

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS
IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



ALSO
THE STATUTES,
RULES FOR GRAND CHAPTER ON TRIAL,
REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAPTERS,
RULES RELATING TO MASONIC OFFENSES,
AND
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAPTERS ON TRIALS
AND
RULES OF ORDER

Revised to include all amendments up to and including March 14, 2013

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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS
IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PREAMBLE

This Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Mississippi is a member of the Confederation of Grand Chapters existing by and under the name of 'The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons' and concedes to it such powers as are indispensably necessary to the exercise of its general powers and consistent with the nature of a confederation between the Grand Chapters. It denies to it the exercise of all doubtful powers, or any power by implication merely, and all Masonic powers not granted to it are expressly reserved.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This Grand Chapter shall be known and designated as the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Mississippi.

ARTICLE II - ITS COMPOSITION

1. It shall consist of the following elective officers, that is to say:

- Grand High Priest
- Grand King
- Grand Scribe
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Secretary
- Grand Captain of the Host
- Grand Lecturer

Also the following appointive officers, who shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest:

- Grand Principal Sojourner
- Grand Royal Arch Captain
- Grand Master of Third Veil
- Grand Master of Second Veil
- Grand Master of First Veil
- Grand Chaplain
- Grand Sentinel

(Amended May 9, 1980)

2. Of the Past Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, and Past Grand Scribes of any Grand Chapter, while they continue members of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. *(Amended May 11, 1960)*
3. Of the Past High Priests of the Chapters of this and other jurisdictions, while they are members in good standing of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.
4. Of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, or their proxies, duly appointed, of the chartered Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, or, in their absence, then in their stead, a representative appointed by the Chapter.

ARTICLE III - ITS POWERS

This Grand Chapter has the sole government and superintendence of the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons established within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi; to assign their limits and to settle any controversies which may arise in or between them, and in such manner and under such regulations as it shall adopt, to establish new Chapters within its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

There shall be held a stated Annual Convocation once in each year, at such time and place as the Grand Chapter shall direct at the previous Convocation, and such Special Convocations as the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest may direct.

ARTICLE V – QUORUM

A Quorum shall consist of the representatives of not less than three chartered Chapters.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - It shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, and he has the power, to preside in the Grand Chapter; to exercise and discharge the executive functions thereof when it is not in session; to convene any Chapter under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter; to preside therein, to inspect its proceedings, and require conformity to Masonic law, usage and custom; to require the attendance of, and information from any Grand Officer respecting his office, and, when, in his opinion it is proper to do so, to suspend such officer and appoint a suitable person to act in his stead, until the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter, when report thereof shall be made for its action; to appoint such Grand Officers as may be necessary to fill vacancies, and to perform such other

duties, and exercise such other power and prerogatives, as properly pertain to the position, and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

SECTION 2 - It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer to take charge of all the funds and property of the Grand Chapter; to pay out no money, except upon the order of the Grand Chapter, certified by the Grand Secretary; but when the amount to be paid shall not be fixed by the Grand Chapter, the claim shall be audited and approved by the Grand High Priest; to report each Convocation, and oftener if required by the Grand Chapter, or the Grand High Priest, the amount of his receipts and expenditures, by items, and from whom received and to whom paid, and the amount of funds and property in his hands; and to execute and deposit with the Grand High Priest an official bond within thirty days after his election; payable to the Grand High Priest and his successors in office, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, or a majority of them, in the penalty of fifteen thousand dollars, unless a different sum shall be fixed by the Grand Chapter, conditioned that he will pay or deliver, on demand, to the Grand Chapter, or to his successor in office, or properly account for, all funds and property of the Grand Chapter that shall come to his hands as Grand Treasurer; and if the Grand Treasurer-elect shall fail or refuse to execute a bond as herein required, then the Grand High Priest shall appoint another Grand Treasurer, who shall execute the required bond. *(Amended May 11, 1960)*

SECTION 3 - It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to record the transactions of the Grand Chapter; to receive, duly file, and safely keep, all the papers and documents of the Grand Chapter; to prepare, sign and certify all Charters, Dispensations, and other instruments emanating from the Grand Chapter, and, when necessary, affix his seal thereto; to receive and keep a proper account of all moneys of the Grand Chapter, and pay over the same to the Grand Treasurer; to report to each Annual Convocation, and oftener, if required by the Grand Chapter, or the Grand High Priest, the amount of moneys received by him, by items and the specific sources from which received; also the Chapters that have neglected to render proper Returns and are in arrears; and such general information as to the state of the Chapters in this jurisdiction, as may be proper for the information or action of the Grand Chapter; to conduct the correspondence of the Grand Chapter; to attend with all necessary books and papers under his control, all Convocations of the Grand Chapter; to execute and deposit with the Grand High Priest an official bond, within thirty days after his election, payable to the Grand High Priest and his successors in office, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, or a majority of them, in the penalty of five thousand dollars, unless a different sum shall be fixed by the Grand Chapter, conditioned that he will promptly pay over or deliver, on demand, to the Grand Treasurer, or properly account for all funds or other property of the Grand Chapter that may come to his hands as Grand Secretary; and if the Grand Secretary-elect shall fail or refuse to execute such bond as herein required, then the Grand High Priest shall appoint another Grand Secretary who shall execute the required bond. He shall annually communicate to the Grand Secretary of each Grand Chapter and the General Grand Secretary a list of Grand Officers, and all such other matters as may be deemed necessary, for the mutual benefit and information of the Grand Chapters; and shall also, transmit to the General Grand

Secretary a copy of all the By-Laws and regulations, and, annually, a copy of the Proceedings to each of the officers of the General Grand Chapter. (*Amended May 11, 1960*)

SECTION 4 - It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer to give lectures and instructions in Masonry when called on from time to time, and to visit each Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, once in every year, and see that they are in possession of the work in Royal Arch Masonry; to inspect their records and proceedings, examine the state of their finances, inquire as to their discipline, and generally as to all things relating to the welfare of the Chapter. It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer to instruct the subordinate Chapters as to the correct mode of procedure in all Degree work, and with the consent of the Grand High Priest, to determine the legality or illegality of all articles of paraphernalia to be used in subordinate Chapters; and generally to assist Royal Arch Chapters in all things that will assist in promoting the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry all over the jurisdiction.

SECTION 5 - The remaining Grand Officers shall perform such duties as pertain to their respective stations according to the customs and usages of the Craft, and as may be required by the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 6 - It shall be the duty of the Grand Chapter Officers to improve and perfect themselves in the work and lectures pertaining to the Degrees conferred in this jurisdiction, as prescribed by the Grand Chapter, and to disseminate the same in the manner which, in their opinion will best secure the desired end; or as may be required from time to time by the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 7 - Whenever it shall be inconvenient for the Grand High Priest to attend in person to constitute a new Chapter and install the officers, he shall have power and authority to appoint some other Grand Officer, or Past Grand Officer, or Past High Priest, or High Priest, to perform the necessary ceremonies.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 - The elective officers shall be chosen by ballot, at the Annual Convocation, in each year, by a majority of the votes cast.

SECTION 2 - Each member of the Grand Chapter has one vote, and no more, in his own right; but if any officer of a Chapter is not present in person, or by proxy, his vote may be cast by the senior officer of such Chapter present; or if there shall be none present, by the proxy or the senior officer. If no officer or his proxy is present, the representative of the Chapter shall be entitled to three votes; and this rule shall prevail whenever a vote by Chapters shall be taken, as well as in the election of officers.

SECTION 3 - If there shall be no meeting, or if there shall be a failure to elect its officers at any Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the officers elected at the previous Convocation shall hold over till their successors are elected and installed.

ARTICLE VIII - FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SECTION 1 - The Grand Chapter may make upon the subordinate Chapters such assessments for revenue as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Grand Chapter; and may prescribe the time and manner of the payment thereof; and may, also, require of them such information as to their condition as may be deemed proper; and may prescribe penalties for a failure to do these things.

SECTION 2 - The fees for conferring the Chapter Degrees shall not be less than the minimum fixed by regulation from time to time.

SECTION 3 - The fee for a Dispensation for a new Chapter shall be fifty dollars, of which forty shall be paid for the Dispensation and ten for the Charter.

ARTICLE IX - COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

SECTION 1 - The Grand Chapter shall fix, from time to time, the compensation of its salaried officers and committees.

SECTION 2 - The Grand Chapter shall fix, from time to time, the amount of mileage and per diem paid to Grand Officers, members of Standing Committees, Past Grand High Priests, and representatives of subordinate Chapters attending Grand Chapter; provided that not more than one representative from any Chapter shall be entitled to receive such compensation, and that no representative shall receive out of the funds of the Grand Chapter a larger sum than that paid in at the same Convocation by his Chapter on account of the annual dues of the preceding year.

ARTICLE X - SUCCESSION

SECTION 1 - In case of death, removal, or incapacity to act, by sickness or otherwise, of the Grand High Priest, all his powers and privileges shall devolve upon: First, the Grand King; second, the Grand Scribe; third, Past Grand High Priest, beginning with the Immediate Past Grand High Priest. *(Amended May 12, 1979)*

SECTION 2 - In case of the death, permanent removal from the Jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of office, or the permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Scribe, Grand Captain of the Host and Grand Principal Sojourner shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein. The office or offices vacated shall be filled by the appointment of a Past Grand High Priest, beginning with the Immediate Past Grand High Priest. *(Added May 12, 1979)*

ARTICLE XI - SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS

SECTION 1 - Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons throughout this jurisdiction shall have a Dispensation or Charter, issued under the authority of the Grand Chapter; and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Chapter in this jurisdiction, on any member thereof, and any Chapter or assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden, or any member thereof or any person exalted or advanced therein.

SECTION 2 - No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for instituting Lodges of Most Excellent, Past or Mark Master Masons independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

SECTION 3 - Chapters for instituting Chapters of Royal Arch Masons shall contain also the power to open and hold Lodges of Most Excellent, Past and Mark Master Masons--High Priest, King and Scribe, for the time being, to be the Master and Wardens in said Lodges.

