

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



REVISED MAY 18, 2007
Updated June 12, 2026

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. Schlichter, 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. A. 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. *(Amended May 14, 2009)*

Section 1. B. Nominations for Grand Master of the First Veil shall be entertained at the time called for the election of officers. Past Grand High Priests may collectively select a single individual and introduce that individual to the Grand Chapter by means of a brief, verbally presented biography. Each Chartered Chapter, legally represented and registered with the Credentials Committee, may select and introduce one Companion by means of a brief, verbally presented biography. *(Amended May 14, 2009)*

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 any member for a violation of this Constitution or the By-Laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter. *(Amended May 14, 2009)*

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 G, 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. *(Amended 5/13/2010)*

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, of a Missouri Chapter, 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. *(Amended May 9, 1998, May 15, 2008, May 14, 2014, June 8, 2017, June 6, 2019)*

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 an hour to be announced in the official notice. *(Amended May 9, 1998, May 15, 2008)*

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, April 25, 1981)*

Section 9B. Grand Historian. A Grand Historian shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest. 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. 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. The honorary title of the Grand Historian will be Very Excellent Companion or the highest honorary title held by that individual in the Grand Chapter. *(Adopted May 14, 1999, Amended June 12, 2026)*

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, May 1, 1976, April 25, 1981, 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 outlined above, District Deputy Grand High Priests, District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and any Companion having held one of those offices is “Very Excellent”. *(Amended May 15, 2008)*

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, 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 edicts and official decisions which will be in effect until the next convocation of the Grand Chapter and will expire with the completion of the installation of his successor, unless, the edicts/official decisions are presented individually and approved by a majority of the members present at the Grand Chapter convocation; it shall then become law of the Grand Chapter. *(Amended May 15, 2008)*

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.* *(Repealed June 8, 2024)*

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 Examiner, and Other Duties.* He shall appoint an examiner, whose duty shall immediately prior to the annual convocation to examine and inspect the accounts and vouchers of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and certify the facts, as found, to the Grand Chapter. *(Amended June 10, 2021)*

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, 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 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. *(Amended June 2, 2023)*

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. *(Amended June 2, 2023)*

D. *(Repealed 5/19/2011)*

E. *(Repealed 5/19/2011)*

F. *(Repealed 5/19/2011)*

G. *(Repealed 5/19/2011)*

H. *(Repealed 5/19/2011)*

I. *(Amended May 3, 1997, May 9, 1998, Repealed 5/19/2011)*

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 examiner 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, May 9, 1998, June 10, 2021)*

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 or electronic media 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. *(Amended May 14, 2015)*

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 annual return forms. *(Amended June 7, 2018)*

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.* *(Repealed June 8, 2024)*

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, May 3, 1997, Repealed May 14, 2004)*

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

C. *(Amended April 24, 1973, May 3, 1997, 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

Regional and 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 and two Regional Grand Lecturers so that one Regional Grand Lecturer would service that part of the State lying West of U.S. Hwy 63 and one Regional Grand Lecturer would service that part of the State lying East of U.S. Hwy 63. The Regional Grand Lecturers and 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. Additional duties of the Regional Grand Lecturers shall be to follow the direction of the Grand Lecturer, plan and execute ritual schools within their respective regions, and to assist and provide instruction and leadership to the District Deputy Grand Lecturers. *(Amended April 29, 1975, May 18, 2001, June 8, 2016)*

Section 35. *Ritual Committee.* The ritual committee shall be composed of the Grand Lecturer, Regional Grand Lecturers 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, May 9, 1998, May 18, 2001, June 8, 2016)*

Section 36. Annual Report. The Grand Lecturer shall make annually a report to the Grand Chapter of all official duties performed by himself, the Regional Grand Lecturers and the District Deputy Grand Lecturers, along with the actions of the Ritual Committee. *(Amended April 29, 1975, May 18, 2001, June 8, 2016)*

Section 37. Compensation. No salary will be paid to the Grand Lecturer, Regional Grand Lecturers 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, May 18, 2001, June 8, 2016)*

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.

