

CODE of LAWS
AND REGULATIONS

Of the

GRAND COUNCIL
Of
CRYPTIC MASONS

Of the

STATE OF IDAHO

Revised 1992
Updated April 2026

Preamble

The Grand Council of Idaho does possess the inherent power to form a Constitution as the fundamental law of its Masonic actions and to enact such bylaws and regulations from time to time as it may deem necessary and proper for its own government and the guidelines of its Constituent Councils to ensure the general good of the craft. The Grand Council does therefore adopt and enact the following Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations for the government of Cryptic Masons in the Constituent Councils of the State of Idaho, superseding any prior enactments.

SEAL
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL
OF
CRYPTIC MASONS OF IDAHO



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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name and Scope

- Section 1. This body shall be known as the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Idaho
- Section 2. Its jurisdiction shall be coextensive within the limits of the State of Idaho.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- Section 1. This Grand Council shall be composed of the following officers:
- Most Illustrious Grand Master
 - Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master
 - Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
 - Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
 - Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
 - Illustrious Grand Chaplain
 - Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
 - Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
 - Illustrious Grand Steward
 - Illustrious Grand Sentinel
- (Updated April 2018)

All Past Illustrious Masters of this jurisdiction, while they are members of any Constituent Council within this jurisdiction, and the Dais Officers (or their proxies) of every Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council shall be members of and voting delegates of this Grand Council.

- Section 2. No one shall be eligible to any office of the Grand Council unless he is a member of this Grand Council at the time of his election or appointment, excepting such officers as Grand Chaplain, Grand Historian and Grand Organist. (See Article X, Section 5)

ARTICLE III

Annual Assembly

- Section 1. The Grand Council shall hold its Annual Assembly at such time and place as shall be determined by a majority vote of its voting delegates in Annual Assembly and in accordance with the provisions of its Bylaws. This vote shall normally be, but not

limited to, the vote to approve the report of the Time and Place Committee. (NOTE: See Article VIII, Section 2, and Article XII, Section 15a.)

ARTICLE IV

Quorum and Voting

- Section 1. A quorum of this Grand Council shall consist of three Constituent Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction.
- Section 2. On all questions to be decided by the Grand Council, each Constituent Council shall be entitled to three votes, one by each of its Dais Officers or their proxies. The Grand Officers, and Permanent Members, when present, shall each have one vote.

ARTICLE V

Powers of Grand Council

- Section 1. The Grand Council shall have the exclusive control and government of all Constituent Councils of this Jurisdiction.
- Section 2. The Grand Council shall watch over and protect the interests of Cryptic Masonry in the State of Idaho and shall settle all difficulties which may arise and be referred to it and shall give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to the peace, advancement and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in its original integrity.
- Section 3. The Grand Council shall have the power and authority to enact such laws and regulations as may be necessary for the government of Cryptic Masonry and shall have absolute authority and control of the Cryptic Rite within this Grand Jurisdiction, including the form and substance of the Rituals used in conferring the Cryptic Degrees of Masonry, to-wit: Royal Master and Select Master, together with the Degree of Super Excellent Master.

ARTICLE VI

Powers of Grand Council Officers

- Section 1. The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall have and enjoy the rights and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution, usages and customs of the Craft and all other powers conferred by the decisions of the Grand Council. (See Article XI, Section 2)
- Section 2. The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall have power and authority to grant Dispensations for new Councils of Cryptic Masons.

- Section 3. It is the duty of all Grand Council Officers to attend all convocations of this Grand Council to which summoned and to faithfully discharge the duties required in their charge of installation and as prescribed by law. (See Article XI, Section 5)
- Section 4. In the case of death or inability to act of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the powers and duties of his station shall for the time being, devolve upon the Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master and Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work in the order named. In case of the inability to act of the three principal Grand Officers, the Junior Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of this Jurisdiction, who is a member in good standing of this Grand Council and is willing to serve, shall in like manner assume the powers and duties of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
- Section 5. Except as limited in Article II, Section 2, all vacancies shall be filled by the Most Illustrious Grand Master for the time being. The office of the Most Illustrious Grand Master is never vacant.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

- Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Stated Assembly of this Grand Council by a two-thirds vote of the members present if the Constituent Councils have been apprised in writing of the proposed amendment sixty days before the Stated Assembly.

BYLAWS GRAND COUNCIL

PART ONE

Preamble

The Grand Council of the State of Idaho does ordain and establish these Bylaws to enforce the provisions of its Constitution, define the duties of officers and committees, and regulate and direct the Constituent Councils of this Jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VIII Assemblies

- Section 1. The Assemblies of the Grand Council are either ‘Annual or Special’.
- Section 2. The Annual Assembly of this Grand Council shall be held during the Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, or Saturday afternoon preceding the third Sunday in the month of April and the hour of meeting shall be not later than 9:00 A.M. for morning sessions or 1:30 P.M. for afternoon sessions. If this Friday/Saturday falls on Easter weekend, the Annual Assembly may be moved one week earlier or one week later to avoid the conflict. If conditions prevail making it impossible or impracticable to hold the Annual Assembly at the appointed time and place, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may declare an emergency to exist. He may then order the elective Grand Council Officers and committees on Finance and Jurisprudence to convene at a time and place designated by him. Providing he and one other dais officer, the Grand Recorder/Treasurer and two members of each of the aforementioned committees and a quorum are present, they may transact the usual business of the Annual Assembly excepting the election of officers. (NOTE: See Article III, Section 1, and Article XII Section 10a. (Updated 2009), becomes effective with the Grand Assembly held in 2011.) (Updated April 2014)
- Section 3. If conditions arise making it illegal, impossible, or impractical to hold a Stated Assembly, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may declare an emergency to exist. He may then order the Elective Grand Officers and Committees on Finance and Jurisprudence to convene at the time and place designated by him. They may transact the usual business of the Stated Assembly except election of officers.
- Section 4. A Special Assembly may be convened by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or in his absence, or disability by the presiding officer for the time being, whenever in his opinion, the welfare of the Craft shall require it. The call for a Special Assembly shall state the object thereof so far as it is proper to be written. Due notice of the

Special Assembly shall be given to each Constituent Council of time and place, and no business shall be transacted except as specified in said notice.

ARTICLE IX

Representation and Votes in Grand Council

- Section 1. All Past Illustrious Masters of this Jurisdiction, while they are members of any Constituent Council within this Jurisdiction, and the Dais Officers (or their proxies) of every Constituent Council under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Council are entitled to one vote each.
- Section 2. A companion holding a proxy may vote the proxy in addition to his own vote.
- Section 3. A companion holding a proxy of one or more of the officers of his Council must be a member of that Council or the proxy is invalid.
- Section 4. A regular officer of a Council takes precedence over the proxy of a higher officer.
- Section 5. In case of a tie vote, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may cast the deciding vote even though he may have previously voted.
- Section 6. The personal appearance at Grand Council of any Dais Officer of a Constituent Council, who has been represented by proxy, shall revoke that proxy and the officer shall act on his own behalf during the time he shall be present.

ARTICLE X

Election, Appointment and Installation of Grand Council Officers

- Section 1. A majority of all votes cast at any election of officers shall be necessary to elect.
- Section 2. There shall be elected by ballot at each Stated Assembly from the Companions who are eligible by law to vote, officers with rank as follows:
- A Most Illustrious Grand Master
 - A Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master
 - A Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
 - A Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
 - A Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
- Section 3. (a). *The Most Illustrious Grand Master-elect shall appoint the following Grand Council Officers who shall be installed for the ensuing year:

Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council

For purposes of a traditional “progressive line”, the Grand Council “line” shall consist of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Captain of the Guard and Grand Conductor of the Council. (See ARTICLE X, Section 7)

(b). The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint the following Grand Council Officers to serve as officers during his term. These officers shall be installed and shall serve as officers only for the term of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and are not part of any line. Any companion in good standing who is a member of the Idaho Grand Council may serve as one of these officers as designated by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, including a Past Illustrious Grand Master.

