

GENERAL REGULATIONS
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
OF
VERMONT



Amended June 10, 2008
Amended June 11, 2002
Amended June 13, 2000
Amended June 11, 1996
Amended June 8, 1993
Amended June 14, 1983
Amended June 10, 1980
Adopted June 12, 1956

GENERAL REGULATIONS
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
OF
VERMONT
NAME

SEC. 1. Name. This Grand Council shall be styled and known as The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Vermont.

The Principal Administrative Office of this Grand Council shall be situate in the Town of Berlin, County of Washington, State of Vermont, wherein shall be kept all records of the Grand Council (JUNE 10, 2009)

AUTHORITY AND CONTROL

SEC. 2. Control. Within the State of Vermont this Grand Council shall have exclusive control over the so-called Cryptic degrees; over the issuance of dispensations and charters for new Councils; and over the arrest of Council charters and discipline of Council officers and/or members; and over the management of its own affairs; together with general supervision over its subordinate Councils, their administration and practices.

SEC. 3. Members of the Grand Council. This Grand Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. Grand Officers hereinafter enumerated
- b. Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Principal Conductors of Work, Past Treasurers, and Past Recorders.
- c. Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of Work and Recorders, for the time being, of its subordinate Councils.
- d. Past Masters of its subordinate Councils, while members of a Vermont Council.

SEC. 4. Votes and Proxies. Each member of Grand Council, enumerated in Section 3, shall be entitled to one vote in all Grand Council Assemblies, whether Annual or Special. The Master, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of Work and Recorders of subordinate Councils, and no others, may each appoint his own proxy, if unable to be present in person, with full powers of representation. Such proxy shall be a Master or a Past Master of a Vermont Council, and shall not be seated unless he presents proper credentials of appointment. No proxy shall represent more than one Council

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GRAND ASSEMBLIES

SEC. 5. Place and Time of Annual Assembly. The Grand Council shall hold its Annual Assembly at a place and time to be recommended by the Committee on Place and Time, subject to a vote and approval by the Grand Council. (1993, page 26)

SEC. 6. Special Assemblies – Notice thereof – Business to be Transacted. The Grand Master or, in his absence or incapacity, the senior elected Grand Officer available, may call a special assembly at Burlington, Vermont or any other place on such date and at such time as he may choose, provided a necessity therefore exists.

If the Annual Assembly is not held at the time herein appointed, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master, or in his absence or incapacity, the senior Grand Officer available, to call a special assembly, as soon thereafter as may be, for the transaction of any and all business proper for consideration at the Annual Assembly.

Special Assemblies may be held only pursuant to written or printed notice thereof, mailed, first class, fifteen (15) days prior to meeting date, to all Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Conductors of Work, Committeemen and Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of Work and Recorders, which notice shall state the business to be considered. No business can originate at a Special Assembly, except that for which it was called and notice given for.

SEC. 7. Quorum. Three Grand Officers and the representatives of three subordinate Councils, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Grand Council business at an Annual or Special Assembly.

GRAND OFFICERS

SEC. 8. Grand Council Officers. The following Grand Officers shall be elected at the Annual Assembly and immediately following the Grand Master's Address.

No elected Grand Officer, during his term of office shall be elected or appointed to any other office in this Grand Council.

A Past Grand Officer who is a member of this Grand Council by Statutes in the General Regulations shall not be considered as an elected officer.

Election shall be by ballot, except as hereinafter provided, for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected and installed.

Grand Master	Grand Recorder
Deputy Grand Master	Grand Captain of the Guard
Grand Principal Conductor of Work	Grand Conductor of Council
Grand Treasurer	

In the discretion of the presiding officer, nominations by name only may be received and election may be by show of hands if only one nomination is made. Otherwise election shall be by ballot.

The following Grand Officers shall except as otherwise noted, be appointed at the Annual Assembly by the Grand Master for a period of one (1) year, or until their successors are appointed and installed. Such appointments shall not constitute a progressive and/or successive line. No appointed Grand Officer, during his term of office shall be elected or appointed to any other office in this Grand Council. A Past Grand Officer who is a member of this Grand Council by statutes in the General Regulations shall not be considered an appointed officer.

NON PROGRESSIVE AND/OR SUCCESSIVE LINE OF APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS

A District Deputy Grand Master from each District, appointed by the Grand Master on recommendation of a majority vote of the representatives from such District.

Assistant Grand Treasurer, to be appointed by the Grand Treasurer with the approval of the Grand Master.

Assistant Grand Recorder, appointed by the Grand Recorder with the approval of the Grand Master.
Grand Chaplain, Grand Lecturer, Grand Marshal, Grand Steward, Grand Sentinel

The stations of the Grand Officers shall be as defined in the Ritual

SEC. 9. Qualification for Office. No man shall be elected or appointed to office in this Grand Council except he then be a Master or a Past Master of a Vermont Council and a member of a subordinate Council in Vermont. Any Royal and Select Mason, member of a Vermont Council, shall be eligible for appointment as a member of a committee.

SEC. 10. Succession Due to Death, Absence or Incapacity. If the Grand Master dies, is absent or incapacitated, the next available elected Grand Officer, except the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder shall become Acting Grand Master so long as such disability continues or until the next Annual Assembly. Vacancies in any office so created shall be filled temporarily by the Acting Grand Master.

SEC. 11. Acceptance of Office – Vacancy. If any Grand Officer, elected or appointed to any office, be not present and installed at the Annual Assembly, the Grand Recorder shall forthwith notify such person and demand to know, within thirty days, whether or not he accepts such office. If he does not accept, or if he fails to accept within the time stated, such office shall be vacant and may be filled by the Grand Master, by appointment, until the next Annual Assembly.

SEC. 12. Grand and Past Grand Officers – Ranks and Titles. Grand and Past Grand Master shall have the title of Most Illustrious; Present and Past Grand Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Treasurers and Grand Recorders shall have the rank of Right Illustrious. The holder of any office may use the highest Past title to which he is entitled.

DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

SEC. 13. GRAND MASTER. The Grand Master shall keep a watchful supervision over all Councils in this jurisdiction. He may exercise and enjoy all the prerogatives appurtenant to his office under Cryptic usage, limited, however, by the regulation of this Grand Council.

Specifically, but without intent to limit, he may, during recess of the Grand Council:

- a. Grant dispensations to Councils, but not contrary to Cryptic usage or by By-Laws of such Council;
- b. Grant dispensations to form new Councils but only under regulations herein stated;
- c. Arrest the charter of a Council until the next Annual Assembly of Grand Council, unless sooner restored by him, or revoke a dispensation to a new Council, for just cause;
- d. Suspend from his office any appointive officer of the Grand Council or any officer of a subordinate Council, for just cause, but such suspension shall not affect the standing of such officer as a member of the Cryptic Rite;
- e. He may, in person or by appointed representative, constitute all newly chartered Councils;
- f. He may visit and preside in any subordinate Council and demand to see the records, books, accounts and proceedings thereof;
- g. He may make decisions in matters and controversies involving Cryptic law which shall have full force and effect until reversed by Grand Council.

He shall report all his acts to the next Annual Assembly of Grand Council where such acts shall be considered and approved or disapproved.

SEC. 14. Deputy Grand Master - Grand Principal Conductor of Work. The Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Principal Conductor of Work shall each perform the usual duties of such stations together with those assigned by the Grand Master and/or the Grand Council. They shall have rights of succession as herein otherwise provided.

SEC. 15. Grand Treasurer. The Grand Treasurer shall be the custodian of all monies transmitted to him by the Grand Recorder, and all securities belonging to the Grand Council. He shall keep a true account of the same and

report annually or oftener if requested, to the Grand Council. He shall pay out no monies except on the order of the Grand Master, countersigned by the Grand Recorder.

SEC. 16. Grand Recorder. The Grand Recorder shall keep a true record of the proceedings of, and shall collect all monies, except interest on the securities, due to the Grand Council. He shall countersign all orders on the Grand Treasurer for the payment of money.

SEC. 17. Grand Lecturer. The Grand Lecturer shall be or become proficient in the ritual and floor work of the Cryptic degrees. He shall be present, when able, at each District Assembly called by the respective District Deputies on a schedule approved by him, and shall then instruct the Companions in Cryptic matters. He shall visit any requesting Council for purposes of instruction, provided, however, that such Council pays his expenses. He shall report his activities to the Grand Master each year not later than May 15, and shall at the same time, furnish a copy of such report to the Grand Recorder.

DISTRICTS AND DEPUTIES

SEC. 18. Districts. The jurisdiction of this Grand Council shall be divided into four (4) Districts. The Councils in this jurisdiction shall be assigned to the Districts as follows:

District No. 1. – Columbus, No. 1; Burlington, No. 5; Middlebury, No. 14.

District No. 2. - Bennington, No. 3; Farmers, No. 9; Davenport, No. 17.

District No. 3. – *(remove due to surrender of charter)Caledonia, No. 13*; Orleans, No. 19; Barre, No. 22.

District No. 4. – Windsor, No. 8; Springfield, No 18.

SEC. 19. District Deputies – Duties. Each District Deputy shall visit each Council in his District at least once in every year. He shall inspect each Council both ritualistically and financially. He shall instruct in ritual and lectures and shall advise in administration and financial matters. He shall obey all behests of the Grand Master. He shall call and arrange for an Annual Meeting of Councils in his District, under supervision of the Grand Lecturer, for purposes of instruction and fellowship. He shall report his doings and findings in writing to the Grand Master on or before May 10th in each year, and shall furnish a copy of such report to the Grand Recorder.

SEC. 20. Past District Deputies - Title. A District Deputy Grand Master, on retiring from active service, may retain the title of Right Illustrious while in good standing in a Vermont Council, and is entitled to be received in District Meetings as a Past District Deputy Grand Master with the title aforesaid.

SEC. 21. District Deputies – Compensation. Repealed (2002, page 17)

SEC. 22. District Deputies – District Meetings – Expense. The necessary expenses incurred by District Deputy Grand Masters in arranging for annual District Meetings, including preprinted announcements with program, necessary travel expense, loss suffered on banquets, shall be assessed on the Councils comprising the District on a per capita basis, and paid by such Councils to the Deputy within thirty days after notice thereof. Banquets, other than loss suffered by reason of lack of paid attendance, shall not be included in such assessments.

SEC. 23. Annual Meeting of Deputies. The Grand Lecturer, with the approval of the Grand Master, may call a meeting of District Deputy Grand Masters annually for instruction, at such time and place as he may deem advisable.

COMMITTEES

SEC. 24. Committees. At each Assembly, or as soon thereafter as may be practical, the Grand Master shall appoint the following standing committees of three (3) each.

Committees are a very integral part of the Grand Council. They are the investigative arm of the organization. Committees that really function are a definite asset to the Grand Council. The Grand Master shall not hastily appoint the required committees but rather shall make sure that the Companion selected, appointed and assigned to the various committees are, in his opinion the best qualified available. Further particular care shall be given to the appointment of the Chairman of all committees, owing to the fact that he is the Companion who will be responsible for the workings and results of the entire committee.

Under no circumstances shall a committee fail to report on a subject referred to their committee later than the next Annual Assembly. If more time is necessary to complete its investigation and report the Chairman of the Committee shall request in writing an extension of time from the Grand Council, so that the records in the proceedings will indicate the request for the extension.

It shall be unlawful for a committee to hold a referral "in committee" just because they have adverse feeling on the subject matter under review.

Credentials – whose duty it shall be to determine the rights of Grand Council members to vote in Assemblies, pass upon the validity of proxies, and make up the list of eligible voters at each Assembly and report the same to the Grand Council.

Finance – whose duty it shall be to examine and report on the books, accounts and reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, and prepare and present a budget of appropriations for the coming year. They may, with the approval of the Grand Master as to expense incurred, employ a competent independent accountant.

Jurisprudence – whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all matters referred to it.

