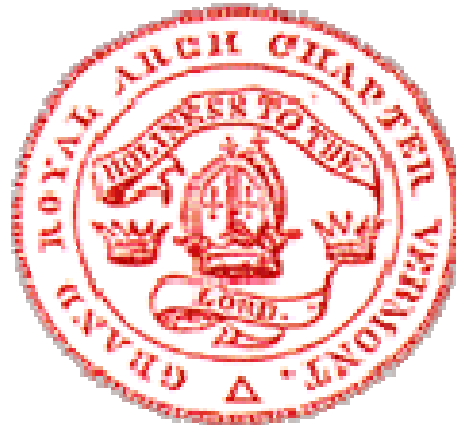


**GENERAL REGULATIONS**  
**STANDING RESOLUTIONS AND VOTES**  
**DIGEST OF DECISIONS**  
(to be distributed at a later date)  
**AND**  
**OCCASIONAL RESOLUTIONS**  
**OF THE**  
**GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF VERMONT**



Amended June 5, 2007  
Amended June 10, 2003  
Amended June 12, 2001  
Amended June 8, 1999  
Amended June 11, 1996  
Amended June 17, 1994  
Amended June 8, 1993  
Amended June 14, 1983  
Amended June 10, 1980  
Amended June 9, 1953

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**  
of the  
**GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER**  
of  
**VERMONT**

**NAME**

**Art. 1. Name.** This Grand Chapter shall be styled and known as The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Vermont.

- a. The Principal Administrative Office of this Grand Chapter shall be situate in the Town of Berlin, County of Washington, State of Vermont, wherein shall be kept all records of the Grand Chapter. (2007, pages 20 & 35)

**AUTHORITY AND CONTROL**

**Art. 2. Control.** Within the State of Vermont this Grand Chapter shall have exclusive control over the so-called Capitular degrees; over the issuance of dispensations and charters for new Chapters; and over the management of its own affairs; together with general supervision over its subordinate Chapters, their administration and practices.

**Art. 3. Members of the Grand Chapter.** This Grand Chapter shall be composed of the following:

- a. Grand Officers hereinafter enumerated
- b. Past Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, Past Grand Scribes, Past Grand Treasurers, and Past Grand Secretaries.
- c. High Priests, Kings, Scribes and Secretaries, for the time being, of its subordinate Chapters.
- d. Past High Priests of its subordinate Chapters, while members of a Vermont Chapter.
- e. The Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe shall constitute the Grand Council. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 4. Votes and Proxies.** Each member of Grand Chapter, enumerated in Article 3, except the Grand Tyler, shall be entitled to one vote in all Grand Chapter Convocations. The High Priests, Kings and Scribes of subordinate Chapters, 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 member of a Vermont Chapter, and shall not be seated unless he presents proper credentials of appointment. No proxy shall represent more than one Chapter

**ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GRAND CONVOCATIONS**

**Art. 5. Place and Time of Annual Convocation.** The Grand Chapter shall hold its Annual Convocation at a place and time to be recommended by the Committee on Place and Time, subject to a vote and approval by the Grand Chapter. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 6. Special Convocations.** The Grand High Priest or, in his absence or incapacity, the Senior Grand Officer available, may call a Special Convocation at Burlington, Vermont or any other place, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

- a. If the Annual Convocation is not held at the time herein appointed, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, or in his absence or incapacity, the Senior Grand Officer available to call a Special Convocation, as soon thereafter as practical, for the transaction of any and all business proper for consideration at the Annual Convocation. (2003)
- b. Special Convocations may be held only pursuant to written or printed notice thereof mailed first class, fifteen days prior to meeting date, to all Grand Officers, Past Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings and Past Grand Scribes, which notice shall state the business to be considered. No business can originate at a Special Convocation, except that for which it was called for and notice given. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 7. Quorum.** Five Grand Officers and the representatives of five subordinate Chapters shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Grand Chapter business at an annual or special convocation.

### **GRAND OFFICERS**

**Art. 8. Grand Officers.** The following Grand Officers shall be elected at the Annual Convocation or an adjournment thereof, by ballot, except as hereinafter provided, for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and installed:

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

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 Convocation by the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, for a period of one year, or until their successors are appointed and installed.

A District Deputy Grand High Priest for each District, appointed by the Grand High Priest

Assistant Grand Treasurer, appointed by the Grand Treasurer with the approval of the Grand High Priest.