Illustrious Grand Chaplain
Illustrious Grand Steward
Illustrious Grand Sentinel* (April 2023)

- Section 4. All elected officers of the Grand Council shall be installed annually and perform their respective duties until their successors in office are duly elected and installed. No elective Grand Council officer shall be installed by proxy.
- Section 5. No companion shall be elected to any office of the Grand Council who is not a past or present Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council of this Jurisdiction, excepting the offices of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer. (See Article II, Section 2.)
- Section 6. No more than two (2) of the following: The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master and the Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work may be elected from the same Constituent Council.
- Section 7. All appointive officers of the Grand Council shall hold office at the pleasure of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
- Section 8. Installation of the Grand Council officers shall be the last order of business of the Stated Assembly. Officers not installed at that time may be installed in a Constituent Council by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his authorized deputy. (See Section 9, this Article.)
- Section 9. At the pleasure of the newly elected Most Illustrious Grand Master, the installation of the Grand Council Officers may be public and held soon after the close of the Grand Council Assembly.
(Updated April 2018)

ARTICLE XI

Powers and Duties of Grand Council Officers

Section 1. In addition to the powers and duties outlined in Article V of this Constitution, Grand Council Officers will perform duties specifically, but not limited to, the following.

Section 2. The Most Illustrious Grand Master has power to:

- a. Grant petitions for Dispensations such as are not contrary to this Code of Laws. They are to be numbered in the order granted and so identified in his address to the Stated Assembly.
- b. Command all other members of the Grand Council regarding their official duties and claim their assistance at any time on matters pertaining to the Craft.
- c. Suspend the functions of any Constituent Council or Officer thereof until the next Stated Assembly of the Grand Council.
- d. Convene any Constituent Council of this Jurisdiction and preside therein, inspect its work and proceedings and require a strict conformity to the laws and established customs of the Craft.
- e. Appoint all Committees of the Grand Council whose selection is not otherwise provided for in this Code of Laws, and to designate the Chairman. (See Article XII, Section 1.) Change to Section 2.
- f. Discharge all necessary executive functions of the Grand Council when it is not in session.
- g. Present at each Annual Assembly a written address detailing an account of his official acts during the year, and such other reports and recommendations as he may deem necessary.

Section 3. The Grand Treasurer shall:

- a. Have charge of all funds and securities of the Grand Council and keep all funds in some secure bank in the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho.
- b. Attend all Assemblies of the Grand Council held for the transaction of business and, when required, meet with Grand Council Officers and Committees with his books and all necessary documents relating to his office.

- c. Make a written report at each Stated Assembly and when requested to do so by the Most Illustrious Grand Master as to the condition of the finances.
- d. Receive all monies belonging to the Grand Council from the Grand Recorder, keep an accurate account thereof, and pay the same out by authority of the Grand Council.
- e. Present vouchers with his Annual Report for all money paid out during the year.
- f. Turn over to his successor in office all funds, and securities belonging to the Grand Council.

Section 4. The Grand Recorder shall:

- a. Record the proceedings of the Grand Council.
- b. Receive all funds belonging to the Grand Council from any source, pay them over to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore.
- c. Keep suitable books pertaining to his office and countersign all checks signed by the Grand Treasurer for funds paid out by authority of the Grand Council.
- d. Receive and preserve all returns from Constituent Councils and make a report thereon at each Stated Assembly.
- e. Preserve applications and other documents of importance; sign, certify and seal all documents emanating from the Grand Council; and conduct the correspondence of the Grand Council under direction of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
- f. Report annually to the several Grand Councils in correspondence with this Grand Council the names and addresses of the Grand Council Officers elected.
- g. At each Stated Assembly make a report of the financial condition of the Grand Council and of the dedicated funds, of failures on the part of Constituent Councils to make returns and pay dues and assessments as required, and such other matters as may require attention of the Grand Council.
- h. Prepare a financial statement of receipts and disbursements for the immediate past fiscal year, a statement of revenues received the first 60 days of the present fiscal year along with a proposed expense budget for the next fiscal year for the general and dedicated funds of the Grand Council. This statement is to be in the

hands of the Chairman of the Finance Committee 10 days before the date of the Stated Assembly.

- i. Furnish each Constituent Council with *their completed Annual Returns with the exception of Page 2, which the Council will complete. The Annual Returns will be reviewed and completed by the Recorder. If any changes are required, they will be reported in an updated Monthly Report for which the action happened. When the Council returns the Annual Returns, a signed hard copy is not required.* (2021)
- j. Furnish each Council under Dispensation with blank forms and instructions for making their returns and petitioning for a Charter.
- k. Receive for his services such compensation as the Grand Council may direct.
- l. Have custody of the paraphernalia of the Grand Council.
- m. Arrange for electronic media and limited printed distribution of the Proceedings of the Grand Council by October 1st following the Grand Assembly.
- n. Perform such duties as the Grand Council may require from time to time.
- o. *Within sixty days after the close of the Annual Assembly, prepare a new soft copy of the Code of Laws, have it posted to the Grand York Rite Web Site and notify each Constituent Council and Grand Council Officer that the updated Code of Laws is online.* (2021)

Section 5. All Grand Council Officers shall perform the duties that by usage and law pertain to their respective officers, and such other duties as the Grand Council may order.

ARTICLE XII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. (a) Immediately after the Most Illustrious Grand Master has been installed, he shall appoint the following Committees: (S = Standing, J = Joint and A = Assembly) (*If needed)

*Appeals & Grievances – S	3 members
CMMRF – S	2 members
Finance – S	6 members
Jurisprudence -S	3 members
Long Range Planning -S	3 members
Membership – S	3 members
Courtesy & Acknowledgement – J	2 members
Broken Triangle – J	1 member
Financial Review – J	1 member
Prepaid Life Membership & Investments – J	1 member
Time & Place – J	Deputy Grand Master
Awards – A	4 members
Credentials – A	2 members
Distinguished Guests – A	2 members
Tellers – A	3 members

(b) The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint at least one companion to each Joint York Rite Committee.

(c) The Grand Recorder shall be ex-officio on all committees.

(d) All Joint, Standing and Assembly Committee Reports, with the exception of the Jurisprudence, (Final Report) Credentials, Distinguished Guests, Courtesy and Acknowledgement and Tellers Committee shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Recorder no later than 1 March. The Committee Reports for Jurisprudence (Final), Credentials, Distinguished Guests, Courtesy and Acknowledgement and Tellers shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Recorder no later than 15 May. (April 2017)

Section 2. Where appointments to committees are for more than one-year progressive terms, appointments for lesser length of term will be made to fill such vacancies as needed. (See Article XI, Section 2f.)

Section 3. The Jurisprudence Committee shall be appointed to three-year progressive terms. It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine and report upon all questions of Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, the status of membership, conflicts of opinion and appeals and grievances, which may be referred to them for action or opinion and all actions and

Recommendations of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. A separate Jurisprudence Partial Report will be submitted concerning any Resolutions submitted for consideration at the Annual Assembly.

Section 4. The Long-Range Planning Committee shall consist of three members on progressive terms. This committee shall develop and implement a Plan of Action for the Grand Council moving forward. The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master and Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall be ex-officio members.

Section 5. The Finance Committee shall consist of two members with the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work, Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer and Right Illustrious Grand Recorder.

a. It shall be the duty of this Committee to prepare the following:

Proposed Budget for the following fiscal year.
General Fund Per Capita tax
Host Council Assembly expense
Grand Assembly Gratuities Policy
Dedicated Fund Appropriations

b. Make a report of its findings and proposals, in writing, to the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

c. Review all non-budgeted item requests and provide a recommendation to the Most Illustrious Grand Master. If approved, notify the requestor and include this expenditure in the Finance Committee Report.

Section 6. The Financial Review Committee shall audit the financial accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder within sixty days after the close of the calendar year and report in writing to the Grand Council at the next Stated Assembly. A financial review will also be conducted of the Grand York Rite Sessions Account, to be completed no later than 30 June following the Annual Assembly and a written report made at the next Annual Assembly.

Section 7. The Prepaid Life Membership and Investment Committee shall have custody of these Prepaid Life Membership funds. The Grand Treasurer and one additional member shall represent the Grand Council on this Joint York Rite committee.

Section 8. The Membership Committee shall encourage an increase in membership of the Constituent Councils through programs, training, activities and education.

Section 9. The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation Committee (CMMRF) consists of the Grand Illustrious Deputy Master and the Council Deputy Masters. They shall provide information on CMMRF to the constituent members and recommend donating to this cause. The Session Report shall contain the donation amounts of each Council to determine the per-capita amounts. The Council having the highest per-capita donation will be presented the David H. Volkman CMMRF Award.