Grievances – whose duty it shall be to consider and report on all matters of controversy arising between Councils or individuals.

Doings of Grand Officers- whose duty it shall be to review and report upon the administration and address of the Grand Master, the administration and report of the Grand Lecturer, and the reports of such other officers as may be referred to it.

Dispensations and Charters – whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all petitions for new charters; all surrenders or lifting of Charters; and all territorial jurisdictional matters arising relative to subordinate Councils; and all other matters referred to it.

Necrology – whose duty it shall be to pay due and proper respects to the memory of deceased Companions in a report at Annual Assembly.

Fraternal Relations. Whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all applications for recognition received from other Grand Councils.

Publications. Of which the Grand Recorder shall be Chairman, and whose duty it shall be to arrange for the publication and distribution of Proceedings of each Annual Assembly.

Place and Time – whose duty it shall be to recommend to the Grand Council at its Annual Assembly the place and time of the next Annual Assembly. (1993, page 26)

Membership – whose duty it shall be to work with corresponding committees in other Masonic Bodies to prepare and present recommendations for programs and/or actions needed to inform and stimulate Brothers to join the Rite. (2000, page 22).

The Grand Master may appoint interim and special committees as he deems necessary.

GRAND COUNCIL MAINTENANCE

SEC. 25. Degree Fees Payable to Grand Council. Each Council shall pay to Grand Council, with its annual report, not less than two (2) dollars for each candidate receiving the Royal Master Degree. Higher fees may be required from time to time if so voted by Grand Council.

SEC. 26. Per Capita and Assessments. The Grand Council may levy on its subordinate Councils such annual dues and/or assessments as may be needed for Grand Council support, and voted by Grand Council from time to time. Such dues and/or assessments shall be based on the per capita membership of Councils, as of March 31st of each year, and shall be, by each Council collected from all its members in addition to regular Council dues, unless remitted because on indigence.

GRAND COUNCIL PROPERTY - MANAGEMENT

SEC. 27. Trustees of Grand Council Property. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Principal Conductor of Work shall be the Trustees and Managers of all Grand Council property in the interim between Annual Assemblies, and always subject to Grand Council laws and instructions. They may procure insurance when needed. Generally, as Trustees, but in the name and for the benefit of Grand Council, they may do and perform any act or acts of a business character which the laws of the state and nation and the interests of the Grand Council may require.

SEC. 28. Investment of Funds. The Grand Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee and the Trustees, may invest and reinvest the funds of the Grand Council, subject further and always to the expressed will of the Grand Council.

AUTHORIZED WORK – INSTRUCTION

SEC. 29. Authorized Work. No degree or floor work shall be exemplified, except those adopted June 9, 1953, by this Grand Council, being the printed Ritual and Floor Work, now in use, or with some later change therein, except that the use of what is known as the “Baxter Work” is optional and permitted in the Royal Master Degree.

No changes shall be made in such work except such changes are submitted in writing and in detail at an Annual Assembly, ordered to lie, and final action thereon shall be had only at the next or some later Annual Assembly.

SEC. 30. Who May Instruct. No person other than the first three Grand Officers, the Grand Lecturer, and the District Deputies, within their respective Districts, shall be officially authorized to give instruction in the work and lectures in any subordinate Council.

CONTROVERSIES – JURISDICTION

SEC. 31. Jurisdiction – Controversies – Appeals. The Grand Council shall have original and final jurisdiction in all controversies between subordinate Councils under its jurisdiction, and between members of different subordinate Councils. It shall have appellate and final jurisdiction in all controversies arising within any subordinate Council, as hereinafter provided.

Any matter of controversy between Councils, between members of different Councils, may be presented by and through a petition in writing, clearly setting forth the grounds of controversy, addressed to the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Vermont, and filed with the Grand Recorder at least twenty days prior to an Annual Assembly.

Any member feeling himself aggrieved by a decision in any controversy or trial arising within any Council, may appeal to the Grand Council by notice clearly setting forth the grounds of appeal, addressed to the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Vermont, accompanied by a transcript of any trial proceedings held, and filed with the Grand Recorder at least twenty (20) days prior to an Annual Assembly.

MILEAGE – COMPENSATION – EXPENSE

SEC. 32. Mileage Allowances – Grand Assemblies. Repealed (2002, page 17)

SEC. 33. Grand Council Salaries – Travel Expense – Committee per diem. Salary and travel expense of Grand Officers, other than as provided in SEC. 31, may be paid but only in such sum as the Finance Committee recommends each year, and is adopted by Grand Council.

DISPENSATION FOR A NEW COUNCIL

SEC. 34. Dispensation for New Council – Petition. A petition for a dispensation to open a Council of Royal and Select Masters, within a jurisdiction of this Grand Council, shall be addressed to the Grand Master or Grand Council, and shall be signed by at least nine (9) Royal and Select Masters in good standing or holding valid demits and residing within its proposed jurisdiction. Such petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Council in the town or city nearest the proposed location of the new Council if within twenty (20) miles, consenting to the granting of the dispensation, and shall further be accompanied by the approval of the District Deputy for the District within such new Council is to be located. The petition being in order as above, and it appearing that granting of such petition will be in the best interests of Cryptic Freemasonry, the Grand Master, or Grand Council by vote, may issue a dispensation under which the petitioners and those they initiate may work until the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council. The Grand Council may then continue such dispensation from year to year, but, if a charter is not applied for and granted within three (3) years from the date of the first time-extension, the dispensation shall be withdrawn and such Council under dispensation shall cease to exist.

The Grand Master shall report the granting or refusal of dispensations, as above, to the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

SEC. 35. Dispensations for New Council – Fees. With each new petition to open a new Council there shall be paid to the Grand Recorder a fee of Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars. If dispensation is granted such fee shall become the property of Grand Council. If dispensation is not granted such fee shall be returned to the petitioners. If a Charter is subsequently granted, no further fee shall be required. Expense incurred by the Grand Council in instituting a new Council under dispensation and in consecrating a new Council under charter shall be paid by such Council.

