrees or for affiliation collectively. If on the collective ballot three or more black balls appear, then that ballot shall not be counted, and the ballot may be taken on the petitions for affiliations collectively and on the petitions for the degrees collectively. If three or more black balls appear on either ballot then in whichever ballot the black balls appear the petitioners may be balloted on in groups of five or less, but when three or more black balls appear in such groups, then all the preceding ballots shall not be counted, and the petitioners in that group shall be balloted on separately.

**Section 140. *Ballots Free and Secret.*** The ballot must be free and secret, and no member shall be required to give his reasons for the ballot which he has deposited; nor shall any companion disclose how he voted.

**Section 141. *Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master from Another Chapter.*** A Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master from another chapter may petition for affiliation as such, upon a proper certificate of dismission from his chapter, and a clear ballot shall elect to membership and entitle the petitioner to the remaining degree or degrees.

**Section 142. *Must Ballot.*** All petitions for the degrees or affiliation must be balloted upon. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**Section 143. *Reports on Petitions.*** (*Repealed May 10, 1990*)

**Section 144. *Postpone Ballot.*** An application for the degrees or membership, the high priest may, on request in writing of a member who is unavoidable absent, or for other good cause, postpone the ballot thereon until the next convocation, but no longer, unless by unanimous consent. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**Section 145. *Balloting Cannot Be Postponed.*** The balloting on a petition, when once commenced, cannot be postponed, but must be completed.

**Section 146. *Examination of Ballot.*** After the ballot has been taken and examined by the High Priest, King, and Scribe, the result shall be declared by the High Priest, unless on application for the degree or membership only three negative votes appear, in which case he shall order the second ballot; provided that in the case of the rejection of the application, the Grand High Priest may, in his discretion, and for good cause, grant a dispensation authorizing another ballot at a stated convocation of the chapter, to be by him designated; of which ballot all the resident members shall have due notice.

**Section 147. *Debate Pending Ballot Not Allowed.*** No debate shall be allowed after a ballot is ordered, and no inquiry permitted as to who may have cast a negative vote. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**ARTICLE XVI**  
**Membership**

**Section 148. A Royal Arch Mason a Member Where Exalted.** A Royal Arch Mason exalted in this jurisdiction shall be *ipso facto* a member of the chapter which exalted him, without further ballot, except where the work has been done for another chapter; then the companion will be a member of the chapter which made the request.

**Section 149. Petition for Membership.** The petition, which shall be accompanied either by a dimit or by a certificate of good standing, shall state the age, date, and place of birth, residence and occupation of the petitioner, and the name, number and location and jurisdiction of the lodge with which is affiliated, and the name, number and jurisdiction of the chapter in which he was formerly, or is now a member.

**Section 150. Petitioner Vouched For.** (Repealed May 10, 1990)

**Section 151. Charges Against Petitioner.** Should charges be preferred against a Royal Arch Mason, in lodge or chapter, after the reception and reference of his petition for affiliation, such petition shall not be received until after the charges be finally disposed of by the lodge or chapter. (Amended May 10, 1990)

**Section 152. Affiliation of Royal Arch Mason.** A non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason, residing in this state, may apply for affiliation to any chapter in this jurisdiction and is not confined to the jurisdiction of the chapter nearest his place of residence.

**Section 153. Renewal of Application.** When a Royal Arch Mason is rejected for affiliation, he may apply at any subsequent stated meeting by a new petition, in regular form and the application in all aspects treated as though he had not previously petitioned the chapter. (Amended May 10, 1990)

**Section 154. Dimit Belongs to the Chapter.** The dimit of a petitioner who is elected a member of a chapter, belongs to the chapter and must remain in its custody, and the date of his affiliation must be endorsed thereon.

**Section 155A. Dual/Plural Membership.** A Royal Arch Mason who is a member in good standing of a Missouri Chapter may petition for and hold membership in one or more additional Missouri Chapters or in one or more additional Chapters in other Grand Jurisdictions which are in fraternal relationship with the Grand Chapter and do not prohibit dual/plural membership. A Royal Arch Mason, a resident of Missouri, who is a member in good standing of a Chapter located in another Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relationship with this Grand Chapter and which permits dual/plural membership may petition for and hold membership in one or more additional Missouri Chapters. (Amended May 10, 1990)