Section 10. Time and Place Committee

a. The Time and Place Committee shall confer with the Time and Place Committees of both the Grand Chapter and the Grand Commandery to determine a mutually agreeable location at which the Annual York Rite Sessions will be held each of the following two years. It shall be within the purview of the Time and Place Committee to solicit or reject an invitation from any Constituent Council to host the Grand York Rite Sessions. (NOTE: See Article III, Section 1.)

b. To promote peace and harmony, interest and attention, the Grand York Rite Bodies of Idaho shall adhere to the following rotation of meeting schedule, which will repeat every three years, until changed by joint action of the Grand Bodies.

In 2026, a joint business session of the Grand York Rite Bodies will be held on Friday morning with the Grand Chapter in charge, the Grand Chapter will meet on Friday afternoon, the Grand Council will meet on Saturday morning and the Grand Commandery will meet on Saturday afternoon.

In 2027, a joint business session of the Grand York Rite Bodies will be held on Friday morning with the Grand Council in charge, the Grand Council will meet on Friday afternoon, the Grand Commandery will meet on Saturday morning, and the Grand Chapter will meet on Saturday afternoon.

In 2028, a joint business session of the Grand York Rite Bodies will be held on Friday morning with the Grand Commandery in charge, the Grand Commandery will meet on Friday afternoon, the Grand Chapter will meet on Saturday morning, and the Grand Council will meet on Saturday afternoon.

Section 11. The Broken Triangle Committee shall present memorials to deceased Companions of this and other Grand Jurisdictions.

Section 12. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may appoint Special Committees whenever deemed necessary and specify their duties.

Section 13. The Credentials Committee shall report on membership in attendance from time to time during the Assembly of the Grand Council. This committee shall submit a report listing all voting delegates.

Section 14. The Distinguished Guests Committee shall welcome and introduce visitors and examine and report upon such visitors as required and prepare a written report.

Section 15. The Courtesy Acknowledgement Committee shall prepare separate acknowledgements expressing gratitude for any special favor or kindness received by the Grand Council during the past year from individuals or organizations. These will be prepared for the signature of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. The Committee will prepare a written report expressing appreciation for various services, gifts and kind acts of expression to the Grand Council and its members during the Assembly.

Section 16. The Tellers Committee shall tally all ballots and report the results to the Grand Council.

Section 17. The Awards Committee shall consist of the three Dais Officers and Grand Recorder to determine the recipients of:

The Cryptic Mason of the Year Award from Constituent Council nominations.

The Adult Youth Leadership Award from Constituent Council nominations.

Membership Award to the Constituent Council who has made the greatest net gain in membership during the prior year.

The David H. Volkman CMMRF Per-Capita Award will be awarded annually to the Constituent Council that has contributed the most money per-capita during the Grand Council's calendar year.

ARTICLE XIII

Grand Council Assembly Expense

- Section 1. Lodging and meals for invited guests shall be provided by the Grand Council in accordance with the published Gratuities Policy in effect at the time.
- Section 2. There shall be appropriated from the General Fund each year not more than the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to assist the host Council to defray actual expenses of the Annual Assembly.
- *Section 3. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master and the Grand Principle Conductor of the Work shall set the Registration Fee and the Gratuities Policy reimbursement costs.* (2021)

ARTICLE XIV

Dedicated Funds

- Section 1. The Grand Council shall maintain certain dedicated funds to accomplish necessary operating expenses.
- a. The monetary contributions of the Constituent Councils shall be determined by the Finance Committee on a per-capita basis with the approval of the Grand Council.
 - b. Expenditures from the dedicated funds may be authorized by either the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Committee on Unfinished Business, Bylaws requirements or the Grand Council.
 - c. Monetary transfers from dedicated funds for other purposes shall not be made unless by resolution passed by two-thirds vote of the Grand Council.
- Section 2. Triennial Session of the General Grand Council.
- a. The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and Grand Recorder/Treasurer are the delegates from this Jurisdiction to the Triennial Session of the General Grand Council. (Updated 2009)
 - b. Should any Past Most Illustrious Grand Master have been unable to attend the triennial Session during his term, he may attend the next following session as an added delegate and shall enjoy all of the privileges accorded to other delegates.

- c. To the extent of funds accumulated in the Triennial Fund, delegates in attendance shall receive up to the sum of seven-hundred-fifty (\$750) dollars each but not to exceed actual expenses. (Updated 2009)
- d. Annual per-capita assessments will be made, payable with Annual Returns of Constituent Councils, to defray as far as possible the expenses of the delegates in attendance. The amount shall be such as is determined from time to time by the Grand Council on recommendation of the Finance Committee.

Section 3. A Bylaws Printing Fund shall provide for correction sheets as needed to update this Code of Laws.

Section 4. An Apron and Jewel Fund shall provide for the purchasing and maintenance of the Grand Council aprons, apron cases, jewels, and jewel cases along with necessary assembly paraphernalia.

PART TWO

Pertaining to the Government of Councils

ARTICLE XV

Councils

- Section 1. All lawful assemblies of Cryptic Masons are called Councils and every Council under this Jurisdiction shall, when at labor, display the Square and Compasses on the right side of the open Holy Bible.
- Section 2. Every Constituent Council of Cryptic Masons under this Jurisdiction must have a Dispensation or Charter, duly issued by authority of this Grand Council, and any Council or Assembly of Cryptic Masons not complying with the foregoing provisions is hereby declared irregular. All Masonic intercourse or communication whatever, either public or private, with any member thereof is hereby strictly forbidden under penalty of expulsion.
- Section 3. Every Constituent Council of Cryptic Masons under this Jurisdiction must have the following officers who are elected and installed annually:
- Illustrious Master
 - Deputy Master
 - Principal Conductor of the Work
 - Treasurer
 - Recorder
- Constituent Councils may combine the office of Treasurer with that of the Recorder by making proper provision in their Bylaws.
- Section 4. Every Constituent Council of cryptic Masons under this Jurisdiction must have the following appointive officers who are installed annually:
- Captain of the Guard
 - Conductor of the Council
 - Steward
 - Sentinel (See Article XXI, Section 3)

ARTICLE XVI

Councils – How Organized

- Section 1. A petition for a dispensation to organize a Council must be signed by at least nine regular Royal and Select Masters. The fee for such dispensation shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25), which must accompany the petition.

- a. The petitioners must submit evidence of good standing, which may be a Demit from a Council or a current Certificate of Good Standing from his Council Recorder.
- b. The petition must name the town in which it will be located and place of meeting.
- c. The petitioners must certify that they will conform to the orders of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master and Code of Laws of the Grand Council.
- d. The petition must name the Companions and office to be held for the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work.

Section 3. When a Charter has been issued to a Council under Dispensation, such Council cannot lawfully meet as such until it has been duly constituted, and the officers named in the Charter installed.

Section 4. All expenses incurred by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his proxy in constituting a Council and installing its officers shall be paid by the Council receiving the services.

ARTICLE XVII

Chartering Councils

Section 1. Charters shall be granted only by the Grand Council at its Stated Assembly.

Section 2. The Grand Council may grant a Charter for a Constituent Council provided the petition for Charter meets the following qualifications:

- a. Is signed by at least nine Select Masters who were named in the Dispensation or were greeted by its authority together with such others as shall have received the unanimous consent of the Council to join the petition and submit their Demits.
- b. Propose a name for the New Council.
- c. Is accompanied by a fee of Twenty-Five Dollars.
- d. The Petition for Charter is signed by the full name of the petitioners.
- e. Gives the names and offices of the Companions selected for the elective offices.

- Section 3. When a Charter has been issued to a Council under Dispensation, such Council cannot lawfully meet as such until it has been duly constituted, and the officers named in the Charter installed.
- Section 4. All expenses incurred by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his proxy in constituting a Council and installing its officers shall be paid by the Council receiving the services.

ARTICLE XVIII

Charters

- Section 1. Chartered Constituent Councils, who perform Cryptic work in good and ancient form, adhere to their own and Grand Council's Code of Laws, are represented at each Stated Grand Assembly, and submit their Annual Returns and per-capita tax each year may enjoy continued independence of operation.
- Section 2. It is not in the power of a majority of the members of a Constituent Council to surrender its Charter so long as nine or more of its members continue to meet and work under it.
- Section 3. The Grand Council may suspend the Charter of any Constituent Council that:
- a. Fails to meet for twelve months.
 - b. Fails, for the period of two consecutive years, to be represented at Annual Assembly.
 - c. Fails to remit Annual Returns for two consecutive years.
 - d. Fails to remit per-capita tax for two consecutive years.
- Section 4. When the Charter of a Constituent Council is surrendered or arrested, or the Council otherwise dissolves, the status of all members not transferring membership to another Council in a merger shall be that of non-affiliated Cryptic Masons. The Council Recorder shall forward to the Grand Recorder a certified list of all members either in good standing or the amount of dues and assessments owing by each at the time of demise. It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to issue to each of such members a certificate stating his Masonic Standing, which certificate shall be recognized as a Demit provided it states that he is in good standing. If good standing may be restored by payment of delinquent dues and assessments, said dues and assessments may be paid to the Grand Recorder who will then issue a new certificate.