A. Every chartered Chapter shall annually pay to the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Grand Chapter, twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents per capita for each member borne on the rolls of the Chapter, on the 31st day of December, preceding the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, plus the per capita of the General Grand Chapter. *(Amended April 25, 1981, Amended April 30, 1983, Amended April 27, 1989, Amended May 3, 1997, Amended May 17, 2002, Amended May 19, 2006, Amended May 15, 2008, Amended May 14, 2015, Amended June 8, 2016, Amended June 13, 2020)*

B. The Secretary of every Chartered Chapter will cause to be written and provided to each Companion on its rolls, including those whose dues have been remitted, 50 year members, and those that are endowed, an annual dues notice on which are written line items for the suggested voluntary contributions for the charities that are supported by the Grand Chapter. Such line items should include but may not necessarily be limited to Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) with a suggested contribution of \$3.65. The Grand Secretary will issue each Subordinate Chapter a number of Penny-a-Day stickers to affix to the dues card of each Companion that donates at least \$3.65 to RARA. Subordinate Chapter Secretaries will affix such stickers to the Companion's dues card and send it to the Companion. Checks for the contributions collected shall, in a timely manner, be issued to the Grand Chapter of Missouri, with a notation in the memo field as to its designated use. *(Amended June 7, 2018)*

C. The Secretary of every Chartered Chapter and the chairman of any committee having oversight of the receipt of charitable contributions, donations of any kind, and bequests will report to and send to the Grand Secretary a written report of such charitable contributions, donations of

any kind, and bequests so that documentation will be maintained for Missouri to receive credit for and the recognition it deserves. All checks shall be issued to the Grand Chapter of Missouri, with a notation in the memo field of its designated use. (*Amended April 25, 1981, Amended April 30, 1983, Amended April 27, 1989, Amended May 3, 1997, Amended May 17, 2002, Amended May 19, 2006, Amended May 15, 2008, Amended May 14, 2009*)

D. (*Repealed June 12, 2025*)

Section 41. Fiscal Year. The statistical year of the Grand Chapter shall end on the 31st day of December of each year, but the books and accounts of the Grand Chapter shall be closed and balanced as of May 31st. (*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 Investment Committee is authorized, for and in behalf of this Grand Chapter in such ways as, in its judgment, is prudent and adheres to sound business principles, while balancing the total return in accordance with the specific Chapter fund needs. (*Amended May 9, 1998, May 19, 2000, June 8, 2024*)

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. The Investment Committee shall be charged with the control and management of the restricted base, as designated by the Finance Committee, in such ways as, in its judgment, is prudent and adheres to sound business principles, while balancing the total return in accordance with the specific Chapter fund needs. 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, June 8, 2024*)

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.** Jurisprudence
- D.** Finance
- E.** Returns of Chapters
- F.** Time and Place (*Amended May 15, 2008*)
- G.** Education
- H.** Investments

and he may appoint such special committees as his judgment may dictate. (*Amended May 17, 2002, June 8, 2024*)

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 Committee on Jurisprudence

1. 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. *(Amended May 14, 2009)*

2. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall, from time to time, either at its own volition or upon the prompting of others, review the Constitution and By-laws paying particular attention to the omission of words or phrases, lack of capitalization, doubled wording, misspelling or other obvious error. On making such observations, the Committee shall notify the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe of its findings. On review, the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe may order that a correction(s) be made so long as the original intent or meaning of the Section (s) is not affected by the change. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall note the occurrence (s) in its annual report to the Grand Chapter and if no objection appears, such changes shall automatically be made without benefit of the presentation of a formal resolution. *(Amended May 14, 2009)*

D. The Committee on Finance and Accounts shall examine the financial statements of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Examiner'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 consisting of the Grand King, Grand Scribe and Grand Captain of the Host. Each year, the Grand High Priest shall designate one of the aforementioned three officers as the chairman for the ensuing year. All remaining elected Grand Chapter Line Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Committee. The committee shall be authorized to determine and identify the surplus funds of the Grand Chapter and make them available to the Investment Committee for placement in appropriate investments and securities. *(Amended May 14, 2009, June 10, 2021, June 8, 2024)*

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 Examiner not previously involved who shall perform a complete review 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, June 10, 2021)*

E. 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.

F. The Committee on Time and Place shall consist of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary and one designated by them as an assistant who will be empowered by this Grand Chapter

1. to establish the dates of the Annual Convocations of this Grand Jurisdiction, keeping in mind that such dates may not conflict with the dates of the Annual Conclaves of Grand Jurisdictions of the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment;

2. to investigate, locate and designate the headquarters facility and geographic location for the Grand Convocations of the Grand Chapter;
3. to solicit, receive and analyze bids for services as noted in item number 4;
4. to negotiate room rates, complimentary amenities, hospitality suites, meeting room locations (size, layout and design, furniture, appurtenances and accessories), dressing room locations, specialty services, cost of meals (breakfast, lunches, dinners, banquets as needed), and the use and rental of associated electronic equipment and media as required;
5. to enter into and negotiate contracts with facilities selected as the headquarters while keeping in mind the financial bearing of the membership and this Grand Jurisdiction;
6. to sign or otherwise execute such contracts in the name of and in the behalf of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; and,
7. to closely coordinate all efforts, discussions, visits, written communications and planning with representatives approved and designated for these purposes by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of this jurisdiction.