SUBORDINATE COUNCILS

SEC. 36. Charter. No Council may operate in this jurisdiction except it holds a Charter regularly granted and issued by the Grand Council, or dispensation granted by the Grand Master or Grand Council.

SEC. 37. Council Officers – Ranks and Titles. The Council Officers in this jurisdiction shall be as follows and with the titles indicated:

A Master, whose title shall be Thrice Illustrious; A Deputy Master; a Principal Conductor of Work, a Treasurer; a Recorder; a Captain of the Guard; a Conductor of Council; a Chaplain; a Marshal; a Steward; and Sentinel, whose title shall be Companion.

The first seven shall be elected. The Master may, in his discretion, permit nominations by name only, and conduct an election by a show of hands where only one name is thus presented. When two or more names are presented, election shall be by ballot.

All such officers shall be installed not later than the next Annual Assembly by the retiring Master, any of the first three (3) Grand Officers or a Past Master.

SEC. 38. Council Assemblies – Business- Quorum. All business shall be transacted in a Council opened on the Select Master Degree, and only at a stated Assembly, unless otherwise dispensed by the Grand Master. Any of the three degrees may be conferred at a stated or special Assembly. Nine (9) members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

SEC. 39. Vacancies in Council Office. If the Master of a Council dies, resigns, removes from the jurisdiction of his Council, or becomes incapacitated, the Deputy Grand Master shall become Acting Master while such vacancy exists, or until the next Annual Assembly. If both such officers are incapacitated, the Principal Conductor of Work shall succeed as above.

Vacancies in any office below the rank of Master shall be filled temporarily by the Master or Acting Master while such vacancy continues, or until the next Annual Assembly.

If, in case of vacancy in the office of Master, Treasurer, or Recorder, the Council so votes, the Grand Master may, on proper application and notice of such vote, issue dispensation for an election to fill such vacancy, and all resulting vacancies, until next Annual Assembly.

SEC. 40. Limitation on Opening. A Council of Select Masters shall not be opened with less than nine (9) present, nor a Council of Royal Masters with less than five (5) present.

SEC. 41. Qualifications for Council Membership. No petition for the Cryptic degrees shall be considered or acted upon, unless the petitioner is then a member of a Symbolic Lodge and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in good standing, and has resided in the State for the six (6) months last past.

A person having received any of the Cryptic degrees shall be liable for the payment of Council dues.

No person shall become a member of any Council with voting or office holding rights until he shall have regularly received the degrees of Royal and Select Master.

SEC. 42. Qualifications for Council Affiliation. No petition for affiliation shall be acted upon in any Council, except as provided in SEC. 43, unless it is accompanied with a dimit from the last Council in which he held membership, and unless petitioner is then in good standing in a Symbolic Lodge and a Royal Arch Chapter.

Councils working under dispensation cannot affiliate members.

A person hailing from a joint Chapter-Council jurisdiction or a jurisdiction in which the Council has merged with the Chapter, cannot affiliate with nor visit in a Vermont Council unless and/or until he has or shall have received the Council degrees in a regular and independent Council.

SEC. 43. Dual Memberships. A Companion Cryptic Mason, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Vermont may be a dual member in two (2) Vermont Councils.

A Companion holding dual membership in two Vermont Councils is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in both Councils. He is subject to and liable for both Council's dues and/or assessments together with two Grand Council Per Capita Taxes and/or Assessments. One Grand Council Per Capita Tax and/or Assessment to be collected by each Council.

A member of a Council in Vermont may join a Council in another Grand Jurisdiction, recognized by the Grand Council of Vermont in whose jurisdiction said Council is located and provided that the Grand Council, in whose jurisdiction said Council is located permits such dual membership and retain his membership in Vermont.

A member of a Council in another jurisdiction, recognized by the Grand Council of Vermont may be admitted to membership in a Council in Vermont, without a dimit from such other Council, provided that the Grand Council in whose jurisdiction said Council is located permits dual membership in a Council in another jurisdiction.

PROVIDED IN BOTH CASES, that the Companion concerned shall immediately report to the new Recorder of the other Grand Council the name, location and complete mailing address of the new Council, with which he has affiliated.

One holding such dual membership who is suspended or expelled by a Council in Vermont or the Council in another jurisdiction, shall thereby lose all Cryptic Rights and Privileges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Vermont, while under that sentence.

The Recorder of the Council imposing such sentence shall include in his report thereof to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Jurisdiction within the Council making the suspension or expulsion information as to the dual membership status of the Companion so suspended or expelled, and such Grand Recorder shall at once notify the Grand Recorder of the other Grand Jurisdiction concerned of all the facts surrounding such suspension or expulsion.

All petitions for dual membership shall be accompanied by a certificate of good standing from the Recorder of the Council of original membership and shall be handled as petitions for affiliation. (1983, page 15)

SEC. 44. Receiving and Acting on Petitions. All petitions for the degrees or for affiliation may be received and acted upon at the same stated assembly; or may be received and acted upon at a Special Assembly if permitted by dispensation of the Grand Master. Each petition shall be referred to a committee of three (3) members who shall satisfy themselves on a petitioner's qualifications. If any investigative doubt exists, the petition shall be held over to a later assembly.. No petitioner shall be elected to receive the degrees or to affiliate, except upon the unanimous and secret ballot of members present.

If two or more petitions are ready for ballot at the same time, they may be balloted upon collectively, but if one negative vote appears in such collective ballot, the same shall not be announced; shall be declared void by the Master; and all petitions shall thereupon be balloted for separately.

SEC. 45. Rejected Petitioners. The petition of any person for degrees, rejected in any Council in Vermont shall not be acted upon nor shall any degrees be conferred by or in a Vermont Council, until six (6) months have elapsed after such rejection.

A rejecting Vermont Council shall retain sole jurisdiction over its rejected petitioners, while resident in Vermont, for a period of two (2) years.

The petition of a rejected applicant shall not be received or acted upon in any Vermont Council, other than the rejecting Council, in less than two (2) years from the date of rejection, except the waiver of the rejecting Council is first obtained.