- Section 5. When a Charter shall become lost, destroyed, or defaced and unfit for use, it shall be lawful for the Most Illustrious Grand Master to order another to be issued. It shall set forth the members and officers in the original Charter, the Assembly at which it was granted, and the names of the Grand Council officers attached thereto. It shall be signed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and attested by the Grand Recorder under the Seal of the Grand Council. There will be no fee.

ARTICLE XIX

Jurisdiction

- Section 1. The Jurisdiction of the several Constituent Councils shall extend to a line drawn equal distance between them, respectively, except when otherwise prescribed by the Grand Council.
- Section 2. No Council shall have the right to receive Petitions for cryptic Degrees or confer the Council Degrees upon one whose place of residence is within the Jurisdiction of another Council, without first obtaining the consent of such Council.

ARTICLE XX

Election, Appointment and Installation of Officers

- Section 1. The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer and Recorder shall be elected by ballot at the first Stated Assembly in November of each year. (April 2022)
- Section 2. If so specified in the Council's Bylaws, the offices of Treasurer and Recorder may be combined. (April 2022)
- Section 3. All other officers shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master-elect at any time before installation.
- Section 4. All elections for officers of a Constituent Council must be by ballot, and a majority of the votes cast is necessary to elect.
- Section 5. All officers of Constituent Councils will continue in the discharge of the duties of their respective stations until their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed and installed except as provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- Section 6. A Dispensation to hold a special election for officers in case of a failure to elect at the specified time must be secured from the Most Illustrious Grand Master
- Section 7. The installing officer must be a present or past Illustrious Master.

- Section 8. All officers elected or appointed must, in all cases, be regularly installed before exercising any of the functions of their offices. A re-elected Illustrious Master may hold over without installation. All others must be installed.
- Section 9. All installation ceremonies must be held on or before December 27th, except by Dispensation, but not before the completion of the Annual Stated Assembly as required by their Bylaws.
- Section 10. Elected officers shall not be installed by proxy.
- Section 11. Immediately after the installation of its officers for the ensuing year, the Recorder of each Constituent Council shall submit a Report of Officers Installed, on a form furnished by the Grand Recorder.

ARTICLE XXI

Powers and Duties of Constituent Council Officers

- Section 1. The Illustrious Master of every Constituent Council has it in special charge, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the Constitution, Code of Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council, as well as the Bylaws of his own Council are strictly observed, that all officers and members of this Council perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry, and that the ceremonies of his Council are performed with due order and solemnity.
- Section 2. The Illustrious Master has power to, but is not limited to the following functions:
- a. Convene his Council at his pleasure and preside over all Assemblies, unless superseded by an officer of the Grand Council.
 - b. To appoint all appointive officers and committees and to remove them at his pleasure.
 - c. To suspend from office any officer of his Council for un-Masonic conduct.
 - d. To exclude any visitor whose presence is objected to by a member of his Council present at the Assembly.
 - e. To discharge all the executive functions of the Council.
- Section 3. In the absence of the Illustrious Master, the Deputy Master will take the chair, and in the absence of the Illustrious Master and Deputy Master, the Principal Conductor

of the Work will preside. However, either of the above-named officers may waive his right to preside in favor of any experienced Past Illustrious Master present. In the absence of all three of the above-named officers, the Junior Past Illustrious Master present shall preside. (Revised 2016).

Section 4. Should the Illustrious Master resign or decline to be installed, the Deputy Master will succeed to the duties and rank of Illustrious Master.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive from the Recorder all money paid into the Council, keep an accurate account thereof, and pay the same out by authority of the Council.

Section 6. The Recorder shall:

- a. Receive all monies paid into the Council and pay the same over to the Treasurer.
- b. Ensure that accurate records of the Council are regularly kept.
- c. Answer communications from any recognized Masonic Body concerning the standing of a member of the Council.
- d. Submit properly completed Annual Returns to the Grand Recorder, including the payment of annual dues and assessments, on file in the office no later than February 15th of each year, on forms furnished by him. Delinquent returns shall be accompanied by a fine of \$25.
- e. Monthly Returns – Whether any Assemblies are held or not, a monthly return of the Council membership statistics for the previous month shall be filed in the office of the Grand Recorder on forms furnished by him. The monthly report shall contain the information required on the form and shall be filed electronically or postmarked between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.
- f. *To send a copy of the IRS Acknowledgement of 990 tax filing to the Grand Recorder no later than 30 days after the Annual 990 Filing.* (2021)

Section 7. All Council Officers shall perform their duties as prescribed in their charge at installation, and such other duties as the Illustrious Master may direct.

Section 8. The associations of Masonry being voluntary, it is the right of a Council officer to resign his office, in which case the Illustrious Master may fill such vacancy by appointment. (See Section 4 of this Article)

ARTICLE XXII

Vacancies in Office

*Section 1. In case of the death, removal from office by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the Illustrious Master, the Deputy Master shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Deputy Master or his advancement as above provided, the Principal Conductor of the Work shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Principal Conductor of the Work, or his advancement as above provided, the office shall be vacant and the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall issue a dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In case of like disability of all three officers, a dispensation may be issued for special election to fill the vacancies and any others which may result there from, pending which the Junior Past Illustrious Master able to serve shall act as Illustrious Master. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient and may issue a dispensation to fill any vacancy. (*April 2023)

ARTICLE XXIII

Assemblies

- Section 1. All Assemblies of Constituent Councils are either Stated or Called. Stated Assemblies are those provided for at fixed periods in the Bylaws of the Council. Called Assemblies are those convened by the Illustrious Master. All business must be transacted in an open Council of Select Masters. (See Section 6 of this Article)
- Section 2. No business can be transacted at a Called Assembly except that for which it is convened. Resident members must be notified of such meeting and its purpose, either in person or through the mails.
- Section 3. A Council duly opened cannot be called off to meet on some subsequent day but must be regularly closed.
- Section 4. Every Council should meet for work at least once in every three months; but in no case shall a Council fail to meet for an entire year without risk of forfeiting its Charter, unless by Special Dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master. (See Article XVIII, Section 3)
- Section 5. Councils may hold their assemblies at any Masonic Temple within the confines of their Jurisdiction, except the annual meeting which must be held at the seat of the Charter. They may convene an Assembly outside of their Jurisdiction only with

permission of the Grand Council or Dispensation by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Section 6. A Council may open a Stated or Called Assembly for the transaction of business jointly with the Royal Arch Chapter and/or Knights Templar located within its Jurisdiction with the following provisions:

- a. Members of the Chapter or Commandery may be admitted.
- b. The Council will rotate with the other bodies the Chairing of the Business Meeting and the Ceremonies of Opening and Closing in full form, less the Secret Work.
- c. The Illustrious Master may declare the Council open for business when not in the Chair.
- d. The Illustrious Master may call for the division of the persons present and again present the Questions to Council Members, if an objection appears on a vote concerning Council Business or a combined ballot for York Rite Degrees. After division, when balloting, the Illustrious Master will begin an original ballot according to Article XXV, Section 6)
- e. The Council Recorder shall keep a separate record of Council Minutes and Actions.