Assistant Grand Secretary, appointed by the Grand Secretary with the approval of the Grand High Priest.

Grand Principal Sojourner	Grand Lecturer
Grand Royal Arch Captain	Two Grand Stewards
Three Grand Masters of the Veils	Grand Sentinel
Grand Chaplain	Grand Historian
Assistant Grand Chaplain	Grand Tyler (1980, page 21)

**Art. 9. Qualification for Office.** No man shall be elected to office in this Grand Chapter except he then be a High Priest or a Past High Priest of a Vermont Chapter and a member of a subordinate Chapter in Vermont. The same qualifications shall be applied to anyone appointed to the office of District Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the First, Second or Third Veil, or Grand Lecturer. Any Royal Arch Mason who is a member of a Vermont Chapter may be appointed to serve as Assistant Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Assistant Grand Chaplain, Grand Steward, Grand Sentinel, Grand Historian or Grand Tyler. Any Royal Arch Mason, member of a Vermont Chapter, shall be eligible for appointment as a member of committee. (2001, page 32)

**Art. 10. Succession Due to Death, Absence or Incapacity.** If the Grand High Priest dies, is absent or incapacitated, the next available elected Grand Officer, except the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, shall become Acting Grand High Priest so long as such disability continues or until the next annual convocation. Vacancies in any office so created shall be filled temporarily by the Acting Grand High Priest.

**Art. 11. Acceptance of Office – Vacancy.** If any Grand Officer, elected or appointed to any office, be not present and installed at the annual convocation, the Grand Secretary 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 High Priest, by appointment, until the next annual convocation.

**Art. 12. Grand and Past Grand Officers – Ranks and Titles.** Grand and Past Grand High Priest shall have the rank of Most Excellent; Grand and Past Grand Kings, Scribes, District Deputy Grand High Priests, Treasurers and Secretaries shall have the rank of Right Excellent; the balance of the Grand Officers shall have the rank of Excellent. The District Deputies shall rank next after the Grand Scribe. The holder of any office may use the highest Past rank to which he is entitled.

## **DISTRICTS AND DEPUTIES**

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTIES.** See Article 8.

**Art. 13. Districts.** The jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be divided into Districts. The Chapters in this jurisdiction shall be assigned to the Districts as follows:

- District No. 1. – Chapters No. 1, 3, 22.
- District No. 2. - Chapters No. 8, 9, 17. (2006 proceedings)
- District No. 3. – Chapters No. 7, 15, 24, 26.
- District No. 4. – Chapters No. 16, 20. (2007, page 27 & 28)
- District No. 5. – Chapters No. 5, 6, 13, 21, 27.
- District No. 6. – Chapters No. 19, 25. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 14. District Deputies – Duties.** Each District Deputy shall visit each Chapter in his District at least once in every year. He shall inspect each Chapter 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 High Priest. He shall call and arrange for an Annual Meeting of Chapters 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 High Priest on or before the second Monday in May in each year and shall furnish a copy of such report to the Grand Secretary and also to the Chairman of the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 15. Past District Deputies.** A District Deputy Grand High Priest, on retiring from active service, may retain the rank of Right Excellent while in good standing in a Vermont Chapter, and is entitled to be received in District Meetings as a Past District Deputy Grand High Priest with the rank aforesaid.

**Art. 16. District Deputies – Compensation.** (Deleted, 1994, page 24)

**Art. 17. District Deputies – District Meetings – Expense.** The necessary expenses incurred by District Deputy Grand High Priests in arranging for annual District Meetings, including preprinted announcements with program, necessary travel expense, loss suffered on banquets, shall be assessed on the Chapters comprising the District on a per capita basis, and paid by such Chapters 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. (2003)

**Art. 18. Annual Meeting of Deputies.** The Grand Lecturer, with the approval of the Grand High Priest, is authorized to call a meeting, annually, of District Deputy Grand High Priests for instruction, at such time and place as he may deem advisable.

#### **GRAND LECTURER**

**Art. 19. Duties.** The Grand Lecturer shall be or become proficient in the ritual, lectures and floor work of the Capitular degrees. He shall, with the approval of the Grand High Priest, call a meeting of District Deputies at such time and place as he may deem advisable for instruction. He shall be present, when able, at each District Convocation called by the respective District Deputies on a schedule approved by him, and shall then instruct the Companions in Capitular matters. He shall visit any requesting Chapter for purposes of instruction, provided, however, that such Chapter pays his expenses. He shall report his activities to the Grand High Priest each year not later than May 15, and shall at the same time, furnish a copy of such report to the Grand Secretary.