**Section 155B. Withdrawal of Dual/ Plural Membership.** A dual or plural member of a Missouri chapter may withdraw his affiliation as a dual/plural member by application in writing or in person at a stated convocation for a Certificate of Withdrawal. If the member has fully paid the annual dues for the current year and is not under charges nor indebted in an official capacity, the chapter shall issue the official and approved Certificate of Withdrawal of Dual/Plural Membership. The member shall not be entitled to a Certificate of Demission, except from a chapter of "original membership". Upon the issue of a Certificate of Withdrawal, the member shall not be entitled to any reimbursement on the unearned portion of the annual dues. The withdrawal of multiple membership from one or more chapters of Missouri shall have no bearing on the standing of the member in the chapter of this "original membership" or in other chapters in which he has established "dual/plural membership". The Certificate of Withdrawal of

dual/plural membership shall not be evidence of capitular standing for the purpose of applying for or obtaining membership by affiliation in another chapter. The chapter issuing the Certificate of Withdrawal shall promptly notify the Grand Secretary of such action. (*Adopted May 3, 1997, Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 155C. *Dimit by Dual/Plural Member.*** A member who holds dual/plural membership and whose chapter of “original membership” is under the Grand Chapter of Missouri may terminate his affiliation with his chapter of “original membership” by dimission and still retain his membership in other chapters. Said member shall apply in writing to the chapter of “original membership” of the Certificate of Dimission; the application shall contain the information of the name, number, location (city and state) of the chapter which he desires to be regarded henceforth as the chapter of his “original membership”. The dimit, if granted, shall be mailed to the Grand Secretary for certification and transmittal to the chapter in which the member will retain his “original” or “parent” membership. The dimit issued by the chapter of his “original membership” shall not be given to the member. (*Adopted May 3, 1997*)

**Section 155D. *Dual/Plural Membership – Duties of Chapter Secretaries and of Grand Secretary.***

**A.** The Secretary of each chapter of Missouri shall:

1. Forward to the Grand Secretary the personal application for Certificate of Good Standing for Dual/Plural Membership;
2. Forward to the Grand Secretary the Certificate of Good Standing for the Dual/Plural Membership;
3. Notify the Grand Secretary upon the election of dual/plural member or the formation of a new chapter containing one or more dual/plural members;
4. Notify the Grand Secretary of the suspension for non-payment of dues or otherwise, the expulsion of a dual/plural member;
5. Notify the Grand Secretary of the reinstatement to good standing of a dual/plural member;
6. Notify the Grand Secretary of the issuance of the Certificate of Withdrawal of a dual/plural membership;
7. Forward the Certificate of Dimission from chapter of “original membership” to the Grand Secretary for certification and transmittal;
8. Submit the Report of Dual/Plural Members as of December 31 of each and every year with the Annual Return. (*Adopted May 3, 1997*)

**B.** The Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Missouri shall:

1. Forward the personal Application of Good Standing for Dual/Plural Membership to the chapters of this Jurisdiction and/or other Jurisdictions for the attention and action of the members, respectively;
2. Receive and transmit the Certificate of Good Standing for Dual/Plural Membership which shall accompany the Petition for Dual/Plural Membership;
3. Notify the other chapters involved of the election of a dual/plural member, or the formation of a new chapter containing one or more dual/plural members;
4. Notify the other chapters involved of the suspension for non-payment of dues or otherwise, or the expulsion of a dual/plural member;
5. Notify the other chapters involved that a dual/plural member has regained good standing after suspension;
6. Forward the Certificate of Dimission from the chapter of “original membership”

to the chapter to be regarded by the member as the chapter of “original” or “parent” membership. (Adopted May 3, 1997, Amended May 9, 1998)

**Section 155E. *Suspension of Dual/Plural Member for Non-Payment of Dues:*** A member shall become suspended in all Chapters for non-payment of dues when he fails to pay dues in either the original Chapter or the Chapter/Chapters he holds dual/plural membership. (Adopted May 14, 1999)

**Section 156. *Status of Royal Arch Masons Under Charges.*** The status of a Royal Arch Mason under charges is not affected by such charges except that he cannot dimit.

**Section 157. *Must Be Affiliated With Lodge.*** In order to maintain their good standing, members must be affiliated with and in good standing in a regular lodge of Master Masons.

**Section 158. *Notice to Council and Commandery.*** The secretary of each subordinate chapter within this jurisdiction is hereby required to send official notice of the suspension, expulsion, dimit, or reinstatement of any its members to the council of Royal and Select Masters and the Commandery of Knights Templar within whose jurisdiction such chapter may be situated.