SECTION 4 - It is the duty of the High Priest of every Chapter, as appertaining to his office, to see that the By-Laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter and the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of this Grand Chapter be duly observed; that all the subordinate officers of his Chapter perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their Companions; that true and exact records be kept of all the transactions of the Chapter by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just account of all moneys belonging to the Chapter; that the regular Return be made by the Secretary to the Grand Chapter, and the annual dues thereto be regularly and punctually paid. The Charter of his Chapter is committed to his special care and charge. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter together at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, which, in his judgment may require a meeting. It is also his duty, together with the King and Scribe of his Chapter, to attend the Convocation of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy.

SECTION 5 - No person, having been a member of a Chapter, shall be admitted a member of any Chapter in this jurisdiction until he shall have produced a certificate from the Chapter to which he last belonged, that he was in regular standing, and as such, at his own request was dismissed and recommended, unless such Chapter has ceased to exist - in which case, the certificate of the General Grand or Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction in which such Chapter has existed, as the case may be, shall be held sufficient.

SECTION 6 - Chapters in this jurisdiction are authorized to confer the Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, on any worthy Companion from without this jurisdiction, who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of having received that Degree, to the end that he may be healed and thereby become a regular Royal Arch Mason free of charge. For conferring said Degrees in such cases, Chapters shall be exempt from paying any dues.

SECTION 7 - No Chapter shall confer the Degrees of the Chapter upon any person whose fixed place of abode is within any other state, district or territory in which there is a Grand Chapter regularly established, except by the consent of the subordinate Chapter nearest the place of residence of the applicant, or when the Grand Chapter has ceded the territory in which he resides.

SECTION 8 - When the High Priest of a Chapter is absent, or, in case of his inability to act, his powers and prerogatives shall vest in the King and Scribe in succession. In the absence of all these officers from a Stated Convocation or a Special Convocation legally called, the Junior Past High Priest present may open the Chapter and preside.

SECTION 9 - A quorum for all purposes shall be five Royal Arch Masons, one of whom must be the High Priest, King, Scribe, or a Past High Priest of the Chapter, provided that the five must be members of the subordinate Chapter, and that no business shall be transacted unless a quorum shall be present. *(Amended May 12, 2000)*

ARTICLE XII - NEW CHAPTERS

SECTION 1 - The Grand High Priest shall have the authority, upon the petition of nine or more regular Royal Arch Masons, to grant Dispensations, for a limited time, for the formation of a Subordinate Chapter, when in his opinion the good of the Craft may require the same; but no such new Chapter shall be established without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located, and the Grand High Priest shall report such action to the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 2 - Chapters under Dispensation shall have the same power as chartered Chapters, except the election and installation of officers and the rights growing out of such election and installation.

ARTICLE XIII - ALLEGIANCE TO GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER AND GRAND CHAPTER

The officers of every Chapter in this jurisdiction, before they enter upon the exercise of the functions of their respective offices, and every candidate upon his admission, shall take an obligation to support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter and Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, while remaining under its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE XIV - CONCESSION OF JURISDICTION

This Grand Chapter concedes the territorial jurisdiction of all contiguous Grand Chapters over territory nearer to a Chapter in another jurisdiction than to one in its own; provided, a like concession shall have been made by the Grand Chapter in such contiguous jurisdiction.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS

The Grand Chapter shall be competent, on concurrence of two thirds (2/3) of its members present at its Annual Convocation, to revise, amend or alter this Constitution, provided a motion, duly made and seconded, is approved. Such revision, amendment or alteration is then adopted instanter. (*Amended May 20, 2005*)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening of Grand Chapter
2. Adoption of Minutes of the preceding Annual Grand Convocation
3. Address of Grand High Priest
4. Report of Fraternal Correspondent
5. Report of Grand Secretary
6. Report of Grand Treasurer
7. Report of Grand Lecturer
8. Reports of Standing Committees
 - a) Capitular Law
 - b) Finance
 - c) Credentials
 - d) Perpetual Membership
 - e) Internet
9. Reports of Special Committees
10. Election of Grand Officers
11. Roll Call of living Past Grand High Priests
12. Roll Call of Grand Representatives
13. Installation of Grand Officers
14. Closing of Grand Chapter

STATUTES

JURISDICTION

SECTION 1 - The jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi extends over the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 2 - No Chapter within this jurisdiction shall receive a petition from any person whose legal residence is not in the State of Mississippi, without previous consent of the Chapter nearest his place of legal residence given by unanimous ballot, and at a Stated Meeting. It is considered a trespass on this jurisdiction for a Chapter out of it to confer Degrees on persons residing within it, except with consent similarly given.

SECTION 3 - The Grand Chapter, however, concedes to Chapters in any adjoining State, the privilege of conferring Degrees on, and admitting as member, citizens of Mississippi, whose residence is nearer any such Chapter than any Chapter in this State; provided, a similar concession of jurisdiction is made by the Grand Chapter of such adjoining State.

REPRESENTATIVES AND PROXIES

SECTION 4 - Officers and members of the Grand Chapter, and representatives and proxies, shall appear clothed masonically. This rule is imperative, and violation of it shall forfeit their rights to seats, and all compensation for attendance.

SECTION 5 - No Companion as proxy or otherwise shall represent more than one Chapter at the same Annual Convocation.

SECTION 6 - No representative or proxy shall be admitted to a seat as such, unless his credentials are authorized by the Secretary and under the seal of the Chapter; nor unless the Returns from his Chapter have been handed in to the Grand Secretary, or the Committee on Credentials.

SECTION 7 - Whenever the High Priest, King or Scribe of a Chapter cannot attend a Convocation of the Grand Chapter the absent officer may appoint a member of his Chapter his proxy to represent him therein, and said proxy shall be entitled to all rights and privileges, including compensation, to which his principal would be entitled, if present.

SECTION 8 - Only the High Priest, King and Scribe of a Chapter can be represented in Grand Chapter by proxy, and not then if they are present in any capacity.

SECTION 9 - Should there be a failure to elect officers in any Chapter prior to the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the Chapter shall nevertheless not be deprived of its right to representation, either by its High Priest, King and Scribe or their proxies, or by the last elected representative of the Chapter.

OF THE ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 10 - All officers of the Grand Chapter shall be chosen from the members thereof who, at the time of their election have their actual residence and domicile, within the State of Mississippi, except the Grand Chaplain and Grand Sentinel, who need not be members of the Grand Chapter, but must be members of some Chapter under the Grand Chapter, and must reside in the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 11 - The installation of the Grand Officers shall take place at the close of the last session of the Annual Convocation, and the old, or present, Grand Officers shall hold over until that time.

SECTION 12 - No officer shall be installed by proxy. When the officer-elect, or appointed, is absent at the time of the installation, his election may be annulled by the Grand Chapter and a new election held at once, or the Grand High Priest may be authorized to depute some member of the Grand Chapter to install such officer in the presence of a Chapter, but in no case shall an installation be dispensed with.

SECTION 13 - In all cases, officers hold over until their successors are regularly installed.

SECTION 14 - In case of the re-election of an installed officer, a reinstallation shall be necessary.

SECTION 15 - If from any cause there shall be failure to hold the Annual Convocation, or to elect the Grand Officers at the appointed time, the Grand High Priest, for this reason alone, shall not call an emergency Convocation, but the officers elected at the last Annual Convocation shall hold over; if, however, the other business of the Grand Chapter shall require an emergency Convocation to be held, the officers shall be elected at that Convocation and installed, and the term of the officers, so elected, shall expire at the close of the next Annual Convocation.

STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 16 - The Committees on Capitular Law, Finance, Credentials, Perpetual Membership and Internet shall each consist of three members set up as a staggered committee so that one member shall be appointed each year by the Grand High Priest to serve three years. In the event of a vacancy, the Grand High Priest shall appoint a member to fill out the unexpired term.

All other regular or special committees shall be appointed at the opening or during, each Annual Convocation from among the representatives or other members of the Grand Chapter in attendance for a term of one year. The Grand High Priest shall designate the Chairman of all committees. (*Amended May 10, 2012*)

SECTION 17 - The Grand Chapter shall appoint at each Annual Convocation, a Fraternal Correspondent, to whom shall be referred all the proceedings, documents, and other papers, emanating from Masonic bodies in correspondence with this Grand Chapter, or received through the Grand Secretary; and whose duty it shall be to report on the same to the next Annual Convocation.

SECTION 18 - The report of the Fraternal Correspondent shall be presented after the delivery of the Grand High Priest's address, and be laid on the table for examination; to be taken up for consideration at any time, on motion, which shall be a preferred motion. The expression of opinions in this report, unless specially acted upon by the Grand Chapter, shall be held as the opinion of the Fraternal Correspondent and shall not be taken as the expression of the voice of the Grand Chapter, nor will it regard itself bound thereby.

SECTION 19 - It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee, prior to each Annual Convocation, to have an audit made by a Certified Public Accountant of the books and records of the Secretary and Treasurer, to examine said audit and the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, and to make a full report to the Annual Convocation concerning the finances of the Grand Chapter. To see that fidelity bonds are in force on the Secretary and Treasurer, with premium paid, and bonds are in a safe depository, and submit to the Annual Convocation a proposed budget of finances for the Grand Chapter during the ensuing year, including salaries and mileage and per diem.

SECTION 20 - The Grand Secretary shall receive in full compensation for his services an annual salary, to be paid in monthly installments, in such amount as fixed from year to year on recommendation of the Finance Committee and adopted in the budget for the ensuing year.

SECTION 21 - The Grand Treasurer shall receive in full compensation for his services such amount as is recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Chapter in the adoption of its budget for that year.

SECTION 22 - The Grand Lecturer shall receive in full compensation for his services such sum as shall be recommended by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Grand Chapter in adopting the budget for the year. Also he shall be allowed such sums for travel expenses as are fixed from time to time in the same manner as the salary is fixed.

SECTION 23 - The Fraternal Correspondent, upon preparing and delivering his report to the Grand Chapter, shall receive as compensation such sum as fixed from year to year by the Grand Chapter upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and adoption of the annual budget.

COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS

SECTION 24 - When there shall be more than one officer of a Chapter present at a Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the one highest in rank shall be entitled to the compensation provided by the Constitution, but no officer or representative shall be paid as compensation for his attendance, who shall receive compensation in any other Grand Body meeting during the same week and at the same place, a sum exceeding his actual expenses, after deducting the amount paid to him by any other Grand Body.