(Amended May 9, 1998, May 15, 2008, May 13, 2010)

G. 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.

H. The Committee on Investments will be comprised of at least three companions, preferably with a background or expertise in financial matters. One shall be the Chairman of the Finance Committee; the others who shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest. Their duties shall be to manage the surplus, foundation, endowment, and any other funds which may be allocated to them. *(Added June 8, 2024)*

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 cannot 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 demits 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. 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, June 2 2023*)

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.

A. The stated convocations of a chapter shall be at least quarterly or no less than 4 times per year, provided however, that by vote of the chapter, it may dispense with meetings during the summer months. (*Amended May 14, 2015, Amended June 12, 2025*)

B. Joint convocations by, among and between Subordinate Chapters are authorized without a formal dispensation requesting change of meeting dates, times or locations. Provided however, that the membership of each Chapter seeking a movement from its home domicile must be officially notified per **Section 90. Notice to Members.** and also assuring that prior notice is given to the Grand Secretary and the Grand High Priest (*Added May 14, 2015*)

C. Subordinate Chapters are further authorized to enter into any Symbolic Lodge in their District where a Chapter does not exist to confer degrees or for other instructional/educational purposes benefitting the Craft upon written approval from the Worshipful Master of that Lodge. (*Added May 14, 2015*)

D. Subordinate Chapters meeting under such circumstances may conduct any and all business during any joint convocation as would have been conducted had they been meeting separately and at their home domicile. Each Chapter must have at least three (3) members present, one being an officer that is qualified to open/close his Chapter in order to conduct any business other than for official visits and conferrals. (*Added May 14, 2015*)

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.* On or before December 31st of each year, Chapter Secretaries will submit to the Grand Secretary a complete list of remissions for their Chapter to include the member's full name and type of remission in accordance with Section 163. Remission of Dues. On or before February 1st of each year the Grand Secretary will provide a Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) statistical report for the previous reporting year along with an invoice for the calculated fees due the Grand Chapter. The invoice will include appropriate fees and credits. Fees shall consist of Exaltation Fees, Per Capita and any outstanding balances from the previous year's return. Credits shall consist of approved Remissions, Endowed Memberships and General Grand Chapter Perpetual Memberships as verified by the Grand Secretary, along with any overpayments from the previous year's return. A Financial Report Form and an Annual Inquiry and Examination Committee Report Form (see Section 104A. Annual Examination) will also be included as part of the Annual Return. All forms will be completed and returned to the Grand Secretary along with a copy of the latest IRS Form 990 or a copy of the acceptance of the electronic submission of a Form 990N and a check or money order for all fees due the Grand Chapter. Failure to file a complete return as provided herein shall subject the chapter to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each period of thirty days, or fraction thereof, said return is withheld. Any Chapter that does not submit a complete annual return and/or any late filing fees to the Grand Secretary's office not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter shall forfeit all rights and privileges to representation and voting at the Annual Convocation. (*Amended May 20, 2005, May 19, 2006, June 8, 2017, June 7, 2018, June 10, 2021*)

Section 104A. *Annual Inquiry and Examination.* There shall be a complete and careful examination of the financial affairs of each subordinate chapter and of its books, accounts, and vouchers of the Secretary and Treasurer and of others handling, and having in charge, money or property of the chapter. Such examination shall cover the period from the last previous examination 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 Inquiry and Examination Committee of three or more members, whose duty it shall be forthwith to examine 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 examined, 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 inquiry and examination review.

The High Priest-elect, may in lieu of an Inquiry and Examination Committee, designate any certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants to make an audit on their books, 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 inquiry and examination shall be in duplicate, in writing, and be signed by the Inquiry and Examination Committee or by the C.P.A., or firm of C.P.A.'s who made the inquiry

and examination or 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 examination completed and the report made prior to the first day of March in each year.