#### **COMMITTEES**

**Art. 20. Committees.** At each convocation, or as soon thereafter as may be practical, the Grand Council, (Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe) shall appoint the following standing committees of three (3) each. (2003)

Under no circumstances shall a committee fail to report on a subject referred to their committee later than the next Annual Convocation. 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 Chapter, so that the records in the proceedings will include the request.

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

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

**Finance** – whose duty it shall be to examine and report on the books, accounts and reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, cause the same to be audited by a competent accountant, and prepare and present a budget of appropriations for the coming year.

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

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

**Doings of Grand Officers**- whose duty it shall be to review and report upon the administration and address of the Grand High Priest, the administration and report of the Grand Lecturer, and the reports of such other officers as may be referred to it. (deleted, 1999, page 10) (reinstated, 2001, page 17)

**Dispensations and Charters** – whose duty it shall be to consider new charters; all surrenders or lifting of charters; and all territorial jurisdictional matters arising relative to subordinate Chapters.

**Place and Time** – whose duty it shall be to recommend to the Grand Chapter for approval the Place and Time of the next succeeding Annual Convocation.

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

**Correspondence** – whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all applications for recognition received from other Grand Chapters.

The Grand High Priest may appoint interim and special committees as he deems necessary. (1980, page 21)

## **GRAND CHAPTER MAINTENANCE**

**Art. 21. Degree Fees Payable to Grand Chapter.** Each Chapter shall pay to Grand Chapter, with its annual report, not less than three dollars for each Mark Master Mason advanced, and not less than two dollars for each Royal Arch Mason exalted. Higher fees may be required from time to time if so voted by Grand Chapter.

**Art. 22. Per Capita and Assessments.** The Grand Chapter may levy on its subordinate Chapters such annual dues and/or assessments as may be needed for Grand Chapter support, and as may be voted by Grand Chapter from time to time. Such dues and/or assessments shall be based on the per capita membership of Chapters, as of March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, and shall be, by each Chapter collected from all its members in addition to regular Chapter dues, unless remitted because on indigence. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 23. Management of Grand Chapter Property.** The Grand Council shall be the managers of all Grand Chapter property in the interim between Annual Convocations, and always subject to

Grand Chapter laws and instructions. They may procure insurance when needed. 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 Chapter may require. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 24. Investment of Funds.** The Grand Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee and the Grand Council, may invest and reinvest the funds of the Grand Chapter, subject further and always to the expressed will of the Grand Chapter. (1980, page 21)

#### **AUTHORIZED WORK – INSTRUCTION**

**Art. 25. Authorized Work.** No degree or floor work shall be exemplified, and no lectures shall be read or used, except those adopted June, 1978, by this Grand Chapter, being the printed Ritual and Floor Work, now in use.

No changes shall be made in such work except such changes are submitted in writing and in detail at an Annual Convocation, ordered to lie, and final action thereon shall be had only at the next or some later Annual Convocation. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 26. Who May Instruct.** No person other than the Grand Council, 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 Chapter.

#### **CONTROVERSIES – JURISDICTION**

**Art. 27. Jurisdiction – Controversies – Appeals.** The Grand Chapter shall have original and final jurisdiction in all controversies between subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction, and between members of different subordinate Chapters. It shall have appellate and final jurisdiction in all controversies arising within any subordinate Chapter, as hereinafter provided.

Any matter of controversy between Chapters, between members of different Chapters, may be presented by and through a petition in writing, clearly setting forth the grounds of controversy, addressed to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Vermont, and filed with the Grand Secretary at least twenty days prior to an annual convocation.

Any member feeling himself aggrieved by a decision in any controversy of Masonic trial arising within any Chapter, may appeal to the Grand Chapter by notice clearly setting forth the grounds of appeal, addressing to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Vermont, accompanied by a transcript of any trial proceedings held, and filed with the Grand Secretary at least twenty days prior to an annual convocation.