SEC. 46. Waivers of Jurisdiction. No Council under this jurisdiction shall entertain the petition of or confer the Cryptic degrees on any petitioner who resides within the jurisdiction of any other Council, without first applying for and obtaining a waiver of jurisdiction form such other Council. Applications for waivers from a Vermont Council to a Vermont Council shall be handled by direct communication between the Councils concerned. Applications for waivers form a Council outside Vermont to a Council in Vermont, and *vice versa*, shall be handled through the office of the Grand Recorder. Waivers may be granted over any or all degrees and by a majority vote of members present at any stated Assembly.

SEC. 47. Jurisdiction – Geographical. A Council shall have exclusive jurisdiction over petitioners residing in the town or city where such Council is located and concurrent jurisdiction with other Councils in those towns and cities throughout the State of Vermont in which there is no duly constituted Council.

SEC. 48. Suspension and Dimission in Symbolic Lodge and/or Chapter. Suspension or expulsion of a Council member from such member's Symbolic Lodge and/or Chapter shall forthwith and automatically end his Council membership by suspension or expulsion, as the case may be, until restored.

A Council member who takes a dimit from his Symbolic Lodge and/or Chapter and does not reaffiliate in Lodge and/or Chapter within a year from the date of his dimit shall be automatically dropped from the membership roster of his Council and thereafter stand as suspended until restored.

SEC. 49. Member's Failure to Keep Whereabouts Known. Any member who fails to keep the Recorder of his Council informed as to his correct mailing address and changes therein, and thereby permits his whereabouts to be and remain unknown for a period of two (2) consecutive years, may, if diligent investigation by the Recorder fails to reveal such whereabouts, be dropped from the membership roll of such Council on vote of a majority of the members thereof present and voting at any stated Assembly, and thereafter shall stand and be reported as indefinitely suspended until reinstated by a like majority vote, which may be accomplished without petition and on motion of the Recorder when such member's whereabouts again become known.

SEC. 50. Restoration. Restoration from expulsion or suspension in any Council, except as provided in regulations governing automatic suspension for non-payment of dues, and except when member is automatically dropped because of suspension or expulsion in Lodge and/or Chapter (see below), or because he has not kept Recorder informed as to his whereabouts (see SEC. 49.), may be granted only on petition accompanied by payment of all dues in arrears, except for time while suspended or expelled, unless the same are remitted, unless the same are remitted, plus dues for the current year.

Except under dispensation from the Grand Master, all such petitions shall be received only at a stated Assembly; shall be referred to a committee of three for investigation; and shall be voted on only at the next or a later stated Assembly. The unanimous ballot of members present shall be required to restore from expulsion and/or suspension, except as provided in SEC. 49.

Restoration from automatic expulsion or suspension because of expulsion, suspension or dimit in Lodge and/or Chapter, may be declared by the Master, in his discretion, without vote of the Council, on receipt of official information of restoration from the Secretary of the Lodge and/or Chapter concerned or the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge and/or Chapter. Such restoration shall not be declared, however, unless the Companion has so requested in writing, and has satisfied the Council as to arrearages in dues.

SEC. 51. Fees for Degrees. The minimum fees for conferring the Cryptic degrees shall be as follows: A total of ten (\$10.00) Dollars which may be divided to require five (\$5.00) Dollars with petition and for the Royal Master Degree, and the balance prior to conferring the Select Master Degree. No credit shall be extended for fees in any case.

SEC. 52. Council Annual Dues - Remission. Each Council shall levy annual dues against its members in such sum as will provide ample funds for Council maintenance.

The dues of any member may be remitted by majority vote of members present at a stated Assembly.

The Council shall be relieved of the payment of Grand Council per capita dues and/or assessments on all members whose dues have been remitted on the grounds of indigence.

SEC. 53. Annual Returns by Recorder. Each Council Recorder shall, not later than April 10th in each year, file his Annual Report with the Grand Recorder, on blanks furnished by Grand Council, giving all the information called for in such blanks covering his Council's activities during the year closing on March 31st.

Not later than April 10th of each year, each Council Recorder shall cause to be paid to the Grand Recorder all degree fees, per capita dues and/or assessments due Grand Council on the basis of his aforesaid Annual Report.

Each Council Recorder is required to report to the Grand Recorder as soon after the Council Annual Assembly as possible but not later than May 10th a complete list of the elective and appointive officers for the ensuing year on forms to be furnished for this purpose by the Grand Council.

Any Council which fails to file or pay its returns, dues and/or assessments due the Grand Council shall be assessed a penalty of 5.0% per annum, pro-rated for the number of months late and its delegates will not be allowed to register at the Annual Assembly unless waived by the Grand Master for just cause. (1996, page 9)

SEC. 54. Degrees – Working at Places Other than Home Quarters. Under dispensation of the Grand Master, a Council may move its paraphernalia and equipment to the quarters of any Lodge or Chapter within its jurisdiction, but for the sole purpose of conferring any or all of the Cryptic Degrees.

SEC. 55. Change of Location. Any Council may change its meeting place within the town of its then location by majority vote at a stated Assembly, after due notice to resident members, and without dispensation.

Any Council may change its meeting place to another town by (a) majority vote at a stated Assembly, after notice to its resident members, (b) obtaining the approval of the Council nearest to the proposed new location, if within twenty (20) miles; and (c) obtaining the approval of Grand Council. The Grand Master may, when conditions (a) and (b) are satisfied, issue his dispensation authorizing such moving until the next Annual Assembly of Grand Council.

SEC. 56. Failure to Meet, etc. – Forfeitures. If any Council shall fail to assemble once in any fiscal year; or shall neglect to be represented in Grand Council Annual Assembly for two years in succession; or shall fail, for two successive years to make its annual returns and pay its obligations to Grand Council, its charter may be lifted and declared forfeit by the Grand Council or may be suspended by the Grand Master until the next Annual Assembly, unless sooner restored by him. In case of forfeiture of charter the same shall be returned to the Grand Recorder together with all records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money and all other property of such Council, which shall become the sole property of the Grand Council.