Said report of inquiry and examination 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 Inquiry and Examination 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, June 10, 2021)*

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 or 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, Amended May 14, 2009)*

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. *(Amended 1960, May 13, 2010)*

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 dimission 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 Dismissal, 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 dismission and still retain his membership in other chapters. Said member shall apply in writing to the chapter of “original membership” of the Certificate of Dismissal; 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 Missouri Chapter shall:
1. Notify the Grand Secretary of the suspension for non-payment of dues or otherwise, the expulsion of a dual/plural member;
 2. Notify the Grand Secretary of the reinstatement to good standing of a dual/plural member;
 3. Forward the Certificate of Dimission from chapter of “original membership” to the Grand Secretary for certification and transmittal;

(Adopted May 3, 1997, Amended June 7, 2018)

- B.** The Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Missouri shall:
1. Notify the other chapters involved of the suspension for non-payment of dues or otherwise, or the expulsion of a dual/plural member;
 2. Notify the other chapters involved that a dual/plural member has regained good standing after suspension;
 3. 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, June 7, 2018)

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. *(Repealed June 7, 2018)*

Section 159. Missouri Chapter No. 0. *(Adopted June 8, 2016)*

A. Missouri Chapter No. 0 will be formed upon adoption of this legislation by the Grand Chapter. This Chapter will function aside from the usual requirements prescribed for the issuance of a Charter.

B. Charter shall be issued to the office of Grand High Priest and be held by him while he remains in office.

C. The Executive Officers of the Chapter shall be the Grand High Priest, the Grand King, and the Grand Scribe.

D. The Treasurer and Secretary will be appointed by the Grand High Priest each year and may be reappointed to successive terms if necessary. The Treasurer and Secretary will perform duties as would be performed by a regularly chartered Chapter including the maintenance of all membership records and shall provide a written report to the Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation.

E. The territorial jurisdiction of such Chapter when formed shall be coextensive with the

territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

F. The membership shall consist of those Companions who shall have lost membership in a regular Chapter. Membership shall be transferred to Missouri Chapter No. 0 when a Chapter closes for any reason, unless by lawful consolidation with a currently existing Chapter.

G. Missouri Chapter No. 0 shall be of limited purposes only and shall have the right, power, and authority:

1. To Collect Grand Chapter per capita together with a \$ per Companion fee for expenses. Officers of the Chapter shall not be assessed per capita.

2. To issue demits and/or letters of good standing upon the request of the Companion by the authority of the Grand High Priest.

3. To have such rights and authority as may be necessary to carry on such work.

The Chapter shall not have the authority to confer degrees.

4. For the purposes of carrying out such rights, powers, and authority, it shall follow the Code of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri.

H. Neither its designation as a Chapter or its organization as such, nor the issuance of Charter shall constitute, or be construed as giving to it or any of its officers or members, any of the Masonic honors, rights, powers, privileges, or authority possessed by a Royal Arch Chapter or by any of its officers or members, except such as are already held by them by service in their former Chapter.

I. No person shall continue to be a member of Missouri Chapter No. 0 unless he is a Master Mason in good standing in a recognized, chartered Lodge of Master Masons.

J. No person may remain a member of Missouri Chapter No. 0 longer than five years after which he shall either immediately affiliate with another Chapter or request a demit. The five-year time period may be extended by the Grand High Priest upon majority vote approval of the Grand Chapter.

K. 1. Missouri Chapter No. 0 shall be empowered to hold the Charter of any Chapter whose membership is incapable of performing all of the work ordinarily expected of an active Chapter or may not completely satisfy the Code of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri but does not wish to surrender its Charter or have its Charter arrested by the Grand Chapter. The Charter would not necessarily have to be removed from the Chapter's current meeting place.

2. Such Chapter will still be allowed to hold regular meetings, receive and induct candidates, and elect officers (except Secretary and Treasurer) however, its administrative functions, i.e. files and records maintenance, funds handling, etc., will become the duty of the Secretary and Treasurer appointed by the Grand High Priest. The Chapter may have business sessions and make decisions regarding fund raising, donations, etc.

3. A Chapter falling under this section may reclaim its Charter at any future period by demonstrating to the Grand Chapter that it is once again capable of handling its own affairs.

4. Such Chapter shall provide a list of current members and officers to the appointed Secretary when requesting to fall under this section.

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 cannot 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, 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, May 2, 1991, May 5, 1994, May 14, 2004, 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 an 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 an 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 by the Investment Committee in such ways as, in its judgment, is prudent and adheres to sound business principles, while balancing the total return in accordance with the specific Chapter fund needs. *(Amended May 20, 2005, June 8, 2024)*

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. However, should a holder of an endowed certificate be reinstated in his endowed Chapter, his certificate will automatically be restored and his endowed membership returned to active status as before the suspension or expulsion. *(Amended May 20, 2005, May 15, 2008)*