That the mileage and per diem of all Past Grand High Priests attending the Grand Chapter not otherwise compensated, be paid. That the mileage and per diem of the Committee on Credentials if not otherwise compensated, be paid.

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST

SECTION 25 - The official decisions of the Grand High Priest, made in the performance of the duties of his office, shall be binding upon all Royal Arch Masons subject to the authority of the Grand Chapter, until reversed, or set aside by it. And all such decisions shall be submitted for the approval of the Grand Chapter at the next Annual Convocation, and referred to the Committee on Capitular Law and Jurisprudence for examination and comparison with the existing laws of Masonry and of the Grand Chapter, and unless passed upon by the Grand Chapter shall cease to have any binding force and effect after the close of the Annual Convocation to which they are reported.

DECISIONS OF COMMITTEE ON CAPITULAR LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE

SECTION 26 - The decisions of the Committee on Capitular Law and Jurisprudence shall be submitted to the next ensuing Grand Chapter after their rendition, for its approval, and until so approved shall be deemed advisory, unless ordered to be enforced by an Edict of the Grand High Priest.

POWERS OF GRAND HIGH PRIEST

SECTION 27 - The Grand High Priest, in the exercise of the executive functions of his office, may grant Dispensations suspending the Regulations of the Grand Chapter, relating to Chapters, as therein provided, and for the following purposes only:

- a) He may authorize a Chapter whose Charter has been arrested or destroyed, to resume labor until the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter

- b) He may authorize a Chapter to meet temporarily elsewhere than in the place named in the Charter.
- c) He may authorize a Chapter to hold a Stated Convocation at another time than that previously fixed by the Chapter.
- d) To cure any defective proceedings in the election and installation of officers.
- e) In the enforcement of discipline and preservation of the harmony of a Chapter.
- f) To ballot at regular or special Convocations on petitions for the Chapter Degrees, without the prescribed delays provided that Paragraphs A, B, C, D, E, and F of Section 46 of the Regulations shall have been observed in all cases.

ARREST AND FORFEITURE OF CHARTERS

SECTION 28 - The Grand High Priest, in the exercise of the executive functions of his office, may arrest the labors of a Chapter until the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter, but the Grand Chapter alone can declare the forfeiture of a Charter. A Charter arrested may be restored, but one forfeited cannot again be given validity, and shall have endorsed across its face by the Grand Secretary, the word "Forfeited."

WORK AND LECTURES

SECTION 29 - The work and lectures on Royal Arch Masonry, adopted by the Grand Chapter shall be taught and practiced in this jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other system.

SECTION 30 - The Grand Lecturer may appoint as many assistants as he may deem expedient, who shall possess the necessary qualifications to teach the work and lectures in Royal Arch Masonry as adopted by the Grand Chapter, and no one who shall not be so appointed shall be permitted to teach and lecture the Chapters in this jurisdiction.

CHAPTERS UNDER DISPENSATION

SECTION 31 - Every petition for a Dispensation to form a new Chapter shall be accompanied by the fee prescribed by the Constitution and the certificate of the Chapter nearest the place at which such new Chapter is to be formed, that some one of the petitioners appeared before it and gave evidence of his qualifications to do the work and give the lectures adopted by the Grand Chapter; that all the petitioners are men of good moral character, and giving its assent to the granting of a Dispensation.

SECTION 32 - Chapters under Dispensation shall not be entitled to representation in the Grand Chapter, nor required to pay dues except for Exaltations.

CONTRIBUTIONS

SECTION 33 – Each Subordinate Chapter of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi shall pay to the Grand Chapter:

1. A fee for each Companion exalted in the amount approved by the members of the Grand Chapter at an Annual Convocation. Said fee to be not less than five dollars (\$5.00).
2. Annual dues for each member as of December 31st in the amount approved by the members of the Grand Chapter at an Annual Convocation, except no contribution shall be due for those members who are insane or who are duly exempted as provided for in Section 62 of the Regulations.

Said annual dues to include, but not limited to, an amount equal to the annual dues per non-exempt member payable to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi and an amount equal to the annual dues per non-exempt member payable to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International.

Further, should the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, at a Triennial Convocation, duly increase the amount payable per member by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, for but not limited to, annual dues, the amount of the increase payable to the General Grand Chapter by the Grand Chapter shall become a part of the annual dues payable by each Subordinate Chapter to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi, ipso facto.

(Amended May 12, 1990)

SECTION 34 - Each Chapter shall be allowed a maximum of fifteen Rituals and one Treasure Trove; the Treasure Trove to be in possession of the High Priest; and Rituals may be replaced only by affidavit from a Chapter as to the details of loss or destruction of such Rituals; such affidavit to be approved by the Grand High Priest. No penalty is to be assessed against a Chapter for the loss of a Ritual, provided such loss is properly explained or accounted for in the affidavit. *(Amended May 10, 1956)*

SECTION 35 - All remittances of money to the Grand Chapter shall be at the risk of those remitting the same.

PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDINGS

SECTION 36 - The Proceedings of the Grand Chapter shall be printed and distributed as follows:

- One copy to each Grand Officer
- One copy to each Past Grand Officer
- One copy to each member of the Standing Committees

- One copy to the High Priest of each subordinate Chapter
- One copy to the Secretary of each subordinate Chapter
- One copy to each subordinate Chapter
- One copy to each Representative of this Grand Chapter
- Three copies to each Grand Body with which this Grand Chapter is in correspondence
- One copy to each Masonic periodical
- One copy to each public Masonic library
- One copy to the Mississippi State library

The Grand Secretary shall also designate such number of individual Masons, not exceeding fifty, engaged in the formation of private Masonic libraries, who by reason of their efforts to secure and preserve large collections of Masonic works he may deem worthy of the compliment to receive one copy each.

SECTION 37 - The copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter sent to each Chapter shall be the property of the Chapter, and shall not be taken from the Chapter room except in emergent cases, of which the High Priest shall be the judge, and then for a period not exceeding one week at any one time.

SECTION 38 - No motion, Resolution, or other proposition, not embraced in the report of committee, which shall be negated or withdrawn, shall be published in the printed Proceedings, unless so ordered by the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 39 - The names of rejected applicants for Degrees shall not be published with the Proceedings.

SECTION 40 - Five printed copies of the Proceedings of each Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter shall be well bound; and after being carefully compared, shall be certified by the Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Grand Chapter as true and correct copies; and shall be filed in the Grand Secretary's office, as archives of the Grand Chapter, and no manuscript copy of the proceedings shall be preserved.

BLANK FORMS

SECTION 41 - The Grand Secretary shall annually furnish to each Chapter, blanks for Returns, Commissions for proxies or representatives, petitions for Degrees and membership, applications for demits, notice for payment of dues, notice to delinquents, notice of appointment on committees, receipts for dues, and such others as he may deem necessary to insure certainty and dispatch in the transaction of Chapter business.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

SECTION 42 - The Grand High Priest shall, under the seal of the Grand Chapter, and its name and by its authority, commission some worthy Companion as the Representative and guarantor of amity of this Grand

Chapter near every other Grand Chapter recognizing the Grand Representative system, who shall hold his office for the term of five years. Such Representative shall hold the honorary rank of Deputy Grand High Priest in this Grand Chapter so long as he shall hold such commission. He shall be a member of the Grand Chapter to which he shall be commissioned, and shall not represent any other Grand Chapter while he shall hold the appointment of this Grand Chapter.

The office of Grand Representative shall be declared vacant by the Grand High Priest by reason of the Grand Representative being absent from the Annual Convocations for three successive years without offering a satisfactory reason for his absence to the Grand High Priest within two weeks after the Annual Convocation. In such case, the Grand High Priest shall commission another worthy Companion as a Grand Representative to fill his vacancy.

(Amended May 10, 1961)

SECTION 43 - The Grand Chapter shall appoint a time for the reception of the Grand Representatives of other Grand Chapters, near this Grand Chapter, at each Annual Convocation, and the name of the Grand Representatives present shall appear upon the minutes of each Con-convocation immediately after those of Past Grand Officers present.

GRAND SENTINEL

SECTION 44 - The Grand Sentinel shall repair to the place appointed for the Annual Convocation at least one day prior to the time appointed for the assembling of the Grand Chapter, and shall see that suitable rooms are prepared for the committees of the Grand Chapter, and that the Grand Chapter hall is properly arranged, secure and comfortable.

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 45 - The Grand Chapter shall be competent, on concurrence of two thirds (2/3) of its members present at its Annual Convocation, to revise, amend or alter the Statutes, Regulations, Rules for Trials or Order of Business, provided a motion, duly made and seconded, is approved. Such revision, amendment or alteration is then adopted instant. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR GRAND CHAPTER EMPLOYEES

SECTION 46 - Any person who has attained the age of at least sixty-five (65) years and who has been a full-time salaried employee of the Grand Chapter for at least ten (10) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of retirement shall be entitled to a retirement payment from the Grand Chapter, payable monthly, for as long as such person shall live. The amount of annual benefits under the plan are to be determined as follows: The average annual salary earned during the final three (3) full years of employment multiplied by the total percentage product reached

by multiplying the number of years covered service by two and fifty one hundredths per cent (2.50%), plus a base sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); provided however, that the total amount of the retirement payment shall not exceed the sum of two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) per year. Termination of employment, either before or after entitlement to benefits may accrue, shall be at the election of the employee or Grand Chapter.

The plan shall be administered by a Grand Chapter Retirement Plan Committee composed of the following: the Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Grand Chapter shall appropriate an amount annually that it deems sufficient to pay the retirement benefits for the ensuing year, based upon calculated estimates of the Retirement Plan Committee and recommended by the Finance Committee. *(Amended May 10, 1986)*

GRAND LIBRARIAN

SECTION 47 - The Grand High Priest shall annually designate one of the Grand Chapter officers to perform the functions of Grand Librarian, or he may appoint a Grand Librarian from amongst the members of the Grand Chapter, whose duty it shall be to take charge of and preserve all the books, manuscripts, charts, pictures, and other property of the Grand Chapter not forming a working portion of the records of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer's offices. The Grand Librarian shall formulate and implement policies and procedures for the disposition, cataloging, storage, handling and any other matter pertaining to Grand Chapter historical property. The Grand Librarian shall make a report at each Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and perform such other duties as the Grand High Priest may direct.