## ARTICLE XVII

### *Objection*

**Section 159. *Objection to Reception of Petition.*** Any three Royal Arch Masons in good standing may object to the reception of a petition for the degrees or membership, or an advancement, in writing, signed by the objectors, and the objection shall be noted on the records of the chapter. If the objectors are members of the chapter the petition shall not be received so long as the objection is not withdrawn. If the objectors are not members of the chapter, the chapter shall judge on the sufficiency of the objection. (Amended May 10, 1990)

**Section 160. *Objections to Conferring Degrees.*** Objections to the conferring of the degrees on a candidate who has been elected, shall be made by at least three members, and when such objection is thus made it shall have the effect of a rejection, unless the objection shall expressly state that it is only temporary, in which case the petition shall be referred to further inquiry.

**Section 161. *Objection to advancement.*** All objections to advancement, after a degree has been conferred, shall be recorded, together with the names of the objectors. The objecting companions shall prefer charges against the party objected to, based on the ground of their objection, within two months after the date of filing such objection, and a trial shall be had on the charges without delay. Should such objecting companions fail or refuse to prefer such charges within the specified time, the chapter shall proceed in conferring the remaining degrees, unless objection on other grounds are made in writing by three companions.

**Section 162. *Objection to Advancement.*** A candidate for advancement against whom an objection has been duly made can not receive a certificate of dimission; nor can the chapter waive its jurisdiction over him while the objection remains in force.

## ARTICLE XVIII

### *Dues*

**Section 163. *Remission of Dues.*** The dues of any member of a chapter may be remitted, in whole or in part for pecuniary inability to pay, upon proper application in person or in writing; or upon a statement of facts made by a companion justifying such action, but dues may not be

remitted for services rendered or as part payment of salary, provided that a member is exempt from payment of dues, who has been a Royal Arch Mason in good standing for 50 years or more.

**Section 164. Endowed Membership.** Any member in good standing in this jurisdiction whose current dues are paid may purchase an Endowed Membership and be thereby relieved from the further payment of dues, subject to the provisions set forth in this section. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**A.** The Committee of Endowed Membership shall be three in number, appointed by the Grand High Priest, one of which shall be appointed chairman. Ex-officio members shall be the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer. One member shall be appointed for one year, one member for two years, and one member for three years. Thereafter, one member shall be appointed each year for a term of three years. Each year the Grand High Priest shall designate a chairman for the coming year. *(Amended May 5, 1994, Amended May 20, 2005)*

**B.** Any member may purchase an Endowed Membership by computing the fee as twenty (20) times the member's Chapter dues at the time of purchase of said Endowed Membership, provided that no Endowed Membership fee shall be less than \$300.00. All formulas shall be reviewed annually by the Committee on Endowed Membership, and if needed to be changed, submitted in writing in accordance with Article XXVIII, Change of By-Laws. *(Amended May 8, 1986, Amended May 2, 1991, Amended May 5, 1994, Amended May 14, 2004, Amended May 20, 2005)*

**C.** All sums are to be collected by the constituent chapters and immediately transferred to the Grand Secretary.

**D.** The Grand Secretary shall immediately issue the member paying the required fees, an Endowed Membership Certificate under the seal of the Grand Chapter, signed by the Grand High Priest and attested by the Grand Chapter and shall also issue to the chapter a certificate declaring that the Endowed Membership is held in trust by the Grand Chapter for the chapter transmitting the same to the Grand Secretary. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**E.** Upon the holder of a Endowed Membership Certificate transferring to another chapter within this jurisdiction, the Grand Secretary shall upon notice thereof, transfer on the books of the Endowed Membership Fund, the fees received for such Endowed Membership regardless of by whom the cost of said Endowed Membership was paid, to the credit of the chapter to whom the transfer was made. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**F.** Upon the holder of a Endowed Membership certificate dimitting from this jurisdiction to any other and taking a withdrawal certificate from his chapter, then the fee for such Endowed Membership shall remain to the credit of such chapter in the Endowed Membership Fund. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**G.** All monies received by the Grand Secretary from the constituent chapters for the purchase of Endowed Memberships, shall be placed in the Endowed Membership Fund. The principal of this Endowed Membership Fund shall be invested in a manner determined by the Governing Body. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**H.** Any chapter in this jurisdiction may, by vote, purchase from its fund an Endowed Membership Certificate for a member thereof, paying the fee provided in the formula. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**I.** When two or more chapters consolidate, all monies in the Endowed Membership Fund shall be transferred to the credit of the surviving or consolidated chapters. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**J.** Upon dissolution of any chapter, holders of Grand Chapter Certificates of Endowed