Section 7. Quorum Requirements

- a. A quorum to open a Council for the transaction of business including balloting shall consist of at least four members of that Council, and having 2 other Companions, for a total of 6, using the 6-Man Opening. The Council may not confer degrees when opened in this manner. (Revised 2013)
- b. A quorum to open a Council for all purposes shall consist of at least five members of that Council, having four other Companions, for a total of nine. The full form opening must be used. (Revised 2013)
- c. Requirements of a proper quorum include the Officer entitled to congregate the Council and members of that Council must be in good standing. Those other Companions may be members of another Council recognized by the Grand Council of Idaho. (Revised April 2013)

Section 8. Voting, unless restricted to balloting, will be taken by show of hands and a majority vote will decide the question. A vote by ballot can in no case be reconsidered, except on petitions. (See Article XXV, Section 6)

- Section 9. When the Stated Assembly shall fall on a legal holiday, or the day preceding or following such holiday, or upon the date set for the Annual Sessions of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Idaho, the Northwest York Rite Conference or the Annual Sessions of the Grand Lodge of Idaho, A.F.& A.M., or any scheduled Grand Lodge District meeting, i.e., District Deputy Meeting and Spring Educational Meeting, the Illustrious Master of a Council may advance or postpone the date of such Stated convocation without dispensation, provided, that all resident members of the Council are notified in writing at least ten days prior to such changes. (Added 2013)

ARTICLE XXIV

Degrees and Rules

- Section 1. The degrees recognized by the Grand Council are as follows:
First – Royal Master
Second – Select Master
Third – Super Excellent Master, an appendant degree.
Each degree must be conferred in the sequence enumerated.
- Section 2. The ceremonies and rituals used in conferring the several degrees of the Council, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies, are those arranged, endorsed, and adopted by the Grand Council for the use of the Constituent Councils of this Jurisdiction, and no other ritual or ceremony shall be permitted.
- Section 3. It is permissible for the Companions' ladies and guests to witness the drama section of the appendant degree of Super Excellent Master.
- Section 4. Should any Constituent Council be found violating any of the provisions of this Article, it shall be the duty of the Most Illustrious Grand Master to arrest the Charter and suspend the functions of such Council until further ordered by the Grand Council.
- Section 5. The several degrees of Cryptic Masonry shall not be conferred for a less aggregate sum than fifteen dollars.
- Section 6. Constituent Councils are forbidden to refund any portion of the fee to a Companion, either directly or indirectly, except as provided in Article XXVI, Section 4c)
- Section 7. Constituent Councils may confer the same degree on more than one person at a time.
- Section 8. No Council Degrees can be conferred upon one who is not at the time a member in good standing in a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

ARTICLE XXV

Membership

- Section 1. A Companion receiving the degrees of Royal and Select Master becomes a member of the Council electing him to the degrees and by whose right they are conferred.
- Section 2. A Constituent Council can legally admit to membership a Companion from another Council who shall produce satisfactory evidence that he has paid all dues and demands against him in the Council of which he was last a member, and at his own request demitted there from, or present a Certificate of Good Standing, in letter form, over the seal of the Council of which he is a member.
- Section 3. Dual Membership may be had in any Constituent Council. Dual membership may be held in this jurisdiction or with any other Grand Jurisdictions that also allow it.
- Section 4. A Constituent Council may grant a prepaid life membership to a Companion in good standing in this Grand Jurisdiction as required by the Bylaws of the Council.
- Section 5. A Council may confer the distinction of Honorary Membership upon such affiliated Companions, not members of the Council conferring the honor, as may have merited the same by long or eminent service to the Craft.
- a. This membership is merely complimentary and does not confer the right to vote nor any rank or standing in the Council.
 - b. The suspension, expulsion or demission of such member from Cryptic Masonry will in all cases, terminate such honorary membership.
- Section 6. No member can forfeit his membership or right to vote in a Council merely by operation of law, but only by a vote on the Council after due notice and investigation into the merits of the case.
- Section 7. A Companion who shall have attained fifty years of membership in any Council of Cryptic Masons will be eligible for election in his Council as a Fifty-Year Member, and after election receive his Fifty-Year Card, Certificate and Pin. (See Article XXVIII Section 2 (c). (April 2024)
- Section 8. A Companion in good standing, upon written application, is entitled to a Demit.
- a. The granting of a Demit severs the connection of the Council with the Companion and cannot be reconsidered at any time.

- b. A Council shall not issue a duplicate Demit, but upon satisfactory proof of loss or destruction may issue a certificate setting forth that a Demit was issued at a certain time.

Section 9. Any member of a Constituent Council of this Grand Council shall be considered to be in good standing in that Council if he is not under any sentence of Suspension or Expulsion and is current in his dues.

Section 10. A Council shall issue a Certificate of Good Standing, which shall be a form provided by the Grand Recorder, to any Council member who is in good standing in that Council, and who shall have requested that such a Certificate be issued to him. Such Certificate shall clearly show the date to which the member's dues are paid.

ARTICLE XXVI

Petitions and Actions Thereon

Section 1. All applications for degrees, affiliation and reinstatement shall be by petition in writing on forms approved by the Grand Council.

Section 2. A petition for degrees must be signed by the full name of the applicant and vouched for by two members of the Council to which the petition is presented.

- a. A petition may be received from a Master Mason in good standing who has applied for the degrees in a regularly constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. (See Article XXIII Section 8)
- b. The petition must be presented to the Council who has jurisdiction over the petitioner's place of residence. One Council may request, in writing, a Waiver of Jurisdiction from another Council. Otherwise no other Council may receive the petition.
- c. No petition for the degrees in the Council shall be received from a person who has been rejected by another Council, without the consent of such Council unless one year shall have elapsed since the date of such rejection.
- d. The York Rite Unified Petition for the York Rite Degrees may be used as an option by Constituent Councils.

Section 3. A petition for affiliation must be signed by the full name of the petitioners and recommended by two members of the Council to which the petition is presented.

- Section 4. The Council, on receiving a petition, shall refer it to a committee of three of its members who shall know or personally interview the petitioner, and shall report their recommendation in writing.
- a. All petitions for membership shall be voted upon by ballot.
 - b. Any petition for membership regularly received and entered in the minutes cannot be withdrawn.
 - c. If a petition is rejected, either by ballot, objection or otherwise, any and all fees paid to the Council shall be fully and immediately returned to the petitioner.
 - d. A ballot for degrees or affiliation must be unanimous and every member present must vote unless excused by the Illustrious Master.
- Section 5. A ballot for degrees or affiliation must be unanimous and every member present must vote unless excused by the Illustrious Master.
- a. On a unanimous clear ballot, the prayer of the petitioner shall be granted.
 - b. Should only one negative vote appear, the Illustrious Master shall cause another ballot to be immediately taken. If then, one or more negative votes appear, he shall declare the applicant rejected.
 - c. Petitions may be balloted on collectively, provided, should one or more negative votes appear, the Illustrious Master orders a ballot to be taken on each petition separately.
- Section 6. After a petitioner is declared rejected, his case cannot be brought before the Council again except by petition, as in the first instance, and when received, must lie over for consideration until the next Stated Assembly of the Council.
- Section 7. If, after a petitioner has received a clear ballot and before the degrees have been conferred, the Illustrious Master becomes satisfied that the petitioner is unworthy, he shall arrest the progress of the petitioner. If an objection by any member of the Council, either in open Council or in writing, is made before the degrees have been conferred, it shall arrest the progress of the petitioner and shall have the same effect as a negative ballot. Such objection shall be recorded in the minutes as an objection, but the name of the objector shall not be recorded.

ARTICLE XXVII

Right to Visit

- Section 1. The right to determine upon the propriety of admitting a visiting Companion is the prerogative of each and every Constituent Council in this Jurisdiction. No visitor

can, therefore, be admitted into a Council while any member present objects. Nor can the objecting member be required to state his reasons therefore but may do so if he chooses.

- Section 2. It is the duty of every Cryptic Mason to be a member of some Council, and to obey the laws and regulations thereof. Councils may, therefore, deny to unaffiliated Companions the privilege of visiting a Council or joining in the public processions of the Craft.

ARTICLE XXVIII

Council Revenues

- Section 1. No Council shall confer the degrees of Cryptic Masonry upon anyone for a less sum than fifteen dollars, at least ten dollars, of which must accompany the petition. The balance, if any, is to be paid previous to receiving the Super Excellent Master Degree.
- Section 2. Every Constituent Council is required to assess and collect from its members such regular quarterly or yearly contributions as shall be necessary to pay the Grand Council dues and defray the expenses of the Council.
- a. A Constituent Council has no authority to levy a tax or assessment upon its members other than the regular dues provided for in its Bylaws.
 - b. All such assessments of dues must be provided for in the Bylaws of the Council.
 - c. Fifty-Year members, after election, are relieved of all dues and assessments. Councils shall not be required to pay per-capita dues on elected Fifty-Year members.
- Section 3. Any Companion whose dues are in arrears for two years shall be dropped from the rolls without further action by his Council.
- a. The Recorder shall notify such Companion in writing to his last known address, of the provisions of this Section at least thirty days preceding the time of his being dropped from the rolls.
 - b. Within one year from the date of being dropped from the rolls, a Companion may be reinstated by payment or remission of all dues accrued, including those accrued since being dropped from the rolls.
 - c. After a lapse of more than one year since he was dropped, a Companion must petition for reinstatement.