SEC. 57. Surrender of Charter. No Council may voluntarily surrender its charter and cease existence unless and until: (a) a majority of its members present and voting at a stated assembly duly warned for that purpose by written or printed notice mailed to all members and the Grand Master at least fifteen (15) days prior to such assembly, vote such surrender; (b) its indebtedness has been fully paid and/or satisfied; (c) a copy of the records of such assembly, certified as correct by the Recorder, showing the number of Select Masters present and the vote passed, and accompanied with a complete list of the names and addresses of members then in good standing with the dues fully paid, and a list of the names and addresses of the names and addresses of members in arrears of dues with the amounts thereof, are filed with the Grand Recorder.

In case of voluntary surrender, the Charter, records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money and all other property of such surrendering Council shall be turned over to the Grand Recorder and shall become the sole property of the Grand Council.

When a Charter is surrendered or lifted, the members thereof cease to be Council members but those with dues paid in full shall be entitled, on application to the Grand Recorder and the payment of a fee of \$1.00 to Grand Council, to a certificate from the Grand Recorder, having the force of a dimit. Those in arrears of dues may apply to the Grand Master who, in his discretion, may order reinstatement as a Cryptic Mason on payment of all dues in arrears, and direct the issuance of the certificate above referred to.

SEC. 58. Merger of Councils. When the best interests of Cryptic Freemasonry so indicate, Councils may merge subject to the approval of the Grand Master and the Grand Council, if it is shown (a) that each Council has so voted by majority of members present at a stated Assembly with at least 10 days written notice thereof to all members, (b) that the payment of all indebtedness of both Councils is fully provided for, (c) that the District Deputy for the District concerned files his report, after investigation, with the Grand Master, recommending such merger. On completion of merger, the charter or charters no longer carrying authority shall be surrendered to the Grand Recorder.

On merger of Councils the membership of all merged Councils shall automatically follow into the Council emerging from such merger. A member theretofore suspended by a merging Council, may be reinstated in the Council so emerging.

SEC. 59. Deputies to be Furnished Council Financial Statements. Each Council shall furnish to its District Deputy at the time of his visitation, a statement of the financial condition of such Council, in duplicate, as of the date of its last Annual Assembly.

TRIALS – AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION

SEC. 60. Unmasonic Conduct – Trials – Appeals. Council members accused or believed guilty of Unmasonic conduct, except in the matter of non-payment of dues, shall be brought to trial, shall be tried, and shall be penalized, under the rules and regulations hereinafter stated.

Any party feeling himself aggrieved in a Masonic trial, whether such party be the accused or a member of the trying Council, shall have the right of appeal to the Grand Council under the regulations hereinafter stated, but the Council itself cannot, by vote, appeal to the Grand Council from its own action.

SEC. 61. Trials – Unmasonic Conduct – Procedure. Whenever a member of a Council or companion under this jurisdiction shall be accused of any Masonic offence, the procedure shall be according to the following rules:

- a. The accusations shall be in writing, signed by a Royal and Select Master, and delivered to the Master, who shall, if in his judgment the accusations are not frivolous, issue a citation to the accused to appear for trial, and shall deliver the accusations and citation to the Recorder, with order of service thereof. The Recorder shall thereupon serve such accusations, citation and order of service, or cause the same to be served, on the accused, by delivering to him, or by order of service, or cause the same to be served, on the accused, by delivering to him, or by sending by registered mail, receipt requested, an attested copy of the same, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the time appointed for trial, if such accused resides within ten (10) miles of the Council; and, if residing more than ten (10) miles therefrom and within the State, at least twenty (20) days prior to time of trial. If the accused resides without the state and the place of his residence be known, by forwarding to him such an attested copy, by registered mail, receipt requested, at least forty (40) days prior to time of trial. If the residence of the accused is unknown, the Council shall proceed *ex parte*.
- b. The trial shall be in a Council Assembly, either stated or special, at which no visitors shall be admitted except counsel and witnesses. Resident members of the Council shall be notified to appear at such trial. Such notices shall be forwarded by mail; shall be signed by the Recorder; shall state the name of the accused and the offence charged, together with the date of trial; and shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope properly addressed.
- c. The accused may select any Companion for his counsel. The witnesses, if Masons, shall testify on their honor as such. If the accused, accuser or the Council, shall desire the testimony of persons not Masons, the Master shall appoint a committee to take their statements in writing, and the accused, his counsel, the accuser, and counsel for the Council, shall have the right to be present when such statements are taken, and shall, under the direction of such committee, have the right to interrogate the persons so giving such statements. Hearsay evidence shall be excluded.
- d. It shall be the duty of the Master to see that the accused has a speedy and impartial trial.
- e. The accused, while under charges, shall be debarred from voting and participating in the business of the Council.
- f. At the trial the Council shall be opened on the highest degree to which the accused has attained, and the testimony and arguments shall there be submitted in the presence of the accused and accuser, if

they shall desire to present. This being done, the accused and the accuser shall retire, and the Council shall then be opened in the Royal Arch degree. The Council shall, by ballot, determine the question of guilt of the accused. If the accused is adjudged guilty, the Council shall then decide by ballot the punishment to be inflicted, first, "shall the accused be expelled?", second, if such vote is in the negative, "shall the accused be indefinitely suspended?", and third, if both such votes are in the negative, "shall the accused be suspended for a definite time?". If the latter vote is in the affirmative, the Master shall decide and declare the length of such definite suspension. In case the Council shall fail to vote either expulsion or suspension, the punishment shall be reprimand, which shall be given or read by the Master in open Council, and in the presence of the accused, when possible. A majority vote shall determine the questions of guilt and/or punishment.