For attendance at Grand Chapter, he shall be allowed a sum equal to the mileage and per diem for a Representative of Subordinate Chapters to the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and such other compensation for his services as the Grand Chapter may from time to time direct. *(Adopted May 10, 2012)*

STATUTES

FOR GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND CHAPTER ON TRIALS

RULE I

Whenever five members of a Chapter, in good standing, or any of the officers of the Grand Chapter, shall impeach the High Priest of a Chapter, the Grand High Priest shall, whether he suspend the accused or not, direct him to be summoned by the Grand Secretary, which summons may be served by any Royal Arch Mason to appear at the next Annual Grand Convocation and defend the charge against him. A copy of the charges and specifications shall be attached to said summons, and the Companion serving, same shall make a return setting forth the time when the summons was served, and that a true copy of the charges and specifications were attached thereto. If said summons is not served more than twenty days before the time appointed for the next Annual Grand Convocation, the accused may claim a continuance if he desires it, otherwise he may be put upon his trial or the case continued, as the Grand Chapter may determine.

RULE II

The parties making the charges may require the Secretary of any Chapter to forward to the Grand Secretary any portion of the records of his Chapter, bearing upon the case, under the seal of Chapter, and the Grand High Priest may enforce compliance in the event that such record is not made and forwarded within ten days, after notice in writing shall be given to the Secretary of the portions required.

RULE III

Whenever the High Priest of a Chapter shall be impeached, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest to appoint a judicious committee of Past High Priests to take all evidence in the case, to be transmitted to the Grand Chapter by them; all of which shall, if possible, be without expense to the Grand Chapter.

RULE IV

The Rules and Regulations adopted for the government of Chapters on Trial, not inconsistent with the foregoing rules, shall govern in the Grand Chapter in conducting the trial of one of its members.

RULE V

Any three of the Grand Officers, or five Past Grand Officers, High Priests or Past High Priests, may impeach any officer of the Grand Chapter, and the Grand High Priest shall, whether said officers are suspended by him or not, direct like proceedings as in the case of an impeached High Priest; provided, however, that in the event of the

impeachment of the Grand High Priest he shall continue to perform all the duties of his office, except those relating to the proceedings under such impeachment, which shall be discharged by the next Grand Officer in rank.

RULE VI

On all trials in the Grand Chapter, the Committee on Complaints and Appeals shall be charged with the preparation and prosecution of the case.

REGULATIONS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAPTERS, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

PREFACE

The Laws of Masonry applicable to the government of Royal Arch Chapters may be divided into five classes:

1. Ancient Usages and Landmarks, not subject to change, and binding absolutely on all Royal Arch Masons.
In conformity with which are,
2. The Statutes
3. The Regulations prescribed by the Grand Chapter for the government of Chapters, their officers and members
4. Rules relating to Masonic Offenses and for the government of Chapters on Trial
5. Rules of Order, none of which are subject to legislation or suspension by Chapters

NAME AND NUMBER

SECTION 1 - Each Chapter shall be known and designated by the name and number given in its Charter.

OFFICERS

SECTION 2 - The officers of a Chapter are the High Priest, whose title is "Most Excellent" the King and Scribe, whose titles are "Excellent"; the Captain of the Host, the Principal Sojourner, the Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of Veils, the Treasurer, the Secretary and Sentinel.

OF THE HIGH PRIEST

SECTION 3 - The High Priest, or in his absence, the presiding Officer of the Chapter, may, for purposes of present Masonic Charity, draw on the funds of the Chapter at any time for a sum not exceeding \$10.00. He shall appoint all committees of the Chapter.

OF THE SECRETARY

SECTION 4 - The Secretary shall, in addition to his traditional duties, make out all reports required by the Chapter, keep a register of all delinquencies, suspensions and expulsions, fill up diplomas when directed by the Chapter, keeping a register of the same, and exhibit a statement of accounts of each delinquent member at the Stated Meeting for the election of officers; and as a compensation for his services shall be allowed a sum to be determined by the Chapter before the election in each year.

OF THE TREASURER

SECTION 5 - The Treasurer, besides his traditional duties, shall report his receipts and disbursements at a Stated Meeting for the election of officers, and whenever required by the Chapter, he shall have his accounts ready for settlement at the expiration of his term of office, and shall deliver to his legal successor all moneys, accounts, vouchers, documents and other property in his possession belonging to the Chapter.

OF THE SENTINEL

SECTION 6 - The Sentinel shall, besides his traditional duties summon the members to attend all Special Meetings of the Chapter, and shall receive for his compensation a sum to be determined by the Chapter before the election in each year.

MEMBERS

SECTION 7 - Every Companion exalted in a Chapter shall ipso facto become a member thereof.

SECTION 8 - Any non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason desirous of becoming a member of a Chapter shall petition and be elected to membership in the mode required by the Regulations of the Grand Chapter.

MEETINGS

SECTION 9 - Chapters shall hold a Stated Convocation once in each month from October to May in each year, or two Stated Convocations each month, 14 days intervening, on a day and at an hour to be previously determined upon by Resolution passed at a Stated Convocation, and may change the day and hour of meetings by like Resolution which shall be introduced at one meeting and lie over till the next before being acted upon.

During any portion of the time from May to October in each year, Chapters may suspend labor if a Resolution to that effect shall be passed at a stated Convocation.

SECTION 10 - Chapters shall meet in the place named in their Charter, unless a change of location shall be made in compliance with the Regulations of the Grand Chapter, or in the event of some overruling necessity shall require it to temporarily meet elsewhere, when the Grand High Priest may, by Dispensation, grant authority so to do.

SECTION 11 - All the business of the Chapter except the conferring of Degrees, exemplification of work, and examination of candidates for advancement, must be transacted in the Royal Arch Degree.

SECTION 12 - No new business, except the conferring of Degrees, or that specially mentioned in the notification, shall be transacted at any Called or Special Convocation.

SECTION 13 - Chapters may be called off from day to day to transact unfinished business, an entry of which shall be made on the minutes and announced to the members before the Chapter is called off; but all business requiring unanimity of vote must be transacted on the day or days appointed for the stated monthly meetings.

SECTION 14 - The minutes of a meeting must be read and corrected before closing, and cannot be changed at a subsequent meeting; but if any important matter should have been omitted, or any clerical error discovered, the omission may be supplied and the error corrected by Resolution at the subsequent stated meeting, embracing the matter as corrected.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 15 - The officers of Chapters shall be chosen by a majority of ballots without nominations, at the Stated Convocation preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, in each year. In case of a failure to elect officers on the day designated the High Priest shall call a Special Convocation for that purpose, taking care that as many of the members be notified of the time as may be practicable.

SECTION 16 - Officers shall not be installed by proxy. When an officer-elect shall have died, removed, or declined to be installed, a new election shall be held at the next regular Convocation after the installation day, and the person so chosen shall be installed at that or the next Convocation of the Chapter, as the High Priest may determine. An elected officer who shall fail to present himself at the time appointed for installation shall be deemed to have declined installation, unless he shall present to the High Priest a satisfactory excuse for his absence. In all cases officers hold over until their successors are regularly installed. In case of the re-election of an installed officer a re-installation shall be necessary.

COMMITTEES

SECTION 17 - The High Priest shall, on the Stated Convocation for the election of officers, appoint a committee to examine the books and accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall report upon the same together with the state of the Treasurer, on or before St. John's Day and prior to the installation of the officers-elect, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

SECTION 18 - The High Priest, immediately after the annual installation of officers, shall appoint a Standing Committee of three on Complaints and Offenses.

JURISDICTION OF CHAPTERS

SECTION 19 - The jurisdiction of a Chapter in the State of Mississippi shall be concurrent with all other Chapters, except in the city limits of a city in which a Chapter is located, in which case the local Chapter has exclusive jurisdiction. (*Amended May 15, 1957*)

SECTION 20 - A Chapter ceasing to work for six consecutive months loses its jurisdiction until it resumes labors, provided that no Chapter shall use the material of a dormant Chapter without first obtaining the consent of the Grand High Priest.

SECTION 21 - Where there is only one Chapter established in a county, its jurisdiction over that portion of the County nearer a Chapter in an adjacent county is concurrent with that of such other Chapter, but in assuming such jurisdiction, notice shall be given to such Chapter of the proposed action.

SECTION 22 - No Chapter shall confer the Degrees upon any candidate whose fixed place of abode has not been within its jurisdiction for twelve months next before making application; but a residence in an adjacent State nearer to such Chapter than to any Chapter in that State may be counted in whole or in part as such probationary period; provided, a similar concession of jurisdiction has been made by the Grand Chapter of the adjacent State; provided further, that if the petition shall state the name and location of all Chapters within the jurisdiction of which petitioner has lived during the twelve months immediately preceding and the said petition shall at a Stated Convocation be referred to each of the Chapters named therein under the seal of the Chapter, and no objection be made thereto by the Chapters to which said petition is referred within sixty days from the date of such reference, then the Grand High Priest may grant his Dispensation to the Chapter receiving the petition to proceed with the same as though the petitioner had lived within jurisdiction twelve months.

SECTION 23 - No Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction shall recognize as a Royal Arch Mason any Brother who shall receive the Degrees of the Chapter in violation of Section 41 of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and Section 7, Article XI, of the Constitution of this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 24 - No distinction being made by the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, or that of this Grand Chapter in favor of persons in the Army and Navy, they are required to have the same qualifications of residence as civilians before receiving the Degrees of any Chapter.

SECTION 25 - No Chapter shall confer the Degrees upon any individual residing within the jurisdiction of any other Chapter in this State, except as above specified, without a request from that Chapter, nor without a certificate from it that the application has been first made to it, been referred to a committee and laid over for consideration to the next stated monthly meeting, and then been unanimously agreed to on a ballot taken. The Brother so Exalted shall be deemed a member of the Chapter that elected him.