Membership shall have Endowed Memberships transferred as provided in subdivision 5 of this section. The interest accruing from the fund remaining to the credit of the dissolved chapter, shall at the end of the year, be added to the principal of this fund. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**K.** Holders of Endowed Membership Certificates are subject to all the rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri and loss of membership by suspension or expulsion shall automatically abrogate his Endowed Membership and any claim to any fees paid for such Endowed Membership, but the chapter of which he was a member shall continue to receive income from such funds. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**L.** The Grand Secretary shall annually remit to the secretaries of participating subordinate chapters their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until after January 1 of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Secretary. When an Endowed member dies, the Grand Chapter will continue to receive his per capita, less 20% and his Chapter will continue to receive his prorated earnings, less 20%. The retained 20% will be added to the fund's principal to provide for growth in the fund. Prorated earnings shall be based on the member's chapter dues that existed at the time the individual entered the Endowed Membership Program. Per capita shall be the per capita that existed at the time the individual entered the Endowed Membership Program. *(Amended May 8, 1986, Amended May 2, 1991, Amended May 4, 1996, Amended May 9, 1998, Amended May 14, 1999, Amended May 14, 2004, Amended May 20, 2005)*

**M.** The annual per capita year for earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund will be as of December 31 of each year. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**N.** Chapters presently having a Endowed Membership Program may elect to join this program. However, no new Endowed Membership Programs by the chapters shall begin. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

**O.** *(Amended May 8, 1986, Amended May 2, 1991, Amended May 4, 1996, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

**P.** Subordinate Chapters shall not be required to pay per capita tax to the Grand Chapter on those members who have attained 50 years of credible service to the Grand Chapter and who also are enrolled in the Grand Chapter Endowed Membership Program. Subordinate Chapters shall continue to receive that prorated portion of the dues for members meeting the criteria of this section. *(Adopted May 18, 2001, Amended May 20, 2005)*

*(Section 164 Adopted April 28, 1984, Amended April 30, 1983, May 2, 1987)*

**Section 165. Assessment Forbidden.** Chapters shall not assess members, except in the way of dues, the amount of which shall be fixed by the by-laws.

**Section 166. Remission of Dues.** A chapter may remit the dues of a member suspended for non-payment thereof, and such remission shall have the same effect as payment. A chapter can not remit dues, until they have accrued, except for the current year.

**Section 167. Annual Dues.** Each chapter in this jurisdiction has the right to assess and collect from its members in the manner provided by its by-laws, such annual dues as may be deemed necessary to defray the proper expenses of the chapter.

**Section 168. Annual Dues.** Chapter dues shall be paid annually in advance. *(Amended May 2, 1991)*

**ARTICLE XIX**  
***Dimits and Certificates***

**Section 169A. *Dimit.*** When a member whose dues are fully paid and who is not under charges, nor indebted in an official capacity to his chapter, shall apply in writing or in person, at a stated meeting for a dimit, his application shall, unless objections are made, be immediately granted, and the fact entered on record. No objection shall be entertained unless the objecting companion shall prefer charges against the applicant for a dimit, or give notice, that he will do so at the next stated convocation, at which time, if charges are not preferred, the dimit shall be granted, if charges are preferred, they shall take the course provided by law. If, on trial, the accused is acquitted, his dimit shall not be granted until the expiration of 60 days after his acquittal. No dimit shall be granted while an appeal is pending.

**Section 169B. *Dimit by Dual/Plural Member.*** A member who holds Dual/Plural Membership and whose chapter or “Original Membership” is under the Grand Chapter of Missouri may terminate his affiliation with his chapter of “Original Membership” by dimission and still retain him membership in other chapters. Said member shall apply in writing to the chapter of “Original Membership” for the Certificate of Dimission; the application shall contain the information of the name, number and location (city and state) of the chapter which he desires to be regarded henceforth as the chapter of his “Original Membership”. A dimit, if granted, shall be mailed to the Grand Recorder for certification and transmittal to the chapter in which the member will retain his “Original” or “Parent” Membership. A dimit issued by the chapter of his “Original Membership” shall not be given to the member.