ARTICLE XXIX

Annual Returns

- Section 1. Each Constituent Council shall submit to the Grand Recorder, on forms provided by him, Annual Returns which shall include its per-capita tax and assessments.
- Section 2. Failure of a Constituent Council to file with the Grand Recorder its Annual Returns and pay its per-capita tax and assessments on or before the fifteenth day of February, shall subject the Council to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25), which must accompany the returns when submitted.
- Section 3. Failure of a Constituent Council to file its Annual Returns and pay its per-capita tax and assessments on or before ten days prior to the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council shall subject the Council to the additional penalty of suspension of its Charter at the discretion of the Grand Council.
- a. The delegates of any Constituent Council that shall fail to submit its Annual Returns and pay its per-capita tax and assessments before the opening of the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council shall be denied representation in Grand Council.
 - b. Any Constituent Council that shall fail to submit its Annual Returns and pay its per-capita tax and assessments prior to ten days before to the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council for two consecutive years shall forfeit its Charter. A Charter when so forfeited can only be restored by the Grand Council.
- Section 4. Should the Charter of any Constituent Council become forfeited or stricken, for any cause, from the rolls of the Councils, the funds, jewels, furniture, property and other effects, including books and records, shall become the property of the Grand Council.
- a. The Most Illustrious Grand Master, or such Companions as he may appoint, shall take possession of and hold the same for the benefit of the Grand Council.

PART THREE

ARTICLE XXX

Penal Code

- Section 1. If at any time a Constituent Council shall deem it necessary to institute trial of a member for some Masonic offense, the Penal Code of this Code of Laws shall govern such trial so far as the provisions shall pertain. Otherwise, the trial commission shall look to the Code of Laws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Idaho, and then to the Laws of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Idaho, which shall be the final authority regarding the point at issue.
- Section 2. Communicating the penal proceedings of a Constituent Council to persons not Royal and Select Masters is a high offense against that particular Council and the proprieties of the Craft.
- Section 3. Should any member attempt to arrest the legitimate work of his Council, disobey the Illustrious Master, or persist in disturbing the harmony of the Council, he will thereby render himself subject to Masonic discipline.
- Section 4. Any member who shall fail to pay his dues at the time provided for in the Bylaws of his Council may be suspended until such dues are paid or remitted by the Council.
- Section 5. Constituent Councils, at their own option, may give notice of suspension or expulsion of a member to other Councils and shall notify appropriate Commanderies.
- Section 6. The suspension or expulsion of a member, for any cause, shall preclude all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry regarding that member except the right of that member to seek reinstatement or restoration by a lawful means.
- Section 7. The penalties for offenses against Masonic law and Propriety are four:
Reprimand
Suspension to a definite time
Suspension indefinitely
Expulsion.
- Penalties must be imposed by the Council finding a Companion guilty of the offense according to the nature of the offense committed.
- Section 8. A reprimand shall not be given until the alleged offender has had due notice and an opportunity for explanation or excuse. A reprimand shall not be given by anyone

but the Illustrious Master, in the manner and form he may deem proper, in private, or in open Council from his appropriate station.

- Section 9. Restoration after a definite suspension shall take place at the expiration of the time specified in the sentence without further action.
- Section 10. Indefinite suspension may be caused by non-payment of dues and restoration will be governed by this Code of Laws. (See Article XXVIII, Section 3)
- Section 11. Expulsion by a Lodge of Masons or a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons carries the same penalty in the Council. Adoption by the Council of such action shall be sufficient without the formality of a trial by the Council. If a requisite Masonic body initiates and imposes a penalty and it is reported to the Council, a similar penalty shall be entered upon the minutes, and the member notified to the last or best known address of the member.
- Section 12. No Companion can be reprimanded or suspended (except for non-payment of dues), or expelled by any Constituent Council for any cause whatever except upon written charge and specifications and due notice of the time and place of trial, except in cases where the accused may be absconded before service of notice.
- Section 13. A Companion, who for any cause may have been suspended by a prerequisite Masonic Body and subsequently restored by that Body, is restored to good standing in his Council, and the Recorder shall enter it in the minutes and notify the member.

ARTICLE XXXI

Appeals

- Section 1. All appeals shall be in writing and filed with the Grand Recorder, and the appellant shall give the other party reasonable notice thereof.
- Section 2. The right of appeal to Grand Council from the decisions of Constituent Councils is vested in the accused, any member of the Council under whose auspices the trial was held, or a member of the same Council as the accused.
- Section 3. In case of appeal, the Constituent Council shall furnish the Grand Council and the accused with an attested copy of its proceedings of the trial and such testimony in its possession as they may require.

PART FOUR
ARTICLE XXXII
Combined Grand Sessions

- Section 1. It shall be permissible for the Grand Council to enter into an agreement with the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Idaho and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Idaho to hold joint Annual Sessions for the conduct of business, reception, and for the appointment and reports of similar committees as may be beneficial to the bodies.
- Section 2. With the request of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the concurrence of a majority of the Grand Council members present in Assembly, the Annual Grand Assembly may be combined with the other York Rite Grand Bodies as “Combined Grand York Rite Sessions”, and conducted under a mutually agreed-to “Regulations of Agenda for Combined Grand York Rite Sessions.”
- a. The Grand Commandery and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons also agree to the “Regulations of Agenda for Combined York Rite Session.”
 - b. The Grand Council may withdraw from the Combined Sessions at any time on due notice of six months or more by action of the Grand Council in Assembly.
- Section 3. Approval of amendments to the Regulations of Agenda for Combined York Rite Sessions may be made in Combined Sessions with the reservation of the right of the Illustrious Grand Master or Grand Assembly to veto should the action be injurious to Grand Council authority and independence.

ARTICLE XXXIII
Amendments

- Section 1. These Bylaws *and Regulations* may be altered, amended, or repealed at any Annual Assembly of the Grand Council by being proposed in writing, and filed with the Grand Recorder on or before the fifteenth day of December next preceding the Annual Grand Assembly. The amendments will be referred to the Constituent Councils on or before the first day of February and to the jurisprudence Committee at least 30 days prior to the Annual Assembly. The Jurisprudence Committee will report on the Amendments at the Annual Assembly and then concurred in by a *2/3 vote for Bylaws and* majority *vote for Regulations* of the members present. *(2021)

Section 2. An altered, amended, new, or repealed Bylaw *or Regulation* acted upon at any Annual Assembly becomes effective, as acted upon, at the close of that Annual Assembly, except that by unanimous vote of the delegates present, it shall become effective immediately. *(2021)

REGULATIONS

REGULATION 1. York Rite Endowment Fund.

The York Rite Endowment Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund, is established as a fund wherein interested persons or groups may make donations, bequests, contributions, gifts and trust or other proceeds in the form of money, property, stocks, bonds, real estate, life insurance proceeds or other instruments.

- a. The principal of this Fund shall be irreducible except in case of dissolution of the Fund as provided in part I of this Regulation.
- b. The interest income from the Fund shall be transferred at least annually, not later than January 31 of each year, to a separate account designated THE YORK RITE OBJECTIVES ACCOUNT, from which the objectives and purposes selected by the Trustees of the Fund will be funded.
- c. The objectives and purposes of the York Rite Endowment Fund are to:
 - (1) Assist all of the Constituent York Rite Bodies of the State of Idaho in meeting increased costs, such as per-capita taxes and assessments.
 - (2) Financially assist special projects and other needs of the Bodies.
- d. The York Rite Endowment Fund, including the York Rite Objectives Account shall be controlled and administered by a Board of Trustees which shall be composed of the members of the York Rite Investment Committee. Distribution of funds from the York Rite Objectives Account shall be wholly at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, who shall review all applications for disbursements and make appropriate awards which shall qualify for the purposes of the Fund.
- e. Division of the distribution of net interest income from the Fund shall, unless otherwise committed, be made according to the ratio of each Grand Body's membership to the total membership of all three Grand Bodies.
- f. A complete report of the Fund's activities, including a financial report, shall be prepared and presented at the Annual Grand York Rite Sessions.
- g. Any contributor to the Fund may designate that the income from such contribution be distributed according to the contributor's wishes. Any contribution may be refused if the Board of Trustees, in their opinion, cannot reasonably comply with the contributors wishes.
- h. Monetary assets of the Fund shall be invested by the Board of Trustees in interest bearing and/or dividend paying accounts with the following restrictions:

- (1) All investments shall qualify under the Idaho Prudent Man Rule as specified by the Idaho Code.
- (2) Corporate Bond investments shall qualify as 'investment grade' as specified in the Standard and Poors Bond Investment Quality Standards ratings.
- i. If the Grand York Rite Bodies of Idaho should cease to exist, the last surviving Body, before surrendering its charter, shall divide and disburse the assets of the Fund and the Objectives Account equally to the surviving York Rite charities, to wit: The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Royal Arch Research Assistance Program and the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation.