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 (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Secretary. The Endowed Membership Fund shall establish as the Base Principal those funds received by the Grand Secretary from subordinate chapters for the purchase of an Endowed Membership. As new memberships are purchased the Base Principal will increase. At no time shall the fund draw down below this Base Principal. Distribution of the Investment Growth in the fund shall follow these guidelines. The Investment Committee shall, as soon as

practical after January 1 of each year, advise the Endowed Membership Committee the amount of gain or loss in the investments of Endowed Membership Fund. Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows: First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members by the Grand Chapter. Second, from the remaining funds, 30% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund and become part to the Base Principal. Third, the remaining 70% will be distributed to the subordinate Chapters on a prorated basis for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that Chapter. (*Amended May 8, 1986, May 2, 1991, May 4, 1996, May 9, 1998, May 14, 1999, May 14, 2004, May 20, 2005, June 12, 2026*)

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 an 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, May 2, 1991, 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 cannot 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 however the minimum dues of any chapter shall not be less than \$10.00 plus Grand Chapter per capita and fees in addition to per capita of the General Grand Chapter. (*Amended June 7, 2018*)

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 dismission and still retain his membership in other chapters. Said member shall apply in writing to the chapter of “Original Membership” for the Certificate of Dismission; 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. *(Amended May 19, 2011)*

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 dismission.

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 dimits 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 dimited Royal Arch Masons.

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. (*Adopted in 1954 as Section 188, Amended 1962, May 15, 2013, June 10, 2021, June 2 2023*)

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, April 29, 1975, 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 per capita, 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, except for those otherwise exempted by the General Grand Chapter in the form of remissions or General Grand Chapter Perpetual Memberships. *(Adopted in 1954 as Section 204, Amended 1962, Amended June 7, 2018)*

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. (*Repealed June 12, 2025*)

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, 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, 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.* *(Amended May 9, 1998, Repealed May 15, 2008)*

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

Section 222. *Receipts Filed.* *(Amended May 9, 1998, Repealed May 15, 2008)*

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, May 17, 2002)*

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

Section 227. *Timely Submission.*

A. 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 ninety (90) days prior to the Grand Session at which it is to be presented. *(Adopted May 16, 2003, Amended May 14, 2015)*

B. Any proposed legislation to alter, amend, enact, or repeal sections of these by-laws shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the Subordinate Chapters not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Grand Session at which it is to be presented and printed in the ***Preliminary Proceedings.*** *(Added May 14, 2015)*

ARTICLE XXIX
Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS)

Section 228. *Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS)*. MMS will be the official digital repository of all membership records of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri.

Section 229. *Use of Data/Content*. Anyone granted access will agree that the use of the data is only as intended by the MMS system. Each individual granted access to data holds a position of trust and must preserve the security and confidentiality of the information he/she uses or accesses. Users are required to abide by all applicable Federal and State guidelines and Masonic policies regarding confidentiality of data. Any individual with authorized access to data must not divulge this information outside except for approved Masonic business. You may not use or export or re-export any content or any copy or adaptation of such content, in violation of any applicable laws or regulations, including without limitation United States export laws and regulations.

Section 230. *Users Must*.

- A. Access data solely in order to perform his/her responsibilities.
- B. Not seek personal benefit or permit others to benefit personally or professionally from any data.
- C. Not permit unauthorized use of any information.
- D. Not enter, change, delete or add data to any record outside of the scope of his/her responsibilities.
- E. Not include or cause to be included in any record or report, a false, inaccurate or misleading entry known to the user as such.
- F. Not alter or delete or cause to be altered or deleted from any records, report or information system, a true and correct entry.
- G. Not release data other than what is required in completion of his/her responsibilities.
- H. Not exhibit or divulge the contents of any record or system information to any person unless it is necessary for the completion of their responsibilities.

Section 231. *Your Login and Password*. To protect the account information of our users, you are assigned a unique user name. These unique identifiers are disclosed only to you. You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your account and password and for restricting access to your computer, and you agree to and accept sole responsibility for any and all activities that occur under your account or password. You agree to notify the Grand Secretary immediately of any unauthorized use of your account or password, or any other breach of security. However, you may be held liable for losses incurred to the system or any other user of or visitor to the site due to someone else using your user login and password.

Section 232. *High Priest Responsibilities*.

- A. Shall ensure the utilization of MMS to manage all membership records of the Chapter in a timely manner.
- B. May designate one Information Technology (IT) Representative to assist with managing a chapter's membership records and will comply with **Section 233. *Chapter Secretary Responsibilities***.
- C. Shall notify the Grand Secretary immediately of any changes to the office of Secretary or IT Representative in order that old accounts may be deactivated, and new accounts established.

Section 233. *Chapter Secretary Responsibilities*.