**Section 170. *Dimit, Rights Under.*** A dimit shall not entitle the holder to any chapter privileges (except to petition for affiliation), but he ceases to be a chapter member in good standing from the date of his dimit, and can only regain good standing by being elected to membership.

**Section 171. *Date of Dimit.*** A Royal Arch Mason ceases to be a member of the chapter at the time the dimit is granted, as shown by the chapter record, notwithstanding he may fail to receive his certificate of dimission.

**Section 172. *Members of Chapter Surrendering Charter.*** When a chapter surrenders its charter, having previously liquidated all of its indebtedness, the Grand Secretary shall, upon proper application, issue certificates of good standing to the members of the chapter, without waiting for the next session of the Grand Chapter to approve the surrender.

**Section 173. *Certificates: Extinct Chapter.*** When a chapter ceases to exist, by arrest of its charter, the Grand Secretary, shall on application of its members and on satisfactory proof, that they were in good standing, and have paid all dues to date of arrest, issue certificates of good standing to them; provided, that such certificates shall not be issued to members of a chapter whose charter has been arrested by the Grand High Priest, until his action in arresting the same shall be approved by the Grand Chapter.

**Section 174. *Certificates of Good Standing, Extinct Chapter.*** A Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, in good standing, when his chapter ceases to exist, is entitled to a Grand Chapter certificate to that effect upon application to the Grand Secretary.

**ARTICLE XX**  
***Jurisdiction***

**Section 175. *May Petition - Where?*** A candidate may petition any chapter in the state for the degrees.

**Section 176. *Request from Another Jurisdiction to Confer Degrees.*** A chapter within this jurisdiction may, at the request of a chapter under the jurisdiction of another Grand Chapter, confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch, or either of them, upon a candidate of said chapter; provided, the requesting chapter furnish a certificate under its seal that the candidate has been duly elected to receive the degree or degrees. The chapter, before conferring a degree upon one who has already received one or more degrees, shall be satisfied by proper examination, or lawful information that the candidate has regularly received the preceding degree or degrees. A candidate who has not received any of the chapter degrees shall be properly identified before the requested chapter shall confer the Mark Master Degree upon him.

**Section 177. *Conferring Degrees by Request.*** When a chapter shall have elected a candidate to take the degrees, or shall have conferred one or more degrees upon him, such chapter may request any chapter in whose jurisdiction such candidate may be residing or sojourning to confer the remaining degree or degrees.

When a chapter confers the degree at the request of another chapter in this jurisdiction the requesting chapter may pay to the chapter conferring the degrees five dollars for each degree conferred.

**Section 178. *Removal of Petitioner.*** When a party residing within the jurisdiction of a chapter petitions for the degrees, and his petition is received the chapter has obtained lawful jurisdiction of the same, and the subsequent removal of the petitioner into the territory of another chapter does not deprive the first chapter of its jurisdiction. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**Section 179. *Balloting on Request. Not Allowed.*** It is not competent for any chapter to ballot on a candidate at the request of another chapter.

**Section 180. *Work for Another Chapter.*** No chapter may confer the degrees for another chapter if a member of the requesting chapter shall object. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**Section 181. *May Meet in Lodge Halls.*** A chapter within this jurisdiction shall be permitted, under dispensation by the Grand High Priest, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch, or any of them, on candidates duly elected in said chapter, within any lodge hall of A.F.& A.M.

**Section 182. *Waiver of Jurisdiction.*** A chapter may, by unanimous consent, at any stated convocation waive jurisdiction over, and grant a certificate of dimission to a Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master; and such certificate will authorize him to petition any chapter in whose jurisdiction he may reside for affiliation. A chapter may not waive jurisdiction over one whose petition has been received and referred to a committee.

**Section 183. *Petitioner from Another Jurisdiction.*** No chapter in this jurisdiction shall receive the petition of an applicant for the degrees or affiliation who resides in another jurisdiction without the consent of the Grand High Priest or the Grand Chapter within whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides.

**Section 184. *Waiver of Jurisdiction.*** No chapter in this jurisdiction shall, at the request of a chapter of another jurisdiction, waive jurisdiction over an applicant for the degrees or affiliation who resides in another jurisdiction, but all such requests shall be forwarded to the Grand High

Priest, who may, upon proper investigation, grant such waiver if he is of the opinion that the interests of Capitular Masonry will be advanced thereby.