#### **MILEAGE – COMPENSATION – EXPENSE**

**Art. 28. Mileage Allowances – Grand Convocations.** (Deleted, 1993, page 15)

**Art. 29. Grand Chapter Salaries – Travel Expense – Committee per diem.** The salaries and travel expense of Grand Officers shall be paid in the sum recommended each year by the Finance Committee, and as adopted by Grand Chapter. (1994, page 25)

## DISPENSATION FOR A NEW CHAPTER

**Art. 30. Dispensation for New Chapter – Petition.** A petition for a dispensation to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, within a jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be addressed to the Grand High Priest, and shall be signed by at least twelve Royal Arch Masons in good standing within its proposed jurisdiction. Such petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Chapter in the town or city nearest the proposed location of the new Chapter, recommending the granting of the dispensation, and shall further be accompanied by the approval of the District Deputy for the District within such new Chapter 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 Capitular Freemasonry, the Grand High Priest may issue a dispensation under which the petitioners and those they initiate may work until the next annual convocation of this Grand Chapter. The Grand Chapter may then continue such dispensation from year to year, but, if a charter is not applied for and granted within three years from the date of the first time-extension, the dispensation shall be withdrawn and such Chapter under dispensation shall cease to exist.

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.

The Grand High Priest shall report the granting or refusal of dispensations, as above, to the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.

**Art. 31. Dispensations for New Chapter – Fees.** With each new petition to open a new Chapter there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary a fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). If dispensation is granted such fee shall become the property of Grand Chapter. If dispensation is not granted such fee shall be returned to the petitioners. If a chapter is subsequently granted no further fee shall be required. Expense incurred by the Grand Chapter in instituting a new Chapter under dispensation and in consecrating a new Chapter under charter shall be paid by such Chapter.

## SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS

**Art. 32. Chapter Officers – Ranks and Titles.** The Chapter Officers in this jurisdiction shall be as follows and with the ranks indicated:

- a. In a Mark Master's Lodge – a Master, whose rank shall be Right Worshipful; a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Master Overseer, Senior Overseer, Junior Overseer and Tyler, whose rank shall be Brother.
- b. In a Past Master's Lodge – a Master, whose rank shall be Right Worshipful; a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler, whose rank shall be Brother.
- c. In the Most Excellent Master's Lodge – a Master, whose rank shall be Right Worshipful; a Senior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler, whose rank shall be Brother.
- d. In the Royal Arch Chapter – A High Priest, whose rank shall be Excellent; a King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of the Veils, Chaplain, two Stewards and Tyler, whose rank shall be Companion.

The rank in the Royal Arch Degree determines the rank in lodges; the Captain of the Host acting as master of Ceremonies in the floor work.

**Art. 33. Vacancies in Chapter Office.** If the High Priest of a Chapter dies, resigns, removes from the jurisdiction of his Chapter, or becomes incapacitated, the King shall become Acting High Priest while such vacancy exists, or until the next annual convocation. If both such officers are incapacitated, the Scribe shall succeed as above.

Vacancies in any office below the rank of High Priest shall be filled temporarily by the High Priest or Acting High Priest while such vacancy continues, or until the next annual convocation.

If, in case of vacancy in the office of High Priest, Treasurer, or Secretary, the Chapter so votes, the Grand High Priest 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 convocation.

**Art. 34. Qualifications for Chapter Membership.** No petition for the Capitular degrees shall be considered or acted upon, unless the petitioner shall have regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, and shall then be in good standing in a Symbolic Lodge, nor unless he has resided in the State for the six months last past.

A person having received any of the Capitular degrees shall be liable for the payment of Chapter dues.

No person shall become a member of any Chapter with voting or office holding rights until he shall have regularly received the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and that of Royal Arch Mason.

**Art. 35. Qualifications for Chapter Affiliation.** No petition for affiliation shall be acted upon in any Chapter, except as provided in Art. 36, unless it is accompanied with a dimit from the last former Chapter in which he held membership, and unless petitioner is then in good standing in a symbolic lodge.

Chapters working under dispensation cannot affiliate members.

**Art. 36. Dual Membership.** A Companion Royal Arch Mason cannot be admitted to membership in more than two (2) Chapters at the same time in this jurisdiction.

A Companion Royal Arch Mason holding dual membership in two Vermont Chapters is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in both Chapters. He is subject to and liable for both Chapter's dues and/or assessments together with two Grand Chapter Per Capita Taxes and/or assessments. One Grand Chapter Per Capita Tax and/or assessment are to be collected by each Chapter.