- A. Shall take and be familiar with any training offered by the MMS Administrators and the Grand Secretary's office in order to be able to utilize all aspects of the MMS system.

B. Shall be responsible for maintaining all chapter membership records in MMS, making necessary changes within 30 days of their occurrence.

C. Shall annually, within 30 days of the installation of officers, update the list of officers of the Chapter.

D. *(Repealed June 12, 2026).*

E. Shall submit to the Grand Secretary a list of all remissions for the reporting year by December 31 each year. Remissions shall include member's full name and type of remission, i.e., Health/Other, or 50-Year Member. Failure to submit remissions list to Grand Secretary by the due date will negate any credits for remissions in the Annual Return calculations for the reporting year.

Section 234. Grand Secretary Responsibilities.

A. Shall manage and monitor all user accounts, coordinating with System Administrators for all activations and deactivations in a timely manner.

B. Shall annually, within 30 days of the installation of officers, update the list of grand officers of the Grand Chapter.

C. Shall report to the Grand High Priest any deficiencies in utilization of MMS by any Chapter.

D. Shall run an Annual Statistical Report for each Chapter immediately following the close of the reporting year.

E. Shall generate a bill for each Chapter based on the Annual Statistical Report of each Chapter, and which shall include all applicable credits and debits, in accordance with **ARTICLE XII, Chartered Chapters, Section 103. Annual Returns.**, presenting said bill to the Chapter Secretary no later than February 1.

F. Shall not allow any prior year corrections in a billing cycle due to the failure of any Chapter Secretary or IT Representative to manage and maintain their membership records.

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STANDING RESOLUTIONS

**Standing Resolution No. 0
Adopted May 16, 2003**

It was moved by REC Walter W. Doyle and seconded by EC James A. Nunn that MEC Robert R. Anderson, Jr., Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Minnesota, member in good standing of Vincil Chapter No. 110, be granted membership in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri and entitled to the rights and privileges thereof as outlined in the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, Article III, Section 1, subsection (3).

**Standing Resolution No. 1
Repealed June 8, 2024**

**Standing Resolution No. 2
Adopted May 14, 2004**

Palmyra Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons

Historical

Palmyra Chapter No. 2, R.A.M. received its original charter from the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, September 14, 1838. A second charter was granted from the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, State of Missouri, in 1848.

Palmyra Chapter No.2, R.A.M. was one of the organizing chapters of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, State of Missouri.

Palmyra Chapter has been in a state of disarray for several years. Because of its historical significance, we feel it must be preserved.

Proposal

It is proposed that Palmyra Chapter No. 2, R.A.M. be given a research and an educational function. We propose that it become a storehouse for Royal Arch and York Rite educational material to be distributed to Master Masons in the State of Missouri. The educational material would include not only printed papers but also videos and films. It could also be a source of historical documents (old charters, seals and other pertinent files). Another valuable application would be a provision for Royal Arch references such as the Denslow collections of books and pamphlets and for other collections written by other Missouri Masonic authors.

A possible home for this material might be within the proposed Library of the Missouri Lodge of Research to be located in Columbia.

It is also proposed that a governing body of Palmyra Chapter No. 2 be composed of the Past Grand High Priests of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, State of Missouri. A line of succession would start with the current senior Past Grand High Priest. Committee members would also be selected from that pool of senior Past Grand High Priests. The current Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary could function in their respective capacities to provide administrative expertise.

An annual meeting hour could be at a time during the Grand Chapter session. A separate account would be established by the Grand Treasurer for Palmyra Chapter No. 2. Current members would be grandfathered in a current dues structure. New members will be: 23 Past Grand High Priests, to become Life Members of Palmyra Chapter No. 2 at cost of the Grand Chapter; current Grand High Priest, life membership paid by the Grand Chapter of Missouri upon his taking office;

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Honorary Memberships to be sold for \$50.00; Life Memberships to be sold for \$500.00. Current cost to Grand Chapter would be \$12,000.00.

Membership will receive quarterly newsletter, certificate of membership, and a dues card. Life Members will receive one time issue of credit card style dues card with picture and current Grand Chapter title. Replacement cards will be charged at cost.

Details of operation and precise functions remain to be developed.

Request

It is urged that the Grand Chapter membership consider this proposal and join us in creating a living memorial in behalf of those who founded and served Palmyra Chapter during the past 166 years.