REGULATION 2. General Grand Council Life Membership. The Grand Council of Idaho will pay *the current amount prescribed* to obtain General Grand Council Perpetual Life Memberships for the Non-Fifty-Year Companions of this Grand Council. Each succeeding year, the Grand Council will purchase a General Grand Council Perpetual Life Membership for each newly Greeted and/or Affiliated Companion. *(2021)

REGULATION 3. Prepaid Life Membership and Investments

Section 1. A Companion in good standing in any Constituent Council of this Grand Jurisdiction may become exempt from paying the annual dues as required by the Bylaws of his Council, and a Constituent Council may grant Prepaid Life Membership to a qualified Companion subject to the provisions of this Article.

Section 2. A Companion may, with his current dues paid, purchase a Prepaid Life Membership by submitting a written request to his Council with a sum equal to twenty-one years annual dues in effect at the time of purchase.

- a. *Additions.* Voluntary additions of funds to a Prepaid Life Membership may be added at any time.
- b. *Dispatch of Funds.* All funds received by the Council under Section 1 and Section 3 shall be deposited in its own account. A Council check for the full amount and the proper form shall be transmitted to the Grand Recorder who will forward the check to the Secretary of the York Rite Investment Committee for investment only.
- c. *Installment Purchase.* Each Council is authorized to establish a policy for purchasing Prepaid Life Memberships on the installment plan which, at the time of purchase, conforms to the single payment requirements.

- d. *Council Ownership.* Any sums remitted for Prepaid Life Memberships shall remain the property of the last Council in which a Companion's membership was held and that Council shall continue to receive the annual revenue from that investment.
- e. *Not refundable.* Neither the total purchase amount for a Prepaid Life Membership, nor the revenue derived from its investment, is transferable to any other Grand Jurisdiction under any circumstances and is not refundable to the purchaser for any reason.
- f. *Transfers.* A Prepaid Life Member may transfer his membership by affiliation with any Constituent Council in this Jurisdiction. If such transfer requires funds in addition to those he has already paid, to equal twenty-one times the current annual dues of the new Council, and if the member wishes to continue his Prepaid Life Membership, he shall submit to the new Council the additional funds. He may also elect to pay the regular dues of the new Council until such time as he may choose to submit the additional funds and continue his Prepaid Life Membership. In any case, his Prepaid Life Membership shall become the property of his new Council and any revenues derived there from shall accrue to and be regularly paid to his new council. If his petition is rejected, any funds tendered with the petition shall be returned to the petitioner.
- g. *Involuntary Transfer.* If a transfer of membership is not voluntary and is required because of the surrender, revocation, arrest or annulment of the Charter of the Council, each Prepaid Life Membership of the extinct Council must petition some other Council within six months. If the petitioned Council elects by majority vote, it may remit a part or all of any additional funds required by Section 2f above.
- h. *Consolidation.* In the case of the consolidation of Councils, all Prepaid Life Members become Prepaid Life Members of the consolidated Council without added funds being required.
- i. *Notify Trustee.* When a Prepaid Life Member transfers to another Council, his new Council Recorder shall notify the Secretary of the Investment Committee and the Grand Recorder of the affiliation. The original sum and any additional sums paid shall be transferred and credited to the Council with which he affiliates.
- j. *Loss of Standing.* A Companion who loses his rights and privileges by suspension, expulsion, loss of Dual Membership, or good standing in a prerequisite order loses his Prepaid Life Membership status. Such loss must be promptly reported to the Grand Recorder.
- k. *Restoration.* A Companion who once held a Prepaid Life Membership, who lost his good standing, and is restored in his former Council

according to Masonic Law shall have his Prepaid Life Membership also restored.

1. *Demit.* A Companion holding a Prepaid Life Membership, who demits from his Council, loses his Prepaid Life Membership status at the time the Demit is issued. An affiliation by Demit in all cases shall be considered a transfer. (See Section 2f above)

Section 3. The Grand Council shall design and provide dues cards (receipts) for Prepaid Life Members.

- a. *Dues.* The earnings of the Prepaid Life Membership of the Companion each year will be the annual dues of the Companion for that year.
- b. *Cards.* The Grand Recorder of the Grand Council shall furnish, to each Constituent Council Recorder, Prepaid Life Membership dues cards for each Prepaid Life Member annually as well as dues cards to new prepaid Life Members, transfers or restorations during the year.
- c. *Transfers.* When a Prepaid Life Member of a Constituent Council transfers to another Council within this Grand Jurisdiction, he shall immediately deliver his previous card to the Recorder of the Council with which he has affiliated. The Grand Recorder shall issue him a new and current dues card.
- d. *Lost Cards.* Should the dues card of a Prepaid Life Member become lost or destroyed, such member shall declare the loss in a signed statement to the Recorder of the Council to which he belongs. The Grand Recorder shall immediately re-issue a new dues card.

Section 4. A Permanent Memorial Fund shall be established for each Constituent Council to which additions may be made at any time in any amount by gift, bequests, memorials and Council contributions.

- a. *Trustee.* The York Rite Investment Committee will be the trustee of the Permanent Memorial Fund.
- b. *Additions.* Additions to the Permanent Memorial Fund, except as provided below, shall be made by the Council to the Secretary of the Investment Committee, stating the amount and source of the funds.
- c. *Ownership.* All additions to the Permanent Memorial Fund remain the property of the Constituent Council making the addition.
- d. *Not Refundable.* Voluntary deposits to the Permanent Memorial Fund are not refundable.

- e. *Operation Expense.* There is to be no “Cost of Administration” deducted from the revenue earned by the Permanent Memorial Funds.
- f. *Earnings.* The Council earnings from the Permanent Memorial Fund are to be reported by the Council as “other income.”
- g. *Prepaid Life Membership Termination.* When the Annual Returns of a Constituent Council report the loss of Good Standing or the decease of a Council member, the Prepaid Life Membership Funds of that member, if any, shall be transferred to that Council’s Permanent Memorial Fund as of January 1st of that year.
- h. *Membership Restoration.* If a Council member is restored to good standing, and upon notice of the Council Recorder to the Secretary of the Investment Committee, any Prepaid Life Membership Funds of that member, if they are in the Permanent Memorial Fund, shall be transferred to the Prepaid Life Membership Fund of the Council as of the previous January 1st.
- i. *Charter Loss.* Should a Constituent Council lose its Charter for any reason and one year has elapsed, any remaining funds in its Prepaid Life Membership and Permanent Memorial Fund accounts, together with any earnings meanwhile, shall be transferred to the Grand York Rite Endowment Fund.
- j. *Other Participation.* Grand Council or any Grand Council Committee may make deposits in the Permanent Memorial Fund and receive the yearly earnings of those deposits.

Section 5. The Trustee of the Grand Council Prepaid Life Membership and Permanent Memorial Fund shall be the York Rite Investment Committee.

- a. *Committee Membership.* The York Rite Investment Committee shall be composed of one representative from each of the three York Rite Bodies, together with the Grand Treasurer(s) and the Grand Recorder(s)/Secretary of the Grand York Rite Bodies. Three members shall constitute a quorum. All members shall serve without compensation.
- b. *Trustee Appointment.* The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint one Companion, who is a Prepaid Life Member of the Council, each year for a term of one year to the York Rite Investment Committee. The Companion shall not succeed himself for more than five terms but, after one year, he may be reappointed.