SECTION 26 - Any Chapter, however, in the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, can if they see fit, at the request of any regular Chapter, in another Grand Jurisdiction, give the Degrees to a temporary sojourner, upon proper certificate of his election. In such case, the usual reference report and balloting are not required of the Chapter conferring the Degrees, unless circumstances transpire proving unworthiness, in which case the Chapter electing him should be notified.

SECTION 27 - Candidates shall be required to state in their petitions whether they have made previous application to another Chapter, and been rejected by it.

SECTION 28 - Chapters retain jurisdiction over their initiates until they are Exalted and demitted; and no one who has received one or more of the Degrees in any Chapter shall receive the remaining Degrees in another Chapter, unless at the request of the Chapter which elected him, unanimously passed at a Stated Convocation, provided, it be in existence. Whenever any Chapter shall confer the Degrees for another Chapter, the work so done shall be performed as the proxy for the Chapter requesting it to be done, and forthwith reported to it. An entry shall be made upon the minutes of both Chapters, clearly setting forth all the facts, but no Return shall be made to the Grand Chapter by the Chapter so doing the work. The fees shall be paid to the Chapter before requesting another Chapter to confer the Degrees and that fact certified to the Chapter doing the work, before it shall be authorized to proceed. Any part or the whole of said fee may be paid over to the Chapter doing the work, but there shall be no obligation so to do.

SECTION 29 - Non-Affiliates shall be at liberty to petition and become members of any Chapter, regardless of their place of residence.

SECTION 30 - When a Chapter ceases to exist, its territory shall pass to neighboring Chapters, just as though the defunct Chapter had never existed.

SECTION 31 - Any Chapter conferring the Degrees in violation of the rules thus prescribed, shall forfeit its Charter.

FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SECTION 32 - The fees for the Degrees conferred in a Chapter shall not be less than \$25.00, to be paid in cash in advance, but any Chapter may by Resolution fix a larger sum and change the same at pleasure, by a like Resolution. Each Chapter shall be required to pay for each Exaltation \$5.00 for the General Fund of the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 33 - Every member shall pay an annual contribution of such amount as the Chapter may, from time to time, determine, by a Resolution to that effect, but when once fixed the amount of such contribution shall not be

altered to take effect during the current Masonic year. The annual contribution of members shall be paid at the Stated Convocation at which the officers are elected, and prior to the election.

SECTION 34 - The Secretary shall on or before the day of election of officers, notify every member of the Chapter the amount of his dues, and request payment; and should any member allow his dues to remain unpaid on the said day of election, he shall not have the right to vote nor hold office. The Secretary shall notify such delinquent Companion on or before January 10, to appear at the February Stated Communication to show cause why his dues have not been paid, and if he still refuse or neglects to pay, the Chapter shall suspend such delinquent at the March Stated Communication or remit his dues. If the Secretary fails to notify the delinquent to appear as required above or if the Chapter fails to meet or act on the matter, as required above, then the High Priest shall order the Secretary to notify said delinquent to appear at the next Stated Communication and if he fails to pay his dues at the next Communication, then the Chapter shall suspend him or remit his dues. Such suspension shall be absolute, and while it continues, all the Capitular rights and privileges of the Companion so suspended shall be abrogated, and no dues shall, from the date thereof, until reinstatement, be charged against him.

SECTION 35 - A member of a subordinate Chapter, who is suspended for nonpayment of annual dues, may be reinstated by paying the current years dues. *(Amended May 20, 2005)*

SECTION 36 - Any non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason within the jurisdiction of a Chapter, who shall neglect or refuse to contribute annually to its funds, an amount equal to the ordinary Chapter dues, shall not be entitled to, nor permitted to receive the rights, benefits and privileges of the Chapter, that is to say: The right to visit and associate with the regular members of the Chapter; the right to ask and demand relief and pecuniary aid from the Chapter, or its funds, for himself or his family; the right to move or join in Masonic processions.

SECTION 37 - Any Royal Arch Mason unable to contribute to a Chapter may be released from so doing, and while Chapters are strictly enjoined to exact payment from all whose circumstances do not excuse them from this duty, they are to remember that, "if thy Brother be waxen poor and fallen into decay with thee, then thou shall relieve him, though he be a stranger and a transient person, that he may live with thee."

THE SYMBOLIC LODGE

SECTION 38 - The Symbolic Lodge being the basis upon which all Ancient Craft Masonry is erected, it is considered the duty of every Mason to be a member of a Lodge, and hence non-affiliated Master Masons are declared not to be eligible for the Chapter Degrees, but a Chapter has no right to compel one of its members to continue his affiliation with a Lodge if he desires to sever the same.

SECTION 39 - The expulsion or suspension of a Royal Arch Mason by a Symbolic Lodge, including suspension for non-payment of dues, works a deprivation and suspension of all rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry,

while such suspension or expulsion continues. A Royal Arch Mason on being relieved from a sentence of suspension or expulsion by a Symbolic Lodge, is by the mere fact restored to all the rights and privileges as a Royal Arch Mason, unless he shall also have been tried and had sentence passed upon him for the same offense by the Chapter, in which event punishment inflicted by the Chapter is supplemental to that of the Lodge, and such act of restoration has no effect upon the relations of the party to Royal Arch Masonry.

DEGREES

SECTION 40 - The Degrees of Past Master, nor any part of it, shall be conferred by any Royal Arch Chapter upon the Master-elect of a Symbolic Lodge as a qualifying Degree, commonly called the Past Master's Degree.

SECTION 41 - The Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason shall be conferred in Chapters in the order named, and no one shall be permitted to visit a Chapter who has not regularly received the first four of these Degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter, unless he shall have first been healed under the provisions of Section 6, Article XI of the Constitution.

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 42 - Chapters are authorized to advance maimed Brothers who are otherwise worthy and well qualified.

SUBSTITUTES

SECTION 43 - While the use of substitutes in the Royal Arch Degree is permitted in cases of emergency, when, by reason of a protracted delay, a serious injury would be done to the candidate or the Chapter, their use is forbidden under any other circumstances. The High Priest is the judge of the necessity for them and responsible for any abuse of this provision.

PARAPHERNALIA

SECTION 44 - Chapters are required to procure at the earliest possible date, robes, jewels and other paraphernalia for conferring the Degrees.

BOOK OF MARKS

SECTION 45 - A Chapter shall keep a Book of Marks and require candidates to select a Mark and have it recorded therein, before receiving the Royal Arch Degree.

A Mark may be any design selected by the candidate provided it is not the initial of his name and has not been previously selected and recorded by another Brother, but a member may adopt the mark of a deceased Brother.

Resolved further, that any Brother who has heretofore selected and recorded his initials as his Mark is hereby permitted to select and record a proper Mark; in its stead, but this may be optional with such Brother.

PETITION, APPLICATION AND BALLOTING

SECTION 46 - All petitions for the Degrees and for membership must:

- A. All petitions for the Degrees and for membership must be made at a Stated Convocation unless special dispensation is granted by the Grand High Priest to receive petitions at a Called Convocation (*Amended May 9, 1962*)
- B. Be signed by the petitioner
- C. Be recommended by two members of the Chapter
- D. State age, residence and occupation
- E. If for the Degrees, the name, number and location of his Masonic Lodge and that he is in good standing. If for membership, the name, number and location of his former Chapter, accompanied by his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit, and the name, number and location of his Masonic Lodge and that he is in good standing. (*Amended May 20, 2005*)
- F. Be referred to a committee of three for investigation.
- G. It is not necessary to ballot on the petition from a Master Mason in good standing in his Masonic Lodge (*Amended May 20, 2005*)
- H. Cannot be withdrawn after reference to a committee.
- I. If rejected, no new petition for the Degrees can be presented within six months.
- J. If rejected, no new petition for membership can be presented to the same Chapter within six months, but the petition may be presented to any other Chapter immediately thereafter.
- K. Intentionally left blank (*Amended May 20, 2005*)
- L. No member must disclose his vote.
- M. Intentionally left blank (*Amended May 20, 2005*)
- N. The presiding officer must see that the sense of the Chapter is fairly taken and ascertained, and he should be fully satisfied of this before he announces the vote, neither he nor the King nor Scribe shall make known the number of black and white balls cast. If only one black ball has been cast, the ballot shall not be announced, but shall be retaken at once to ascertain if there has been a mistake. If any member casting a black ball should before the departure from the Chapter of any of the members ascertain that he acted under a mistake, or misapprehension regarding the candidate, and desires to correct the mistake, the presiding officer, if only one black ball appear, shall cause the ballot to be taken again: When if a black ball still appear, the result shall be announced and the rejection recorded. Within this exception no ballot shall be taken again, unless by Dispensation from the Grand High Priest.
- O. The Grand Chapter approves a form of petition to be used by subordinate Chapters jointly with the Council and Commandery petitions. The petition blank shall consist of three parts perforated in such a way that the petition for the three bodies may be separated and given to the proper body. (*Added May 10, 1975*)

SECTION 47 - If a candidate for the Degrees, whose petition has been acted upon favorably, shall fail to come forward within six months and be advanced, his election shall be void, and a new petition and proceedings thereon be required.

SECTION 48 - Any member of a Chapter can prior to the conferring of a Degree, prevent the advancement of a candidate.

SECTION 49 - Unmasonic conduct, at any stage of advancement constitutes a barrier to receiving the Royal Arch Degree during the pleasure of the Chapter.

VOTING

SECTION 50 - In all cases except balloting, a majority of votes shall govern; in case of a tie, the presiding officer shall give the casting vote.

ANNUAL RETURNS

SECTION 51 - The annual reporting period for each Subordinate Chapter shall be from January 1st through December 31st. (Amended May 12, 1990)

SECTION 52 - Each Subordinate Chapter shall forward to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi on or before the 1st day of February an Annual Return showing the Chapter activities for the preceding report period and all papers and other items requiring action by the Grand Chapter. The Annual Return shall include, but not limited to, the names and effective date(s) for those members who, at any time during the report period were exempt, exalted, affiliated, reinstated, suspended, expelled, demitted or died. (*Amended May 12, 1990*)

SECTION 53 - For failure to submit the annual report on or before the date specified in Section 52, each Subordinate Chapter shall be penalized at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) per month, or part of a month, and by such action as may be deemed appropriate by the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi. (*Amended May 12, 1990*)

SECTION 54 - Returns of Chapters shall be made in duplicate upon the blanks supplied to them by the Grand Chapter, one copy of which shall be retained in the archives of the Chapter and the other forwarded to the Grand Secretary; they must be signed by the High Priest who served during the year which they cover, and the Secretary shall have the Chapter seal affixed.