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

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

PROVIDED IN BOTH CASES, that the Companion concerned shall immediately report to the new Secretary of the other Chapter the name, location and complete mailing address of the new Chapter, with which he has affiliated. One holding such dual membership who is suspended or expelled by a Chapter in Vermont or the Chapter in another jurisdiction, shall thereby lose all Capitular rights and privileges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Vermont, while under that sentence.

The Secretary of the Chapter imposing such sentence shall include in his report thereof to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Jurisdiction within the Chapter making the suspension or expulsion information as to the dual membership status of the Companion so suspended or expelled, and such Grand Secretary shall at once notify the Grand Secretary 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 Secretary of the Chapter of original membership and shall be handled as petitions for affiliation. (1983, page 20)

**Art. 37. Receiving and Acting on Petitions.** All petitions for the Capitular degrees or for affiliation shall be received only at a stated convocation, and shall lie over at least to the next stated convocation, except under one of the following conditions:

- a. They can be received and acted upon at the same stated convocation as received by the unanimous vote of the Chapter members present.
- b. They can be received and acted upon at the same stated convocation as received by a dispensation of the Grand or Acting Grand High Priest.

Each petition shall be referred to a committee of three members who shall thoroughly investigate the qualifications of the petitioner. No petitioner shall be elected to receive the degrees or to affiliate, except upon the unanimous vote of Chapter members present. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 38. Rejected Petitioners.** The petition of any person for degrees, rejected in any Chapter in Vermont shall not be acted upon nor shall any degrees be conferred by or in a Vermont Chapter, until six months have elapsed after such rejection.

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

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

**Art. 39. Waivers of Jurisdiction.** No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall entertain the petition of or confer the Capitular degrees on any petitioner who resides within the jurisdiction of any other Chapter, without first applying for and obtaining a waiver of jurisdiction from such other Chapter. Applications for waivers from a Vermont Chapter to a Vermont Chapter shall be handled by direct communication between the Chapters concerned. Applications for waivers from a Chapter outside Vermont to a Chapter in Vermont, and *vice versa*, shall be handled through the office of the Grand Secretary. Waivers may be granted over any or all degrees and by a majority vote of members present at any stated convocation.

**Art. 40. Jurisdiction – Geographical.** A Chapter shall have exclusive jurisdiction over petitioners residing in the town or city where such Chapter is located and concurrent jurisdiction with other Chapters in those towns and cities throughout the State of Vermont in which there is no duly constituted Chapter.

**Art. 41. Suspension and Dimission in Symbolic Lodge.** Suspension or expulsion of a Chapter member from such member's Symbolic Lodge shall forthwith and automatically end his Chapter membership by suspension or expulsion, as the case may be, until restored.

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

**Art. 42. Member's Failure to Keep Whereabouts Known.** Any member who fails to keep the Secretary of his Chapter 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 consecutive years, may, if diligent investigation by the Secretary fails to reveal such whereabouts, be dropped from the membership roll of such Chapter on vote of a majority of the members thereof present and voting at any stated convocation, 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 Secretary when such member's whereabouts again become known.

**Art. 43. Restoration.** Restoration from expulsion or suspension not covered by Articles 42 or 54, 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, plus dues for the current year. (2003)

Except under dispensation from the Grand High Priest, all such petitions shall be received only at a stated convocation; shall be referred to a committee of three for investigation; and shall be voted on only at the next or a later stated convocation. The unanimous ballot of members present shall be required to restore from expulsion and/or suspension, except as provided in Art. 42.

Restoration from automatic expulsion or suspension because of expulsion, suspension or dimit in Symbolic Lodge, may be declared by the High Priest, in his discretion, without vote of the Chapter, on receipt of official information of restoration from the Secretary of the Lodge concerned or the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge. Such restoration shall not be declared, however, unless the Companion has so requested in writing, and has satisfied the Chapter as to arrearages in dues. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 44. Fees for Degrees.** The minimum fees for conferring the Capitular degrees shall be as follows: for Mark Master – ten dollars including deposit fees; for Past Master, five dollars; for Most Excellent Master, five dollars; for the Royal Arch, five dollars. No credit shall be extended for fees in any case.

**Art. 45. Chapter Annual Dues.** Each Chapter shall levy annual dues against its members in such sum as will provide ample funds for Chapter maintenance.