## **ARTICLE XXI**

### ***Non-Affiliates***

**Section 185. *Non-Affiliates.*** A Royal Arch Mason becomes a non-affiliate whenever he demits from his chapter.

**Section 186. *Members of Extinct Chapters.*** Members of extinct chapters who fail to obtain Grand Chapter certificates of good standing within one year after the convocation of the Grand Chapter confirming the arrest of the charter, occupy the same position as dimitted Royal Arch Masons.

## **ARTICLE XXII**

### ***Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues***

**Section 187. *Non-Payment of Dues.*** When a member shall fail to pay his dues within three months after the same become due, it shall be the duty of the secretary to notify him of such delinquency by delivering to him in person a bill for such indebtedness, or by mailing the same to him at his last known place of residence. Should the delinquent refuse or fail to pay his dues on or before the next stated convocation of the chapter, after the issuance of such notice, it shall be the duty of the secretary to notify the High Priest of such failure, who shall, in open chapter, appoint a committee to investigate the background and circumstances of the delinquent companion and report at the next stated convocation. If the companion still remains delinquent after the committee has reported to the chapter, the High Priest shall order a notice to be given the delinquent by the secretary, requiring him to appear at a specified subsequent stated convocation to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues. (*Amended 1962*)

Such notice shall be served by the secretary by delivering or mailing to the delinquent a copy of same ten days before the convocation at which he is to appear.

Should the delinquent fail to appear, his dues still remain unpaid, or the same be not remitted for good cause, or the time of payment be not extended by a majority vote of the members present, the High Priest, upon proof of notice and the fact of arrearage, shall put the question:

“Shall Companion \_\_\_\_\_ be suspended for the non-payment of his dues,” which shall be determined by paper ballot, and if a majority of those present vote “yes”, the High Priest shall declare the companion suspended until his dues are paid. (*Adopted in 1954 as Section 188, Amended 1962*)

**Section 188. *Dues, Paid Before Suspension.*** Payment of dues before the ballot is taken shall stop proceedings, and if paid within one year after suspension, shall reinstate the companion. The secretary shall report the same to the chapter, and the fact of such payment shall be noted in the records of the chapter.

**Section 189. *Dues, One Year After Suspension.*** A companion who shall remain in arrears more than one year after suspension, may be reinstated to membership by making petition for reinstatement after suspension for non-payment of dues accompanied by the payment of the annual dues for the current year. By a two-thirds favorable vote by a paper ballot cast by the companions of the chapter present at the convocation when the petition is acted upon the Royal

Arch Mason shall be reinstated to good standing. (*Amended May 5, 1994*)

**Section 190. *Suspended Member May Renew.*** A Royal Arch Mason who has remained suspended for nonpayment of dues for one year or more, and whose application for reinstatement has been rejected, may renew his application at any subsequent meeting of the chapter.

(*Amended May 5, 1994*)

**Section 191. *Committee on Petition for Reinstatement.*** The petition of a Royal Arch Mason, who has been suspended for one year or more for nonpayment of dues, shall take the same course as an application for membership. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**Section 192. *Objection to Petition Cannot be Entertained.*** Neither the high priest nor the chapter can refuse to entertain the petition for reinstatement or restoration of a Royal Arch Mason who has been suspended for nonpayment of dues.

## ARTICLE XXIII

### *Offenses*

**Section 193. *What Constitutes.*** Whatever is a breach of justice, morality, or a violation of the laws of Freemasonry, is an offense.

**Section 194. *Emblems, Illegal Use of:*** Any Royal Arch Mason who shall wear or exhibit the recognized or established badge, pin, button, emblem, decoration, insignia or charm, or any emblem, insignia, or charm representing a component part of the recognized or established badge, pin, button, emblem, decoration, insignia or charm, or shall assume or use the name or password of any of the degrees of Freemasonry (including the degrees of Capitular Freemasonry), or shall assume to be a member of any regularly organized branch or section of any of them, unless he shall be in good standing in such Masonic body so represented, or if he shall use the same fraudulently, for the purpose of obtaining money, aid, assistance, or other valuable thing, or to attend (gain admission to) a tiled session of any such Masonic body, shall be guilty of un-Masonic conduct. (*Amended May 10, 1990*)

**Section 195. *High Priest May Exclude a Royal Arch Mason.*** The High Priest has a right to exclude from the chapter a Royal Arch Mason who, by his perverseness or contumacy, may interfere with the proper working of the chapter, or disturb its harmony.