SEC. 62. Non-Payment of Dues – Automatic Suspension. Council members in arrears of dues and/or assessments shall be suspended from the rights and privileges of Cryptic Freemasonry, under the following rules and regulations:

- a. The dues from members to all Subordinate Councils shall be due and payable in advance on such date in each year as each Council shall determine.
- b. Any member of a Council who shall neglect or refuse to pay his dues and/or assessments for one (1) year after the same shall fall due shall be automatically suspended unless such dues and/or assessments are remitted by vote of the Council each year.
- c. The Recorder of the Council shall send written or preprinted notices to the last known address of all members whose dues and/or assessment are not paid within six (6) months from the date they fall due, and again to those who are nine (9) months in arrears, clearly stating that Grand Council regulations require that they be automatically dropped from membership if dues are not paid on or before one (1) year from the date they fall due, and requesting reason, if any, why said dues cannot be so paid.
- d. The names of all members in arrears of dues at the end of one (1) year from dues date, with any reason received for non-payment, shall be reported to the Council by the Recorder at the next stated Assembly thereafter. The Council may then, for cause as above, remit the dues in arrears,

or it may extend the time for payment for one definite period not to exceed one (1) year. If neither of such votes is passed, such member shall stand suspended as of the date of such Assembly and the Recorder shall so notify him, calling his attention to the provisions of the next following paragraph.

- e. A member so suspended shall be automatically reinstated, without vote of the Council, if, within three (3) months of his suspension, he shall pay all dues and/or assessments in arrears on that date, plus dues for the current year. Reinstatements after such three (3) months period shall take the regular course of petition, payment of arrears, and vote of the Council.
- f. Lack of knowledge of the whereabouts of any member shall not preclude nor delay automatic suspension hereunder.

SEC. 63. Appeals – Procedure. Appeals to Grand Council from the trial action of any subordinate Council shall be in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. The appeal shall be in writing; shall state the ground of appeal; and shall be filed with the Recorder within ten (10) days after trial.

- b. If such appeal is filed by a Companion other than the accused, the Master shall forthwith issue a citation to the accused to appear and answer, if he so desires, at the next stated Assembly of Grand Council.
- c. If the accused is not the appellant, the Recorder shall serve an attested copy of the appeal petition and citation on the accused as provided for the service of the original charges, citation and order. The Recorder shall then send the original appeal petition with an attested copy of citation and service, together with an attested copy of the full record of proceedings and trial appealed from, or so much thereof as is necessary to fully and fairly present the questions raised by the appeal, to the Grand Recorder. All appeal copies shall be attested over the signature of the Recorder and the seal of the Council, and shall be furnished by the Council free of charge. When the accused is the appellant, the Recorder shall promptly forward the appeal petition and record of the case to the Grand Recorder.
- d. Upon receipt of proper appeal, petition and case record, the Grand Recorder shall issue a notice, under the seal of the Grand Council, to the Council and the accused (if his address is known) containing a copy of the grounds of appeal and a statement of time when, and the place where, such appeal will be heard, requiring such parties to appear and prosecute or defend as the case may be. Such notices shall be forwarded by registered mail, receipt requested, to the Recorder of the Council and the accused. It is the duty of the Master to see that all parties interested (other than the accused), are notified of the time and place of hearing.
 - a. Whenever the Grand Council shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a Council expelling or suspending a member, a two-thirds vote shall be required.

MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 64. Jewels, Grand Officers. The jewels of Grand Officers shall be of gold, or a metal of the same color, suspended from the collar (insofar as collars are furnished), and contained within a solid triangle surrounded by a wreath. In that of the Most Illustrious Grand Master are the square, compasses and trowel; of the Deputy Grand Master, the square, level and trowel; of the Grand Principal Conductor of Work, the square, plumb and trowel; of the Grand Treasurer, the trowel and cross-keys; of the Assistant Grand Treasurer, the same as for the Grand Treasurer; of the Grand Recorder, the trowel and cross-pens; of the Assistant Grand Recorder, the same as for the Grand Recorder; of the Captain of the Guard, the trowel and battle axe; of the Grand Conductor of the Council, the trowel; of the Grand Chaplain, the trowel and open Bible; of the Grand Lecturer, the trowel and scroll; of the Grand Marshal, the trowel and baton; of the Grand Steward, the trowel and cross – swords; of the Grand Sentinel, the trowel and scimitar crossed; and of each District Deputy Grand Master, the trowel.

The above jewels shall be embroidered in gold colored material on the body of each Grand Officer's apron.

SEC. 65. Jewels, Subordinate Council Officers. The jewels for the officers of subordinate Councils shall be the same as in last preceding section, except that the wreath shall be omitted.

SEC. 66. Jewel and Apron, Past Grand Master. The Grand Council shall present each of its outgoing Past Grand Masters with a jewel, apron and carrying case, suitable to his Past rank, to be purchased by the Grand Recorder at the expense of the Grand Council.

The Apron and Carrying Case may be presented to the Grand Master when he is installed BUT the words "Past Grand Master:", appearing on the "bib" of the Apron shall be covered and the covering shall not be removed until his successor is elected and installed, and he has been presented with his Past Grand Master's Jewel.

SEC. 67. Grand Representative. The exchange of Grand Council Representatives with other Sister Grand Jurisdictions is an act which will promote fraternal relations between two Sister Grand Jurisdictions if such Grand Representatives perform their required duties.

The Grand Council of Vermont hereby reaffirms its policy and decision to exchange Grand Representatives with other Sister Grand Jurisdictions with which it has or will have in the future official fraternal relations.

The official exchange of Grand Representatives with any Sister Grand Jurisdiction will be done under and subject to the following rules and regulations.

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF SISTER GRAND JURISDICTIONS
NEAR THE GRAND COUNCIL OF VERMONT**

The Grand Master shall recommend for appointment of Grand Representative of other Sister Grand Jurisdictions near the Grand Council of Vermont with whom official fraternal relations are exchanged and recognized.

Any such Grand Representative who, without acceptable excuse, absents himself from three (3) successive Annual Assemblies may suffer the revocation of his appointment and commission by the Grand Master.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF VERMONT NEAR SISTER GRAND JURISDICTIONS

The Grand Council of Vermont, will, when received through official channels, entertain recommendations from its Sister Grand Jurisdictions, with whom it has official fraternal relations, as to a Companion, from such other Sister Grand Jurisdiction, to be appointed as the Grand Representative of Vermont near such Sister Grand Jurisdiction.