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

The Chapter shall be relieved of the payment of Grand Chapter per capita dues and/or assessments on all members whose dues have been remitted on the grounds of indigence. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 46. Annual Returns by Secretary.** Each Chapter Secretary shall, not later than April 10<sup>th</sup> in each year, file his Annual Report with the Grand Secretary, on blanks furnished by Grand Chapter, giving all the information called for in such blanks covering his Chapter's activities during the year closing on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Each Chapter Secretary is required to report to the Grand Secretary as soon after the Chapter Annual Convocation as possible but not later than May 10<sup>th</sup> a complete list of the elective and appointive officers for the ensuing year on forms to be furnished for this purpose by the Grand Chapter. (1980, page 21)

Any Chapter which fails to file or pay its returns, dues and/or assessments due the Grand Chapter 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 Convocation unless waived by the Grand High Priest for just cause. (1996, page 9)

**Art. 47. Change of Location.** Any Chapter may change its meeting place within the town of its then location by majority vote at a stated convocation, after due notice to resident members, and without dispensation.

Any Chapter may change its meeting place to another town by (a) majority vote at a stated convocation, after notice to its resident members, (b) obtaining the approval of the Chapter nearest to the proposed new location, and (c) obtaining the approval of Grand Chapter. The Grand High Priest may, when conditions (a) and (b) are satisfied, issue his dispensation authorizing such moving until the next annual convocation of Grand Chapter.

**Art. 48. Failure to Meet, etc. – Forfeitures.** If any Chapter shall fail to assemble once in any fiscal year; or shall neglect to be represented in Grand Chapter annual convocation for two years in succession; or shall fail, for two successive years to make its annual returns and pay its obligations to Grand Chapter, its charter may be lifted and declared forfeit by the Grand Chapter or may be suspended by the Grand High Priest until the next annual convocation, unless sooner restored by him. In case of forfeiture of charter the same shall be returned to the Grand Secretary together with all records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money and all other property of such Chapter, which shall become the sole property of the Grand Chapter.

**Art. 49. Surrender of Charter.** No Chapter may voluntarily surrender its charter and cease existence unless and until its indebtedness is fully paid or discharged. In case of voluntary surrender, the charter, records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money and all other property of such surrendering Chapter shall be turned over to the Grand Secretary and shall become the sole property of the Grand Chapter.

**Art. 50. Merger of Chapters.** When the best interests of Capitular Freemasonry so indicate, Chapters may merge subject to the approval of the Grand High Priest and the Grand Chapter, if it is shown (a) that each Chapter has so voted by majority of members present at a stated

convocation with at least 10 days written notice thereof to all members, (b) that the payment of all indebtedness of both Chapters is fully provided for, (c) that the District Deputy for the District concerned files his report, after investigation, with the Grand High Priest, recommending such merger. On completion of merger, the charter or charters no longer carrying authority shall be surrendered to the Grand Secretary. (2003)

**Art. 51. Deputies to be Furnished Chapter Financial Statements.** (Deleted 2003)

### TRIALS – AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION

**Art. 52. Unmasonic Conduct – Trials – Appeals.** Chapter 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 Chapter, shall have the right of appeal to the Grand Chapter under the regulations hereinafter stated, but the Chapter itself cannot, by vote, appeal to the Grand Chapter from its own action.

**Art. 53. Trials – Unmasonic Conduct – Procedure.** Whenever a member of a Chapter 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 Arch Mason, and delivered to the High Priest, 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 Secretary, with order of service thereof. The Secretary 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 causing to be delivered, an attested copy of the same, at least fourteen days prior to the time appointed for trial, if he resides within ten miles of the Chapter; and, if residing more than ten miles therefrom and within the state, by forwarding by mail such attested copy, at least twenty 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 at least sixty days prior to time of trial. If the residence of the accused is unknown, the Chapter shall proceed *ex parte*.
- b. The trial shall be in a Chapter convocation, either stated or special, at which no visitors shall be admitted except counsel and witnesses. Resident members of the Chapter shall be notified to appear at such trial. Such notices shall be forwarded by mail; shall be signed by the Secretary; 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 Chapter, shall desire the testimony of persons not Masons, the High Priest shall appoint a committee to take their statements in writing, and the accused, his counsel, the accuser, and counsel for the Chapter, 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 High Priest 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 Chapter.
- f. At the trial the Chapter 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 Chapter shall then be opened in the Royal Arch degree. The Chapter shall, by ballot, determine the question of guilt of the accused. If the accused is adjudged guilty, the Chapter 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 High Priest shall decide and declare the length of such definite suspension. In case the Chapter shall fail to vote either expulsion or suspension, the punishment shall be reprimand, which shall be given or read by the High Priest in open Chapter, and in the presence of the accused, when possible. A majority vote shall determine the questions of guilt and/or punishment.