**Section 196. *Penalties, Enumeration of.*** The only penalties for offense against Masonic law and propriety are three, viz:

- A. Reprimand.
- B. Suspension to a definite period.
- C. Expulsion.

Each of which must be inflicted according to the nature and degree of the offense committed.

**Section 197. *Suspended Companion; Status at Expiration of Time of.*** The expiration of time for which a companion may have been suspended fully restores him without further action of the chapter. The secretary shall note the fact upon the records and announce the same to the chapter.

**Section 198. *Suspended Member, Dues Not Chargeable to.*** A member suspended for any cause is not chargeable with dues during suspension.

**Section 199. *Shall Not Be Published by Chapter.*** In no case shall a chapter publish the suspension or expulsion of any member.

**Section 200. *Suspension by Lodge; Effect of.*** A suspension or expulsion for any cause by a lodge of Master Masons operates as a suspension or expulsion from a chapter of Royal Arch

Masons.

**Section 200A. *When Effective.*** Such suspension or expulsion by a lodge of Master Masons shall be operative, so far as chapter membership is concerned, as of the date when at a stated convocation of the chapter an entry is made in the minutes of such convocation, based on proper information, to the effect that the companion in question has been suspended or expelled by the lodge of Master Masons of which he was a member. In cases of suspension or expulsion for un-Masonic conduct, it is hereby declared to be the duty of the officers and members of the chapter having notice, information or knowledge of the same to bring the matter to the attention of the chapter. In cases of suspension for nonpayment of dues by a lodge, the fact that the suspension was for such cause should be also noted in making the entry in the chapter minutes.

#### **ARTICLE XXIV**

##### ***Fees, Salaries and Allowances***

**Section 201. *Mileage and Per Diem.*** (Amended April 20, 1974, Amended April 29, 1975, Amended May 14, 1999, Repealed May 19, 2000)

**Section 202. *Mileage-Per Diem, How Divided.*** (Repealed May 14, 1999)

**Section 203. *Allowances: General Grand Chapter.*** There shall be paid annually to the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter such sum as may be required by the General Grand Chapter as dues, for each Royal Arch Mason borne upon the rolls of each chartered chapter of this jurisdiction as shown by the annual returns of such chapter. (Adopted in 1954 as Section 204, Amended 1962)

#### **ARTICLE XXV**

##### ***Trials***

**Section 204. *Who May Be Tried.*** A Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, or Royal Arch Mason may be proceeded against by trial, for the violation of the moral or Masonic law; the filing of charges and trial procedures shall follow that of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

**Section 205. *Penal Jurisdiction.*** A chapter has penal jurisdiction over all its members, and over all Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters where-so-ever residing.

**Section 206. *Members of Chapters in Another State.*** A companion of another jurisdiction while residing or sojourning in this jurisdiction shall not be entitled to Royal Arch comity, rights, or privileges in this state, when his business or conduct would, under the Masonic law of this jurisdiction, bar him from membership in a Missouri chapter.

**Section 207. *Trial Jurisdiction.*** A chapter has jurisdiction to try any Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, or Royal Arch Mason, affiliated, or unaffiliated, for offenses committed within its jurisdiction, but such chapter shall notify the chapter, if known, of which the accused is a member, of the pendency of the charge, and if requested so to do, within thirty days after such notice, shall transfer the case to such chapter for trial, and the case shall then proceed as though begun in that chapter. If no such request be made within thirty days, then the chapter first receiving the charge shall proceed with the trial.

**ARTICLE XXVI**  
***Miscellaneous***

**Section 208. *Begging Letters.*** No chapter in this jurisdiction shall issue or furnish letters or documents to any person whatever, to be used for begging purposes.

**Section 209. *Circular Letters.*** The issuance and sending of circular letters, applications for charity, or for donations of money for any purpose whatever, by chapters in this jurisdiction, is hereby prohibited, unless authorized by the Grand Chapter. Nor shall any chapter in this jurisdiction entertain begging circulars from other or foreign chapters, which have not approval of the Grand Chapter of this jurisdiction.

**Section 210. *Offenses Committed Before Application.*** A Royal Arch Mason cannot be tried for offenses committed before he applied for the degrees. If, however, he purposely withheld from the chapter matters that would have resulted in his rejection, if known at the time of his election, then he has received the degrees through fraud and imposition, for which offense he may be subjected to Masonic discipline. (*Amended May 9, 1998*)

**Section 211. *Jewels of Officers.*** The Jewels of the officers shall be of gold or yellow metal.

**Section 212. *Apron.*** The apron of the Royal Arch Mason is white lambskin or muslin bound in scarlet. It should be fourteen inches wide and thirteen inches deep, square at the corners with a triangular flap on which should be placed a Triple Tau, within a triangle and all within a circle. There shall be no other apron.

