

# **2023 Grand Chapter Proposed Legislation**

## PROPOSAL 1

### PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~, additions appear underlined)

**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. If nine regular Royal Arch Masons are not present, a six (6) member opening may be used to conduct business and ballot on petitions using the ritual on file with the Grand Secretary's Office. The six (6) member opening may not be used for the purpose of amending Chapter By-Laws or Degree Conferrals. (*Amended May 4, 1996, May 3, 1997*)

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** With the decline of active membership many Chapters are struggling to reach a quorum of nine (9) Royal Arch Masons to open and conduct necessary business to maintain the Chapter in a proper manner. This proposal would allow Chapters to meet in ritualistic form and conduct all necessary business.

Fraternally submitted,  
Mark A. Bean, PHP Columbia Chapter No. 17  
Kevin B. Sample, PHP Poplar Bluff Chapter No. 114

## PROPOSAL 2

### PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~, additions appear underlined)

**ARTICLE XXII, Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues, Section 187. Non-Payment of Dues.** ~~When a member fails to pay his dues on or before March 1 of each year, the secretary must notify the member in writing of his delinquency on or before March 11. If, after notice, the member fails to pay his dues on or before April 1, he is automatically suspended for non-payment of dues. The suspension should be recorded by the secretary in the minutes of the first meeting of the chapter thereafter. See Section 155E. Suspension of Dual/Plural Member for Non-Payment of Dues.~~ (Adopted in 1954 as Section 188, Amended 1962, May 15, 2013, June 10, 2021)

To:

**ARTICLE XXII, Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues, Section 187. Non-Payment of Dues.** When a member fails to pay his dues on or before February 1 of each year:

A. The High Priest shall appoint a Chapter Membership Retention Committee, consisting of no less than three (3) members who shall make direct contact with the member in question by phone or in person within thirty (30) days to discuss any potential financial hardships or other issues which may be the member's concern regarding their membership.

B. The Membership Retention Committee shall file a written report within thirty (30) days with the High Priest and Secretary indicating the contact date(s) and summary of the communication and recommendation, e.g. suspension, remission, or other arrangements to help the member retain and maintain their membership.

C. A Chapter may not act on any vote to suspend a member until the Membership Retention Committee report has been filed.

D. If, after the Report of the Membership Retention Committee has been filed, the Chapter may take whatever action is deemed appropriate. The report of the committee and the action of the Chapter shall be recorded by the secretary in the minutes. A copy of the committee report and the action taken shall be forwarded to the Grand Chapter Membership Retention Committee.

E. See Section 155E. Suspension of Dual/Plural Member for Non-Payment of Dues.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To establish a more personal communication with our membership in the form of a Masonic helping hand to help retain our members who may be in hardship or have other membership concerns but uncomfortable in voicing those concerns.

Fraternally submitted,

Mark A. Bean, PHP, Columbia Chapter No. 17

Paul L. Daniels, PHP, Nevada Chapter No. 56

Kevin B. Sample, PHP, Poplar Bluff Chapter No. 114

### PROPOSAL 3

#### PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~, additions appear underlined)

**ARTICLE IV, Grand Officers, Section 26B. Grand Officers.** The Grand High Priest fills all vacancies in the elective offices by temporary appointment, which must be approved at the next annual communication. 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.~~

**ARTICLE IV, Grand Officers, Section 26C. Grand Officers.** 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.~~

**Statement of Purpose:** The Grand High Priest should have the authority to fill any vacancy, whether appointive or elective, in order to ensure the Grand Chapter continues to run smoothly. The Grand Chapter should not have to wait until the next annual communication to maintain optimal leadership function.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin M. Ritter, PHP, Springfield Chapter No. 15