Standing Resolution No. 3 Adopted May 14, 2004

Whereas, the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Masons of the State of Missouri, PHA has existed in the State of Missouri since 1872, having initially been chartered by the Pennsylvania Jurisdiction, and does profess to adhere to Masonic principles and ideas similar to those of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri,

And Whereas, the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri has existed in the State of Missouri since 1846,

And Whereas, each of the said Grand Chapters desire to remain autonomous within its Jurisdiction and to operate hereafter with its own Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Officers, Constitution, By-Laws, Ritual, Rules and Regulations, Subordinate Chapters, and Membership,

And Whereas, both Grand Chapters desire to fraternally recognize the other as a duly constituted Masonic Grand Chapter,

And Whereas, this resolution will not become effective until approved by each Grand Chapter at their respective Annual Sessions,

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that it is mutually agreed that we will dwell together in Peace and Harmony; each Grand Chapter does hereafter extend Fraternal Recognition to the other as a duly constituted Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and do, in the true spirit of Love, Peace, and Unity hereby accord to the other rights of Visitation in Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters, wheresoever assembled, subject always to the Rights, Powers, and Authority of the Grand High Priests and the High Priests of the Subordinate Chapters to preside over their respective Grand Chapters and Chapters.

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**Standing Resolution No. 4
Adopted May 20, 2005**

Whereas the Companion whose name appears below has served this Grand Chapter with integrity, distinction, and honor, and

Whereas his expertise in his adopted profession is above reproach, and

Whereas his leadership in his adopted role has provided much needed guidance to his post as well as to this grand body and its individual members, and

Whereas this Companion has dedicated a great deal of his own personal time and life to this grand body, and

Whereas this individual has dedicated a goodly portion of his personal resources to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri without remuneration or just compensation, and

Whereas neither the Constitution or the By-Laws of this Grand Chapter contain any provision for such an honor,

Therefore, per Article VIII, Powers and duties of the Grand Chapter, Section 1.9 of the Constitution, and Article II, Grand Officers, Section 11, Titles, and Article III, Powers and Duties of the Grand High Priest, Section 25, Miscellaneous Powers of the Grand Chapter, I proposed that Right Excellent Companion Kevin B. Sample be elevated to the Rank of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. I furthermore propose that he be invested with the Honorary Title of Most Excellent Companion and be entitled to all the rights and privileges attached thereto.

**Standing Resolution No. 5
Adopted May 20, 2005**

Whereas the Companion whose name appears below has served this Grand Chapter with integrity, distinction, and honor, and

Whereas his expertise in his adopted profession is above reproach, and

Whereas his leadership in his adopted role has provided much needed guidance to his post as well as to this grand body and its individual members, and

Whereas this Companion has dedicated a great deal of his own personal time and life to this grand body, and

Whereas this individual has dedicated a goodly portion of his personal resources to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri without remuneration or just compensation, and

Whereas neither the Constitution or the By-Laws of this Grand Chapter contain any provision for such an honor,

Therefore, per Article VIII, Powers and duties of the Grand Chapter, Section 1.9 of the Constitution, and Article II, Grand Officers, Section 11, Titles, and Article III, Powers and Duties of the Grand High Priest, Section 25, Miscellaneous Powers of the Grand Chapter, I proposed that Right Excellent Companion Donald L. Trabue be elevated to the Rank of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. I furthermore propose that he be invested with the Honorary Title of Most Excellent Companion and be entitled to all the rights and privileges attached thereto.

**Standing Resolution No. 6
Repealed May 14, 2009**

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**Standing Resolution No. 7
Repealed May 14, 2009**

**Standing Resolution No. 8
Repealed May 14, 2015**

**Standing Resolution No. 9
Adopted May 15, 2008**

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion James M. Williams is a strong, resolute, and reliable York Rite Mason, and

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion Williams has, over many decades, demonstrated his love for the Royal Arch, and

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion Williams was elected by his fellow companions to serve as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri for the Capitular year 1985-1986, and

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion Williams is well beloved by all of his companions, and

Whereas, the General Grand Chapter honored Most Excellent Companion Williams for his many services with one of its highest decorations, and

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion Williams was elected as Grand Historian of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri and served with distinction in that post for a number of years, and

Whereas, he has, with regret, retired from that post,

Be It Therefore Resolved, that Most Excellent Companion James M. Williams be recognized by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri for all time as Grand Historian Emeritus with all the rights and prerogatives thereunto appertaining.