SECTION 55 - When practicable the annual dues to the Grand Chapter should be forwarded with the Returns, and in any event must be paid before the 10th day of March.

DEMITTS

SECTION 56 - Any Companion who shall not at the time be an officer of the Chapter, against whom no charges are pending, and whose dues are paid to date, shall be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing, on making application in writing to the Secretary of his Chapter. This Certificate shall be valid until December 1st following date issued. Transfer of membership from one Chapter in Mississippi to another may be effected by presentation of this Certificate along with petition for Affiliation to the Chapter of the Companion's choice.

The Secretary of the Chapter, electing such candidate shall immediately notify the Chapter, who issued the Certificate, on a printed form provided for that purpose. The Companion's name is to be dropped from the roll of membership of the Chapter issuing the Certificate, and shall be reported in the next Annual Return to the Grand Chapter as having demitted on the date of election by another Chapter.

Petition for Affiliation by transfer of Membership shall take the same course as if the petition was accompanied by a demit, and in no way shall prevent a Companion from securing a demit, if he so desires. (*Amended May 7, 1977*)

DIPLOMAS

SECTION 57 - The Grand Secretary shall furnish each member of a Chapter making application therefore a diploma, on the certificate of the Secretary, of the good standing of the applicant, for which a fee of \$1.00 shall be paid, one-half of which shall be retained by the Secretary, and the other half paid into the Treasury of the Grand Chapter, to reimburse it for the cost of procuring a suitable form for the same.

FUNERALS

SECTION 58 - Chapters, as such are not permitted to participate in the burial of the dead, nor shall any Royal Arch regalia be worn upon such occasion.

LAWS OF GRAND LODGE

SECTION 59 - Whenever the laws of the Grand Chapter are silent in any given case, the laws of the Grand Lodge in an analogous case shall govern Chapters, their officers and members.

CHAPTER SEALS

SECTION 60 - Chapters shall have a proper seal to authenticate their acts, which shall remain in the custody of the Secretary, who shall impress the same only by its order or that of the presiding officer, or when required to be used

by the Regulations of the Grand Chapter. The seal may be changed at pleasure, on forwarding an impression thereof to the Grand Secretary to be inserted in a book of seals, which shall be kept in his office.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 61 - Honorary Membership shall be created by a Resolution proposed at one meeting and laid over for consideration at the next Stated Convocation, and shall require a unanimous vote of the Chapter, for its adoption. No Brother shall be eligible to Honorary Membership unless he is a member in good standing in some regular Chapter in this jurisdiction or in the jurisdiction of some Grand Chapter with which this Grand Chapter is in correspondence.

EXEMPT AND PERPETUAL MEMBERS

SECTION 62 - Any Royal Arch Mason, whose membership aggregates twenty-five (25) years, and who is over seventy-two (72) years of age, shall be exempt by their Chapters from dues to the Chapter and Grand Chapter, except from charity assessments, which may be levied from time to time, and when any Chapter shall so exempt its members a certificate of the fact shall be furnished by the Grand Chapter, attested by the Grand Secretary, and be by him, made a matter of record, and no credit for exemption shall be allowed Chapters except when certificates have been registered and attested by the Grand Secretary. *(Amended May 11, 1979)*

SECTION 62-A - The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi does hereby establish a Perpetual Membership Program to be financed and administered in the following manner:

A. General Specifications

1. This program shall be known as the "Perpetual Membership Plan" of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as "the plan".
2. This plan is to be operated and administered by a committee consisting of three Companions appointed by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest to serve as follows: one member to serve for three years, one member to serve for two years and one member to serve for one year, at the end of which all successive appointments are to be for three years, except for appointments to fill unexpired terms. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest shall appoint one of the members to serve as Chairman of the Committee. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of this committee for advisory purposes only.
3. The Plan Committee is hereby empowered to invest all funds received by the Grand Chapter for this program. Investments are to be in government insured securities of maximum interest yield. The term of securities will be determined by the Plan Committee. All proceeds from the investments are to be

returned to the members' Council, except 1% of the proceeds may be set aside for administrative costs when necessary.

4. Any matter not specifically covered by this regulation shall be resolved by a committee consisting of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and the Plan Committee. The results of such meeting will be reported at the next Grand Chapter Convocation, and any changes resulting there from shall be subject to the vote of the members of the Grand Chapter.

B. Eligibility

1. Any constituent Chapter of Royal Arch Masons may, by the vote of the members, participate in this plan, subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth.
2. Any Chapter member in good standing within this Grand Jurisdiction, who is a member in good standing of a Symbolic Masonic Lodge, may become a participant in this plan and receive a "Perpetual Membership Certificate" and a "Perpetual Membership Card" by paying into the Plan an amount as set forth in the cost of the plan.

C. Cost of the Plan

1. The entire cost of a Perpetual Membership shall be paid by the participating member, or his Chapter, in accordance with the formula set forth herein.
2. The formula used to compute the cost will use the annual dues of the Constituent Chapter multiplied by fifteen (15). *(To prevent a loss in revenue, the Constituent Chapter should also collect, and retain for its own use, any current dues that may be payable at the time the application is submitted to the Chapter.)*
3. Upon receipt of an application for Perpetual Membership (form to be supplied by the Grand Secretary) and the payment of an amount computed from the above formula, the Constituent Chapter Secretary will transmit to the Chairman of the Plan Committee the payment plus the application. The application form should include the name of the applicant, the name and number of his Symbolic Lodge, the name and number of his Royal Arch Chapter, his birthday, the date when he received his Royal Arch Degree, and the inclusive dates of any suspension for non-payment of dues. The chairman of the Plan Committee shall deposit any funds received, verily the above information with the Grand Secretary, verify the computation, and if all is correct, issue a Perpetual Membership Certificate effective the following January 1, and send it to the Chapter Secretary who will issue the Companion a Perpetual Membership Card. Should there be a discrepancy in information or computation, it must be resolved prior to the issuance of the Certificate.

D. Administration

1. The administration of the Plan shall be vested in the Perpetual Membership Plan Committee and under the supervision of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. All moneys received shall be placed in trust in the name of the Constituent Chapter and all funds derived from the investment of moneys in trust shall be returned to the Constituent Chapter prior to January 15 of each year, except that 1% of the interest on the above trust funds may be set aside as necessary for administrative costs.
2. The Plan Committee shall keep a complete record of all funds paid into a Chapter's Perpetual Membership Trust Fund, the amount of interest earned by the above funds, the payment of interest to the Chapter, and the name of the individual to whom the Perpetual Membership Certificate is issued. The Plan Committee shall make an annual report to the Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation regarding the financial status of each account so established, together with the cost of administration of the Plan. The Plan Committee may operate jointly with equivalent committees of the other Grand York Rite Bodies of this Grand Jurisdiction, as appropriate.
3. The initial and future cost of the administration of the Plan will be paid on a pro rata basis by all participating Chapters; expenses in excess of 1% of the interest on moneys in trust are subject to a vote of the members in attendance at an Annual Convocation.
4. Disposal of moneys in trust in the name of a Constituent Chapter shall not be made in any other manner except as herein designated.
5. No refund shall be made from the Plan to any person for any reason.

E. Change of Membership

1. Upon the holder of Perpetual Membership Certificate transferring to another Constituent Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction, the Chairman of the Perpetual Membership Committee shall upon notice thereof cause to be transferred on the books of the Perpetual Membership Plan the moneys received from such Perpetual Membership to the credit of the Chapter transferred to, regardless of by whom such Perpetual Membership was purchased. If the transferor's new Chapter is not a participating Chapter in the Plan, such transfer of membership shall automatically establish an account in the new Chapter's name, and all interest is to be credited to the members new Chapter as herein provided.
2. The death of a holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate does not alter the payment of interest to the participating Chapter.

3. Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate demitting to a Chapter outside of this Grand Jurisdiction, or taking a demit and not affiliating with another Chapter, the moneys received for such Perpetual Membership shall remain in the account of the members Chapter prior to taking the demit.
4. Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate being suspended or expelled from the Symbolic Lodge, or a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the moneys received for such Perpetual Membership shall remain in the account of the member's Chapter prior to being suspended or expelled.
5. When two or more Chapters consolidate, all moneys in the respective Perpetual Membership Plans of the Chapters involved shall be transferred to the credit of such consolidated Chapter.
6. Upon the dissolution of a Chapter, holders of Perpetual Membership Certificates shall have such memberships transferred as provided in sub-paragraph 1 hereof. All funds received for Perpetual Memberships from deceased members of the dissolved Chapter, and all funds for Perpetual Memberships from members who do not transfer their Perpetual Memberships to another Chapter, shall remain in the Plan and be credited to the Grand Chapter, and all interest received from such moneys will be distributed on a pro rata basis with the remaining constituent Chapters in the Plan.

(Amended March 14, 2013)

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 62-B – Any Companion holding membership in a subordinate Chapter of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mississippi may hold dual membership within one or more subordinate Chapters within the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mississippi.

Any Companion desirous of holding such membership in a Chapter must submit a petition for such to that Chapter, and said petition would be subject to the same course of action as a petition for affiliation. A petition for dual membership must state the name, age and residence of the applicant, and the name, number and location of any Chapter in which the applicant holds membership.

Any Companion subject to payment of dues in his Mother Chapter would automatically be subject to payment of dues in any Chapter in which he holds dual membership. Any Companion, having applied for and obtained perpetual membership status in his Mother Chapter would not be exempt from dues from a Chapter in which he holds dual membership, but may apply for perpetual membership in said Chapter.

Any Companion exempt from dues to age and tenure would automatically be exempt from dues in a Chapter in which he holds dual membership. Any Companion holding dual membership in one or more Chapters may hold office in one Chapter only.