The Grand Council of Vermont reserves the right to request a change in the Grand Representative of Vermont near a Sister Grand Jurisdiction if circumstances so warrant.

The Grand Master shall be invested with the necessary authority and powers to:

- a. Accept or reject any recommendations received from a Sister Grand Jurisdiction for one of their Companions to be appointed the Grand Representative of Vermont near said Sister Grand Jurisdiction.
- b. To request a change in the Grand Representative of Vermont near any Sister Grand Jurisdiction if circumstances so warrant.
- c. To issue and sign the necessary commissions of appointment of a Grand Representative of Vermont near a Sister Grand Jurisdiction.

SEC. 68. Inter-jurisdictional Visitations. Interjurisdictional Council visits for fellowship and degree exemplification purposes should be encouraged but shall be held only under the dispensation of the Grand Master, conditioned on approval of the other Grand Master involved.

A Council from another Grand Jurisdiction, under such dispensation, may work in any Cryptic degree in a Vermont Council on candidates of the visiting or of the visited Council, and according to the ritual of the visiting Council.

Visits by one Vermont Council to another Vermont Council for like purposes are also urged. Such need no dispensation.

SEC. 69. Clerical Assistance – Grand Recorder. Grand Council shall contribute to the cost of clerical assistance in the office of the Grand Recorder such portion of the cost of such assistance in all Grand Bodies, as his salary as Grand Recorder bears to his total salaries as Grand Secretary and/or Grand Recorder is such other bodies.

SEC. 70. Fiscal and Membership Year. The fiscal year of the Grand Council shall end on April 30th and the membership year on March 31st of each year.

SEC. 71. Grand Officers Bonded. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder may be required by the Grand Master or by Grand Council to give bonds annually, with corporate surety, in such amounts as the Grand Master shall approve and at the expense of the Grand Council.

SEC. 72. Seals. The Grand Council and each subordinate Council shall have a seal, of a design determined by the body with description thereof recorded in its minutes. Such Grand Council seal shall be affixed to all Dispensations, Commissions, Edicts and other like documents. Such Council seal shall be affixed to all applications for dispensations, annual reports, inter-Council communications and other like papers.

SEC. 73. Miscellaneous Operational Procedures.

Section 1 – Annual Reports: The Annual Reports of the officers and committees listed herein or as amended from time to time shall be prepared and forwarded to the Grand Recorder so as to be in his office on the last Monday in May each year. These reports are to be reprinted in the Grand Recorder’s Office so as to be available for distribution by the Credentials Committee at the Annual Assembly to the voting members of the Grand Council when they register with the Credential Committee:

Grand Master	Grand Lecturer
Grand Treasurer	Grand Recorder
Finance Committee	Jurisprudence Committee
Doings of Grand Officers	

And any other Committee Reports which will require action, other than just publication in the Proceedings at the Annual Assembly.

Section 2 – changes in Grand Council Rules, Regulations and Operational Procedures and the Like: A companion desiring to recommend a change, deletion or addition in the Grand Council Rules, Regulations and Operational Procedures and the like shall present such recommendation in the form of a resolution.

All Resolutions shall be presented in writing and in duplicate with each copy being personally signed by the proposer or proposers.

- a. If it is a General Regulation Amendment it shall be presented as provided for in Section 74.
- b. If other than a change in the General Regulations the Resolution shall cite the present “set-up and/or wording” followed by the proposed “set-up and wording”.

It shall further indicate in detail the reason for the change in a clear and concise manner.

The resolutions in order to be acted upon at the next Annual Assembly shall be in the hands of the Grand Recorder at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the Annual Assembly, at which the resolution will be presented. This is a must and is imperative that it be done in order that the Grand Master may make the necessary referral to the proper committee or committees for investigation, study and report.

A resolution, other than an amendment to the General Regulations presented at an Annual Assembly, without prior forwarding to the Grand Recorder, will of course be accepted and referred to the proper committee. However, that committee to which the Resolution is referred to shall be the sole judge of whether or not they have sufficient time to make the necessary investigation and report at the same annual communication.

- c. Voting on all types of Resolutions, e.g., changes or amendments in General Regulations or otherwise shall be as follows:

If the report of the committee making the investigation is different than that what has been proposed the following procedure will prevail:

The Grand Master shall:

1. Call for a vote on the subject as proposed by the Companion in his Resolution.
2. If the vote if in the negative be shall then call for a vote on the recommendations as made by the Committee.

These same voting procedures shall be followed in connection with any recommendation proposed in the various Annual Reports of the various officers. which are referred to a committee for investigation, study and report.

Section 3 – Subject Matter Not Covered in the Constitution or General Regulations. If nothing is found in the Constitution and/or General Regulations pertaining to a question, it is recommended that the Vermont Code of Masonic Law as adopted by the Grand Lodge of Vermont be referred to.

SEC. 74. Amendments. These regulations may be amended or repealed at any Annual Assembly, provided such proposals contain the following subject matter in order listed:

- a. Section Number in General Regulations;
- b. Complete Present Wording;
- c. Complete Proposed Wording;
- d. Detailed reason for proposed change;

And that it is sent to and received by the Grand Recorder at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to an Annual Assembly, and a copy thereof is, by him, mailed to each Grand and Past Grand Officer; four (4) copies to each Council Recorder to be by him forthwith delivered to each Council Representative; and copies to the members of the Jurisprudence Committee at least one hundred (100) days prior to such Annual Assembly.

Where reference is made to an Article or Section in the Constitution or General Regulations it will likewise include all amendments to the same.

SEC. 75. Repeal. All General Regulations, Standing Resolutions and Acts, Decisions of Grand Masters, Adopted Committee Recommendations, Composition of Cryptic Districts, Regulations as to Subordinate Councils heretofore adopted by this Grand Council are hereby repealed, meaning this repeal to cover all laws and regulations except the so-called Constitution.

SEC. 76. Time and Taking Effect. The foregoing regulations shall take effect from adoption.