**Standing Resolution No. 10
Adopted May 17, 2012**

Whereas, Right Excellent Companion Claude M. Eckert, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri 2011-2012, has served the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri with particular dedication and sense of responsibility, and

Whereas, his admirable and self-sacrificing example of honor and courage, placing the welfare of the Order above all personal ambition, will remain in perpetuity an inspiration to all who wear the apron of Missouri Capitular Masonry,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Right Excellent Companion Claude M. Eckert be invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

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**Standing Resolution No. 11
Adopted May 15, 2013**

Whereas, our Companion is highly respected in the annals of Freemasonry, internationally, nationally, and within the Grand State of Missouri; and

Whereas, our Companion has served this Grand Chapter with respect and notoriety; and

Whereas, our Companion has offered his expert opinion and counsel to the Jurisprudence Committee of this Grand Chapter and its Officers for many years; and

Whereas, his guidance and knowledge of our laws and those of the Grand Lodge of Missouri has, on numerous occasions, averted potentially grievous situations; and

Whereas, he has made the decision to relinquish his position on this Committee;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Excellent Companion Stanton Thayer Brown, Past High Priest, from this point forward, be received, honored, recognized, and acknowledged as a Grand Chapter of Missouri Jurisprudence Committee Member Emeritus and an ex-officio member of that Committee into perpetuity. From the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri for your service above and beyond the call of duty and your tireless labors for the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

**Standing Resolution No. 12
Adopted June 8, 2017**

Whereas, pursuant to Article VIII, Powers of the Grand Chapter, Section 1, ...And finally, it may consider and do whatever it may regard as necessary or appertaining to the well-being and perpetuity of Royal Arch Masonry in the State of Missouri, and

Whereas, our Symbolic Lodges in the State of Missouri can submit for an award to be received at the Grand Lodge Session when they increase their membership by 5%, and

Whereas, it is appropriate and furthers the growth of Royal Arch Masonry in Missouri in recognizing and honoring Chapters that have increased their membership,

Now Be It Resolved, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry in Missouri create Chapter Growth Awards to be presented at the Annual Grand Convocation for Chapters that have increased their membership by 5%, 10%, and 15% during the year. The award to be a printed Certificate to be signed by the Grand High Priest and the Grand Secretary, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry should also recognize by a similar Certificate the Chapter that has increased its membership by the largest percentage during the year.

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**Standing Resolution No. 13
Adopted June 13, 2020**

Whereas, Right Excellent Companion Dan Gene Daniel, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri 2010-2020, has served the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri with particular dedication and sense of responsibility for many years, and

Whereas, Right Excellent Companion Daniel most assuredly would have progressed to the office of Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter for the 2020-2021 year, and

Whereas, he was taken from us and passed to his eternal home on July 12, 2019, and

Whereas, his admirable and self-sacrificing example of honor and courage, placing the welfare of the Order above all personal ambition, will remain in perpetuity an inspiration to all who wear the apron of Missouri Capitular Masonry,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Right Excellent Companion Dan Gene Daniel be posthumously invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

**Standing Resolution No. 14
Adopted June 9, 2022**

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion Kevin Brian Sample has served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri from 2001 through 2009 and again since 2014, and

Whereas, Most Excellent Companion Sample has announced his retirement from the office of Grand Secretary on June 9, 2022,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Most Excellent Companion Sample be elected Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri.

**Standing Resolution No. 15
Adopted June 8, 2024**

Whereas, Right Excellent Companion John Samuel Lambros, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri 2023-2024, has served the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri with particular dedication and sense of responsibility for many years, and

Whereas, Right Excellent Companion Lambros most assuredly would have progressed to the office of Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter for the 2024-2025 year, and

Whereas, he was taken from us and passed to his eternal home on November 15, 2023, and

Whereas, the Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri will forever remember fondly his friendship, his kindness, his infectious joy and laughter, and his incredible sense of duty to the Craft, and

Whereas, his admirable and self-sacrificing example of honor and courage, placing the welfare of the Order above all personal ambition, will remain in perpetuity an inspiration to all who wear the apron of Missouri Capitular Masonry,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Right Excellent Companion John Samuel Lambros be

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posthumously invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

Standing Resolution No. 16

Whereas, Excellent Companion William Gene Snyder has served the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri with particular dedication and sense of responsibility for many years, and

Whereas, Excellent Companion Snyder continued his Masonic service and was advanced to the office of General Grand Master of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International, and

Whereas, he has done much to advance the aims and preserve the traditions of York Rite Masonry, and

Whereas, his international service has reflected admirably on the Grand York Rite of Missouri, and

Whereas, his admirable and self-sacrificing example of honor and courage, placing the welfare of the Order above all personal ambition, will remain in perpetuity an inspiration to all who wear the apron of Missouri Capitular Masonry,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Excellent Companion William Gene Snyder be invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

Standing Resolution No. 17

Therefore, be it resolved, that Right Excellent Companion Donald MacCormick be invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.