Any Companion expelled for any reason from either his Mother Chapter or any Chapter in which he holds dual membership would automatically be expelled from any other Chapter within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mississippi.

Any Companion reinstated in his Mother Chapter or a Chapter in which he holds dual membership will automatically be reinstated in any other Chapter in which he holds membership, unless a protest is filed by a member with the High Priest, excluding where suspension was for non-payment of dues. A petitioner for reinstatement will be liable for delinquent dues in both his Mother Chapter and any other Chapter in which he holds dual membership. *(Added May 10, 2002)*

PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 62-C – A Companion in good standing in a Mississippi Chapter shall have the right to remain a member of a Mississippi Chapter and petition for membership and, if accepted, become and remain a plural member of a constituent Chapter of a Grand Chapter or subordinate Chapter of the General Grand Chapter outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mississippi, provided the Companion remains in good standing in a Mississippi Chapter. *(Added May 14, 2004)*

SECTION 62-D – A Companion in good standing in a constituent Chapter of a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which is either a member of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons or not, or subordinate Chapter of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi can remain a member of said constituent or subordinate Chapter and petition a Mississippi Chapter for membership and, if accepted, become and remain a plural member of said Mississippi Chapter provided the Companion remains in good standing in his constituent or subordinate Chapter outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Mississippi. *(Added May 14, 2004)*

NEW CHAPTERS

SECTION 63 - Petitions for the formation of a new Chapter under Section 1 of Article XII, of the Constitution, shall be forwarded through the Grand Secretary, to the Grand High Priest or Grand Chapter, accompanied by the demit of the petitioners, and shall state the reason therefore; designating the proposed place of meeting, and the names of those they wish to be appointed officers; and accompany their petition with a certificate or recommendation from the Chapter nearest to the place where such new Chapter is proposed to be located, giving its consent thereto. The recommending Chapter shall certify that in its opinion the honor and welfare of the Fraternity

will be promoted by the establishment of the proposed Chapter, that it is satisfied as to the good Masonic standing of the petitioners, and their competency to undertake the conduct of a Chapter, and that one or more of the three principal officers mentioned in the petition have appeared before them in open Chapter, and exemplified the work, and delivered the lectures in the Degrees of Royal Arch Masonry.

SECTION 64 - Whenever a new Chapter is formed by members demitting from an existing Chapter they shall forfeit all claims to the property of the Chapter, and have no voice in its disposition. It may be divided with the new Chapter by the consent of the members adhering to the old organization, but there is no obligation upon them to make a division.

CONSOLIDATION OF CHAPTERS

SECTION 65 - Whenever two or more Chapters shall desire to consolidate, a Resolution to the effect may be proposed at any Stated Convocation of said Chapter which shall lie over till the next Stated Convocation, and the High Priest shall cause all the members to be notified of the pendency of the same. If at the Convocation, when such Resolution shall be acted upon, two-thirds of the members present at the meeting of each Chapter proposed to be consolidated, shall vote affirmatively, the oldest Past High Priest belonging to either of said Chapters shall call a meeting to be held at the usual place of meeting of the oldest of said Chapters within sixty days thereafter, to elect officers of the consolidated Chapter and to decide upon a name and place of meeting for the same. Said meeting shall be presided over by one of the officers of the Grand Chapter, or a Past Grand officer, or if none of these officers shall be present, the oldest Past High Priest of this jurisdiction, who shall be present, shall preside. Such consolidated Chapter shall take the number of the oldest of the Chapters so consolidated, and a Charter shall be issued by the Grand Secretary, without fee, to said consolidated Chapter, unless the name of the oldest of the Chapters so consolidated shall be adopted, in which event no new Charter shall be necessary, and the Charter of the oldest of said Chapters shall be the Charter of the consolidated Chapter and the installation of the officers-elect may immediately be proceeded with, otherwise the installation shall not take place until the Chapter is received. All the jewels and property of the Chapter so consolidated shall become the property of the consolidated Chapter. The election of any candidate to receive the Degrees in either Chapter, prior to the act of consolidation, shall be valid, and a new ballot shall not be taken, unless at the time of conferring the Degree it shall be demanded by a member present. A copy of the minutes of the several meetings, attested by the seal, shall, forthwith, be forwarded to the Grand Secretary; and no Charter shall be issued by him until such record is received by him. The consolidated Chapter shall be liable for all the debts and undertakings of the Chapter merged into it. But whenever in the judgment of the Grand High Priest the provisions in the above paragraph cannot be complied with in effecting the consolidating of two Chapters and that consolidation is deemed necessary to the welfare of Capitular Masonry, he may direct the High Priest of one, or of each Chapter, to call a Special Convocation of his Chapter to consider and vote on a Resolution to consolidate, requiring that each member of said Chapter shall be notified of the fact that such Resolution will be considered and be voted on at the Convocation. If two-thirds of the members present shall vote in favor of the consolidation in both of the interested Chapters, the Grand High Priest shall be so notified by

the Secretary of each and if he approves, he may direct that a joint Convocation shall be called at which the consolidation shall be completed in accord with the directions in the first paragraph of this section.

DUPLICATE CHARTERS

SECTION 66 - The Grand Secretary shall keep in his office, in one or more substantially bound registers, a copy of every Charter issued by the Grand Chapter, and all Chapters shall, as soon as practicable, forward to him duly certified copies of their Charters to be so recorded.

SECTION 67 - When any Chapter shall lose its Charter by fire, or where, for any cause, the same may be destroyed, lost or defaced, so that it cannot be recovered or used, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, upon application duly made, to send a certified copy of said Charter to said Chapter, without fee, if said Chapter has complied with the regulation requiring the same to be recorded and if not so recorded, he shall issue a duplicate upon receiving a fee of \$10.00 for the same, from the most reliable data obtainable.

CHANGE OF LOCATION

SECTION 68 - Hereafter when a Chapter desires to change the place of meeting named in the Dispensation or Charter, to any other locality, a Resolution to that effect may be introduced at any Stated Convocation, and shall lie over until the next Stated Convocation, and the High Priest shall cause each member of his Chapter to be notified of the pendency of the same and to attend; if a majority of the members present vote in favor of the removal, and the Grand High Priest approves of the same, the removal may take place.

DEFUNCT CHAPTERS

SECTION 69 - When a Chapter has taken action on a matter and has afterwards ceased to exist, any further action required, authorized or allowable, on its part, by these Regulations, should be performed by the Chapter nearest the place of residence of the party or parties interested.

SECTION 70 - In case of a Chapter ceasing to exist, its members must apply to the Grand Secretary for a certificate of Masonic character and standing, which he will furnish upon satisfactory evidence that all the dues are paid to the time of the Chapter going out of existence. Should the members desiring certificates be indebted to Chapter at the time it ceased to exist, they shall pay this amount of such indebtedness to the Grand Secretary before receiving such certificate, unless they shall produce a certificate of their inability to do so from the last High Priest of such Chapter. Such a certificate shall have all the force and effect of a demit.

SECTION 71 - Whenever a Chapter shall become extinct from any cause, its property shall escheat to the Grand Chapter, and the Grand High Priest shall cause the same to be sold, and the proceeds applied to the payment of the

Chapter debts and the residue, if any, shall be credited to the Grand Chapter Fund; provided, that any Chapter contemplating a surrender of its Charter, may by vote make any disposal of its property it may see fit, save and except its Charter and records, which shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary.

SECTION 72 - Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters in Chapters, which shall afterward cease to exist, may petition the Chapter nearest their place of residence, accompanied by a certificate of the Grand Secretary setting forth that by the records of such defunct Chapter it appears that the candidate was advanced, and all the fees had been paid, which application shall be referred to a committee of inquiry, and if favorably reported upon, may be proceeded with as if the candidate had been advanced in the Chapter.

SECTION 73 - Any member of an extinct Chapter, suspended for non-payment of dues shall be restored to good standing on payment to the Grand Secretary of all indebtedness to his Chapter at the date of its surrender or forfeiture of Charter, and shall receive a certificate from him, under seal of the Grand Chapter, which shall have all the effect of a demit; provided, that in case of a Companion who desires (to affiliate with another Chapter and unable to pay his arrearages) such certificate may be issued on the certificate of the Chapter with which he proposes to affiliate without payment of such arrearages.

SECTION 75 – Be it resolved that mileage and per diem be paid to all holders of the General Grand Chapter Award who are not already entitled to the same, in the amount paid to officers of the Grand Chapter and to representatives of subordinate Chapters. *(Added May 7, 1971)*

NOTICE OF EXPULSION AND REINSTATEMENT TO BE GIVEN

SECTION 74 - That the Secretary of each subordinate Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction, be and is hereby required to send official notice of the suspension, expulsion or reinstatement of any of its members of the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and Commandery of Knights Templar, within whose jurisdiction such Chapter may be situated.

RULES RELATING TO MASONIC OFFENSES

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAPTERS ON TRIALS

MASONIC OFFENSES

Rule 1 - Chartered Chapters should take notice of and punish according to Masonic usage, and to the extent prescribed by these Regulations all offenses against Masonry, good morals and society; particularly those of profanity, dueling, profane swearing, carrying of concealed weapons not in necessary self defense, and gaming, violations of the secrecy of the Chapter proceedings, except when disclosed in the discharge of official duty, the divulging of the vote given by any member in balloting, either to the candidate or any individual out of the Chapter, or any remarks made in connection therewith.

Rule 2 - Every chartered Chapter has power to call before it, and punish, according to Masonic usage not merely all offending members, but all offending Royal Arch Masons residing or sojourning within its jurisdiction who are not members of some other chartered Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi. In cases of offending Royal Arch Masons who are members of any other such Chapter, the Chapter within whose jurisdiction the offender resides or is sojourning, shall first send up charges and specifications to the Chapter of which he is a member; and on the refusal or neglect of said Chapter to take action in the premises, then the Chapter within whose jurisdiction he resides, or sojourns, may proceed to try him according to Masonic usage, and shall in that case report the result of said trial to the Chapter of his membership.

Rule 3 - Chapters have the right to try non-affiliated Royal Arch Masons for unmasonic conduct committed while residing or sojourning within the limits of their jurisdiction, after they have removed beyond them, or out of the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi.