**Section 213. *Paraphernalia.*** Each chapter shall supply itself with the necessary paraphernalia for the proper conferring of degrees. No robes or paraphernalia used, or owned by a Royal Arch chapter, may be loaned for use, except where said robes are to be used in a tiled chapter.

**Section 214. *Triennial Fund.*** There shall be appropriated annually seven cents per member for each companion on the rolls of the Grand Chapter on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of the immediate preceding year, to be set apart as a Triennial Fund, with which to pay towards the expenses of the first three officers of the Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary, and the Past Grand High Priests in attendance.

The above listed officers and past Grand High Priests desiring to attend shall notify the chairman of the committee at least six months before the General Grand Chapter and no officer or Past Grand High Priest shall share in the fund expenses to the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter unless he shall have attended at least two of the three convocations of this Grand Chapter next preceding the said Triennial convocation.

Provided further, however, that a certified attendance of the Grand Chapter of the jurisdiction in which any Past Grand High Priest may be living outside Missouri shall be regarded as equivalent to attendance at our own Grand Chapter; providing also, however, that no officer or Past Grand High Priest shall share in the Triennial Fund if his expenses are paid by other funds in connection with the meetings of the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter; all sharing to be allotted equitably by the Triennial Committee. (*Amended May 9, 1998, Amended May 14, 1999*)

## **ARTICLE XXVII**

### ***Rituals***

**Section 215. *Rituals.*** The rituals containing the esoteric work are declared to be the property of the Grand Chapter, and no other work shall be used by subordinate chapters of this jurisdiction. Each subordinate chapter shall be entitled to receive for its use, and at its expense, receipted therefor, nine of these rituals. The Grand Secretary shall deliver the rituals to which the chapter may be entitled. Lost or missing rituals will be purchased by the chapter so that each chapter will have at all times nine rituals. *(Amended April 24, 1973, Amended May 9, 1998)*

**Section 216. *Purchased Rituals.*** In addition to the nine (9) rituals assigned each chartered chapter, said chapters or members thereof may purchase rituals at cost for each ritual from the Grand Secretary. Such purchases shall be made only through the secretaries of chartered chapters. *(Amended April 24, 1973, Amended May 9, 1998)*

**Section 217. *Who Are Entitled to.*** In addition to those specified in Section 215, each Grand Officer and each Past Grand High Priest residing in this jurisdiction shall be entitled to one copy of the ritual.

**Section 218. *Who Shall Forfeit.*** *(Repealed May 9, 1998)*

**Section 219. *Upon The Death.*** *(Repealed May 9, 1998)*

**Section 220. *Receipts for Ritual.*** A file of ritual recipients will be maintained by each chapter Secretary. *(Amended May 9, 1998)*

**Section 221. *Penalty for.*** *(Repealed May 9, 1998)*

**Section 222. *Receipts Filed.*** The Grand Secretary shall maintain a file of the distribution of rituals to the chapters. *(Amended May 9, 1998)*

## **ARTICLE XXVIII**

### ***Change of By-Laws***

**Section 223. *By Adding Section.*** Any additional section not in conflict with the provisions of these by-laws which may be deemed essential, shall be proposed in writing, read and if concurred by two thirds vote of those present shall become a part of these by-laws. *(Amended May 17, 2002)*

**Section 224. *Alteration or Repeal.*** Any alteration or proposition to amend or repeal any of the foregoing by-laws shall be reduced to writing and if approved by a majority of the members present, shall become a part of the by-laws of this Grand Chapter. *(Amended May 14, 2004)*

**Section 225. *By Revision.*** Any change in these by-laws will be changed on the proper page, and a copy of the new page will be issued to each Chapter and member who has a copy within 90 days from the date approved. *(Amended May 9, 1998, Amended May 17, 2002)*

**Section 226. *Repeal.*** *(Repealed May 17, 2002)*

**Section 227. *Timely Submission.*** Any proposed legislation to alter, amend, enact, or repeal sections of these by-laws shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee not later than thirty days prior to the Grand Session at which it is to be presented. *(Adopted May 16, 2003)*

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