- c. *Funds.* The York Rite Investment Committee shall establish two trust funds:
 - (1) A Permanent Investment for Prepaid Life Memberships
 - (2) A Permanent Memorial Fund
- d. *Surety Bonds.* The members of the York Rite investment Committee shall be under Surety Bond. The Council Committee members shall be bonded by the Grand Council Policy.
- e. *Committee Organization.* The York Rite Investment Committee, on the call of last year's Chairman, shall convene within thirty days after each year's appointments to select a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary from the appointees, review the past written policies of prior Investment Committees and establish new policies as necessary. The minutes of the meeting shall be included in the report of the York Rite Investment Committee.
- f. *Committee Duties.* The York Rite Investment Committee shall prescribe the books and records to be kept by its members, maintain permanent records, invest funds, adopt policy and approve the distribution of the earnings of the Council Funds. The Committee shall resolve any inequities or questions not covered by this Article. No policy decisions shall be made except at a meeting called by the Chair.
- g. *Chairman Duties.* The Chairman shall call and preside at all meetings of the Committee, authorize an annual audit of the books and records, and present the annual report to the York Rite Bodies, in the absence of the Chairman, a York Rite Grand Treasurer shall assume the Chairman's duties.
- h. *Treasurer's Duties.* The Treasurer shall invest and have the custody of all investment funds and shall maintain such books and records as the Committee shall require.
- i. *Secretary's Duties.* The Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the Committee and spread them as directed by the Committee.
 - (1) The Secretary shall record the name of each Companion purchasing a Prepaid Life Membership, the remitting Council, amount of funds and the date received.

- (2) The Secretary shall record the name of the remitting Council of funds received for the Permanent Memorial Fund, the source of the funds, amount and date received.
- (3) The Secretary shall transmit all funds received to the permanent custody of the Treasurer and take his receipt therefore.
- (4) The Secretary shall transmit by letter the names of all active Prepaid Life Members and Council affiliation annually to the Grand Council Recorder.
- (5) The Secretary shall promptly notify the Grand Recorder of the name and Council of a new Prepaid Life Member as well as transfer or restoration reported by a Council Recorder.

Section 6. The Prepaid Life Membership Fund and the Permanent Memorial Fund shall be Permanent Funds except as modified by this Article and shall be invested solely for the benefit of the participating York Rite Bodies.

- a. *Investment Control.* The funds received by this committee shall be invested 30% to 60% in Certificates of Deposit, Corporate Bonds, U.S. Government Bonds, U.S. Treasury Notes and 40% to 70% in equity securities, stocks, mutual funds or other securities managed by nationally recognized brokerage houses and mutual fund companies. Assets shall be in the custody of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Committee, and the cost for administration shall be paid from the revenue earned by the Prepaid Life Membership Account. (Added April 2014). If the interest and dividend earnings are greater than 7%, the prepaid life fund payout will be 5% of the total fund balance as of the end of each calendar year; If the interest and dividend earnings are equal to or greater than 5% but equal to or less than 7%, the payout will be 4% of the total fund balance as of the end of each calendar year; If interest and dividend earnings are less than 5%, but more than 3%, the payout will be 3% of the total fund balance as of the end of each calendar year. (Revised April 2022).
- b. *Reserve.* A reserve fund is not authorized. A minimum amount necessary to maintain a bank checking account may be retained as undistributed income.
- c. *Counsel.* In the selection of investments, the Committee may consult competent investment counsel. (See Section 4e, this Article)

- d. *Co-mingled Accounts.* The Council Prepaid Life Membership Fund and Permanent Memorial Fund may only be jointly invested and co-mingled with similar funds of the other York Rite Bodies.

Section 7. At the close of each calendar year, the Chairman of the Investment Committee shall authorize an audit of the books and records of the funds for which they are the trustee, and a copy of the audit shall be sent to the constituent York Rite Bodies.

REGULATION 4. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

- a. The Columbian Medal. A medal awarded to an outstanding Cryptic Mason for service to Masonry. One medal for each of the ten Regions, and not more than three medals at-large per Triennium. Nominations are made to the Regional Deputies on the form and selection by the elective officers. These nominations must be sent to the General Grand Recorder eight months prior to the next Triennium. Nomination Form is on the General Grand Council web site.

- b. The Cryptic Mason of the Year. One medal each year presented to a Cryptic Mason by the General Grand Council to a man selected by each Grand Council for outstanding service to Cryptic Masonry. Each Grand Council will select its own Cryptic Mason of the Year according to the following rules and regulations.

Only one medal may be awarded annually to a Cryptic Mason in each affiliated Grand Council.

Only one medal may be awarded triennially to a Cryptic Mason of the General Grand Council.

No posthumous awards shall be made.

The award shall be made only for exceptional and meritorious service to Cryptic Masonry above and beyond the call of duty. No Past or Present Grand Master, or any advancing line officer of a Grand Council shall be eligible for this award.

All award nominations shall be sent to the Grand Recorder no later than 1 February.

Nomination Form may be obtained from the Grand Recorder.

- c. The Adult Leadership Award. One medal presented annually in each Jurisdiction affiliated with General Grand Council to a nominee who shall be a leader in one of the youth organizations recognized by the General Grand Council, namely: Order of DeMolay, Order of Rainbow for Girls, Order of Job's Daughters, or other Masonic Associated Youth Group.

Only one medal may be awarded annually in each Grand Council.

No posthumous awards shall be made.

The award shall be made only for exceptional and meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty.

All Award nominations shall be sent to the Grand Recorder no later than 1 February.

Nomination Form may be obtained from the Grand Recorder.

- d. The Membership Award. The award shall be given to the Constituent Council that has made the greatest net gain in membership during the Grand Council's calendar year.
- e. The David H. Volkman CMMRF Per-Capita Award. This award will be given annually to the Constituent Council that has contributed the most money per-capita during the Grand Council's calendar year.
- f. The Cryptic Pass Award. This award is given to those who have memorized the questions and answers as prescribed in the Cryptic Pass Award criteria.

Under the Order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, David H. Volkman, this committee did compile, revise, rearrange, annotate, and codify the written law of the Grand Council of this Jurisdiction for the approval of the Grand Council.

Harry C. Moore, #1, Chairman

Dale C. Stoller, #7, P.G.I.M.

M. William Echo, #9, Grand Recorder

Dated March 12, 1992

This printing includes all changes resulting from resolutions passed at the Fifty-Ninth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 21, 1992.

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed through the Seventieth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 26, 2003.

Dated May 24, 2003

David A. Grindle, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed through the Seventy-First Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 23, 2004.

Dated May 5, 2004

David A. Grindle, Grand Recorder

This update of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed at the Seventy-Second Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 22, 2005.

Dated May 5, 2005

John R. Garner, Grand Recorder

This update of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed at the Seventy-Third Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 21, 2006.

Dated April 27, 2006

David A. Grindle, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed through the Seventy-Fourth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 21, 2007.

Dated April 26, 2007

David A. Grindle, Grand Recorder

This update of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed at the Seventy-Fifth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 25, 2008

Dated April 25, 2008

David A. Grindle, Grand Recorder

2009 Seventy-Sixth

2010 Seventy-Seventh

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed through the Seventy-Eighth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, April 15, 2011.

Dated April 18, 2011 James L. Curtis, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Seventy-Eighth Annual Assembly, C11-01; the Eightieth Annual Assembly, CM13-01; the Eighty-Third Annual Assembly, CM14-05, CM14-06; and the Eighty-Third Annual Assembly, C16-01, April 16, 2016.

Dated April 16, 2016 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Eighty-Fourth Annual Assembly, C17-01, C17-02 and C17-03.

Dated April 21, 2017 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Eighty-Fifth Annual Assembly, C18-01, C18-02, C18-03, C18-04 and C18-05.

Dated April 21, 2018 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Eighty-Sixth Annual Assembly, C19-02.

Dated April 18, 2019 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Eighty-Eighth Annual Assembly, C20-02, C20-03, C20-04, C20-05, C21-01, C21-02, C21-03 and C21-04.

Dated April 17, 2021 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

Code of Laws changed 22 April 2022, C22-01 and 2022 CM Emergent Resolution at the Eighty-Ninth Annual Assembly.

Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

This printing of the Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Ninetieth Annual Assembly, C23-01 and C23-02.

Dated May 23, 2023 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Ninety-First Annual Assembly, C24-01 and C24-02.

Dated May 1, 2024 Norman C. Lane, Grand Recorder

Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Ninety-Second Annual Assembly, C25-01 and C25-02

Dated July 2, 2025 Barry E. Newell, Grand Recorder

Code of Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Idaho includes all legislation passed during the Ninety-Third Annual Assembly, C26-01 and C26-02

Dated July 1, 2026 Barry E. Newell, Grand Recorder