Rule 4 - Suspended Royal Arch Masons charged with such unmasonic conduct, as if established, would justify a heavier punishment than they are undergoing, can be arranged for trial. They need not be reinstated before such arraignment and trial, but may be admitted into the Chapter during the progress of the trial and examination of witnesses.

Rule 5 - Should a Royal Arch Mason be under arrest by the civil authorities, on a criminal charge, no final action shall be taken in his case by the Chapter, until after the decision of such authorities. The Chapter may, however suspend one of its members while under criminal prosecution, until the case is decided by the civil authorities; but such action on its part shall not be made public until such final decision.

Rule 6 - A Chapter cannot try its High Priest, or King or Scribe exercising the functions of High Priest, during his term of office, but after he ceases to be High Priest, or a King or Scribe ceases to perform the functions of High Priest, he may be tried by his Chapter for any immoral or unmasonic conduct of which he may have been guilty whilst he was High Priest, or King or Scribe acting as High Priest, the Grand Chapter only reserving to itself exclusive jurisdiction to try the High Priest of a Chapter, or King or Scribe acting as such, after his term of office expires for an act done or omitted to be done, in an official capacity.

Rule 7 - Any five members of his Chapter or any Grand Officer may impeach the High Priest of a Chapter before the Grand High Priest, who shall order an investigation of the charges; and if he thinks proper, after such investigation, he may suspend the accused and summon him to appear at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

Rule 8 - In no case shall the judgment of the Chapter be made public, unless the misconduct of which the Companion shall have been found guilty or has been public and scandalous and dishonorable to the name and character of our Ancient Institution.

Rule 9 - When a Symbolic Lodge has taken cognizance of an offense by a Royal Arch Mason, the Chapter shall suspend proceedings until the result of its proceedings are known, when the Chapter may proceed against a Royal Arch Mason, if it thinks the interest of Royal Arch Masonry requires a higher grade of punishment to be inflicted.

Rule 10 - The High Priest of each Chapter shall appoint a standing committee of three to be styled the "Committee on Complaints and Offenses" who shall take cognizance of all offenses against the laws of Masonry which may come under their own observation, or of which they may be informed by any Companion. Said committee shall, without delay, investigate the matter, and shall report upon the same to the Chapter at a Stated Meeting, preferring the charges and specifications if necessary.

Rule 11 - If charges and specifications are reported the Secretary shall, forthwith, furnish the accused with a copy of the same, and of the report of the committee, and notify him that the committee will, at a time and place to be named therein not less than five days thereafter, proceed and take the testimony of such persons as cannot be examined in the Chapter room, and that he may be present, if he so desires, and cross examine the witnesses; and at the same time and place he may present any witness he may desire to have examined on his own behalf, whose testimony cannot be taken in the Chapter room. He shall when the committee has completed the testimony on both sides, notify him that he will be put upon his trial at a day named by the Chapter, in not less than twenty days thereafter.

Rule 12 - At the date so fixed, the accused shall be tried upon the charges and specifications, unless he or the accuser show good cause for a continuance.

Rule 13 - If the accused shall evade notice or if the Secretary, after diligent inquiry for four months, shall be unable to ascertain his residence, so that notice may be served upon him, the Chapter may then proceed to trial, as if he had been regularly notified.

Rule 14 - After the case has been made up according to these Rules, the Chapter may, if it things proper, remove the same for trial to any neighboring Chapter, by consent of the accused. There is no Masonic obligation on the neighboring Chapter to comply, but courtesy should induce it to do so.

Rule 15 - When the Chapter is ready for trial, the charges and specifications shall be read. Testimony on the part of the accuser shall then be produced; and when that is completed, the accused will introduce his testimony. All the testimony must be taken down in writing, by the Secretary or some impartial Companion for him, as has already been filed.

Rule 16 - All testimony whether of Masons or others, shall be taken upon honor and such as cannot be taken in the Chapter room shall be taken before a committee appointed by the High Priest.

Rule 17 - The Chairman of the Committee on Complaints and Offenses shall act as accuser, unless some member becomes so, by having brought the charges before the committee. In the latter event he shall assist the accuser to the extent of enabling the Chapter to try the matter with fairness to both parties.

Rule 18 - When the evidence is closed, the accuser, or any Companion he may select in his behalf, may comment upon the same. The accused, or any Companion he may desire to represent him, may be heard in reply. After these comments are through the accused and accuser shall withdraw from the Chapter room; after which, any Companion can express his views upon the entire matter. But no further testimony shall be admitted unless the Chapter shall so direct, in which event the case shall be continued until a day to be fixed by the Chapter, not less than ten days thereafter, and notice shall forthwith be given of the time and place of taking the additional testimony of those persons who cannot be admitted into the Chapter, which shall not be in less than three days hereafter; when the case shall again be taken up it shall proceed as if no interruption had taken place.

Rule 19 - The effect of a plea of guilty shall be to dispense with the necessity of taking evidence on behalf of the prosecution, but the accused may introduce any testimony in mitigation of the offense he may deem proper, which may be rebutted if the accuser, or Committee on Complaints and Offenses so elect, after which the Chapter shall proceed in its deliberations as in other cases.

Rule 20 - A vote shall be taken by ballot, upon each specification under each charge, in their order, the accuser, not being permitted to vote, and it shall require a vote of a majority of the members present to sustain any specification

or charge. Before the vote the presiding officer shall remind the members that they are proceeding under the sanctity of their obligation and should be governed by fairness and impartiality in giving their decisions.

When the charges shall have been voted upon, if any shall be sustained, the Chapter shall proceed to vote, the accused and accuser being excluded upon the infliction of punishment, the grades of which are as follows:

1. Expulsion
2. Indefinite suspension
3. Suspended for a definite period
4. Exclusion from Chapter benefits
5. Reprimand

Rule 21 - The highest order of punishment shall be first proposed; if it be not sustained then the next milder punishment, until the grade be fixed; and no greater number of Votes shall be required to inflict the punishment than is necessary to sustain a charge; except that a majority of two-thirds shall be necessary to suspend indefinitely; and of three-fourths to expel. The accused shall then be admitted and informed of the action of the Chapter.

Rule 22 - When any Companion has been convicted of unmasonic conduct the High Priest presiding at the trial, or the Chapter, may for good cause shown, grant a new trial. But only one new trial shall be so granted in any case.

Rule 23 - The accuser or the accused, or any member of the Chapter, if either, deem himself the cause of Royal Arch Masonry injured by the decision of the Chapter in any trial, may within three months after such decision, file with the High Priest, written notice of his desire to appeal to the Grand Chapter, which notice shall set forth his objections to the action of the Chapter, and a list of such papers as he desires to forward to the Grand Chapter.

Rule 24 - The High Priest shall thereupon send up, directed to the Grand Secretary, a copy of the record of the trial, signed by himself, and shall contain a copy of the charges and specifications; the report of the Committee on Complaints and Offenses; a copy of all the testimony, for and against the accused; and the original and the proceedings of the Chapter thereon, or a correct copy of all papers used upon the trial as evidence, certified by the Secretary under the seal of the Chapter; which Record together with a copy of appellant's notice of appeal, and of all papers he has desired to be forwarded to the Grand Chapter.

Rule 25 - The Secretary shall certify that the Record contains said original paper or true copies, and a true transcript of all the testimony introduced on trial; and he shall append to the Record an index of all the papers.

Rule 26 - Blank forms for appeals shall be furnished by the Grand Secretary, and no appeal shall be considered in Grand Chapter unless such form shall be substantially followed by the appellant.

Rule 27 - When the Grand Lecturer or any officer of the Grand Chapter is ordered or may be called upon to adjust any difference or attend any trial, they shall be paid the same mileage and per diem as is allowed to members for attendance upon the Grand Chapter while necessarily employed in such service by the said Chapter or Chapters.

SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS AND RESTORATIONS

Rule 28 - Sentences of Suspension take effect from the date of infliction, and they may be for a definite period or may be indefinite. In the former case they terminate without further action of the Chapter, at the end of the period named. Indefinite suspensions can be terminated by the action of the Chapter itself, without requiring confirmation of such action by the Grand Chapter.

Rule 29 - Restoration from indefinite suspension may be either to the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry alone, or to the rights and privileges or to membership. In the former case a two-thirds vote shall be sufficient, but in the latter a unanimous vote is necessary. Such restorations shall only be made on petition, in writing, of the party, setting forth the reasons for making such request, which shall be presented at a Stated Meeting and referred to a committee of inquiry to report at the next stated meeting. Notice of the pendency of such petition, shall be given, if practicable, to all the members of the Chapter.

Rule 30 - Sentences of expulsion only become operative, as such, at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and under the authority and with the confirmation of that body. Until that time, the expelled Companion is regarded only as suspended, and can be restored by a three-fourths vote of the Chapter given at a Stated Meeting, and after a similar petition and notice. From and after the confirmation of such sentence by the Grand Chapter, the expelled Companion can only be restored by its direction and on the unanimous recommendation, similarly given of the Chapter which expelled him, if the same be in existence. If not, on a similar recommendation of the Chapter within whose jurisdiction he resides. Before the Chapter shall make such recommendation, like proceedings shall be had as is required by Rule 29, in cases of petition for restoration from suspension.

Rule 31 - Restoration from expulsion, when asked for at the hands of the Chapter expelling, may be full and perfect, or on conditions; in the latter case, only reaching, if the Chapter so adjudges, to restoration to the general rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry; in the former case, extending also to the rights and privileges of Chapter membership.

RULES OF ORDER

SECTION 1 - After opening the Chapter, the order of Business shall be as follows:

1. Reading the minutes of preceding Convocation
2. Unfinished business
3. Reports of Committees
4. Petitions and Applications
5. Motions and Resolutions
6. New Business
7. Reading the minutes of the Convocation for correction

SECTION 2 - Any Companion desiring to speak in the Chapter shall rise and address the High Priest in respectful manner, and with Masonic form.

SECTION 3 - No Companion shall be permitted to speak more than twice on any one question, without the consent of the High Priest.

SECTION 4 - Debate shall be courteous and pertinent to the subject.

SECTION 5 - On all questions submitted to the Chapter, its sense shall be ascertained by a show of hands or by ballot.