**Art. 54. Non-Payment of Dues – Automatic Suspension.** Chapter members in arrears of dues and/or assessments shall be suspended from the rights and privileges of Capitular Freemasonry, under the following rules and regulations:

- a. The dues from members to all Subordinate Chapters shall be due and payable in advance on such date in each year as each Chapter shall determine.
- b. Any member of a Chapter who shall neglect or refuse to pay his dues and/or assessments for one year after the same shall fall due shall be automatically suspended unless such dues and/or assessments are remitted by vote of the Chapter each year. (See Art. 45)
- c. The Secretary of the Chapter shall send written or preprinted notices to the last known address of all members whose dues and/or assessment are not paid within six months from the date they fall due, and again to those who are nine months in arrears, clearly stating that Grand Chapter regulations require that they be automatically dropped from membership if dues are not paid on or before one 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 year from dues date, with any reason received for non-payment, shall be reported to the Chapter by the Secretary at the next stated convocation thereafter. The Chapter 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 year. If neither of such votes is passed, such member shall stand suspended as of the date of such convocation and the Secretary 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 Chapter, if, within three 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 months period shall take the regular course of petition, payment of arrears, and vote of the Chapter.

- f. Lack of knowledge of the whereabouts of any member shall not preclude nor delay automatic suspension hereunder. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 55. Appeals – Procedure.** Appeals to Grand Chapter from the trial action of any subordinate Chapter shall be in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. *Petition- Time for filing.* The appeal shall be in writing; shall state the ground of appeal; and shall be filed with the Secretary within ten (10) days after trial.
- b. *Action of High Priest.* If such appeal is filed by a companion other than the accused, the High Priest shall forthwith issue a citation to the accused to appear and answer, if he so desires, at the next stated convocation of Grand Chapter.
- c. *Action by Secretary.* If the accused is not the appellant, the Secretary 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 Secretary 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 Secretary. All appeal copies shall be attested over the signature of the Secretary and the seal of the Chapter, and shall be furnished by the Chapter free of charge. When the accused is the appellant, the Secretary shall promptly forward the appeal petition and record of the case to the Grand Secretary.
- d. *Action by Grand Secretary.* Upon receipt of proper appeal, petition and case record, the Grand Secretary shall issue a notice, under the seal of the Grand Chapter, to the Chapter 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 Secretary of the Chapter and the accused. It is the duty of the High Priest to see that all parties interested (other than the accused), are notified of the time and place of hearing.
- e. *Vote Required.* Whenever the Grand Chapter shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a Chapter expelling or suspending a member, a two-thirds vote shall be required.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Art. 56. Grand Representative.** There shall be no limit to the tenure of office of Grand Representatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter. Any such Grand Representative who, without acceptable excuse, absents himself from three successive annual convocations may suffer the revocation of his appointment and commission by the Grand High Priest.

**Art. 57. Interjurisdictional Visitations.** Interjurisdictional Chapter visits for fellowship and degree exemplification purposes shall be held only under the dispensation of the Grand High Priest, conditioned on approval of the other Grand High Priest involved.

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

**Art. 58. Book of Marks.** Each Chapter shall procure and keep with its records a Book of Marks, in which the Secretary shall record the Mark selected by each Mark Master Mason.

**Art. 59. Fiscal and Membership Year.** The fiscal year of the Grand Chapter shall end on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the membership year on March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 60. Grand Officers Bonded.** The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall annually give bonds, with corporate surety, in such amounts as the Grand High Priest shall approve and at the expense of the Grand Chapter.

**Art. 61. Seals.** The Grand Chapter and each subordinate Chapter shall have a seal, of a design determined by the body with description thereof recorded in its minutes. Such Grand Chapter seal shall be affixed to all dispensations, commissions, edicts and other like documents. Such Chapter seal shall be affixed to all applications for dispensations, annual reports, inter-chapter communications and other like papers.

**Art. 62. Amendments.** No Article of these regulations shall be altered, amended, revised or repealed, except at an Annual Convocation, and then only if two-thirds of the members present, in person and by proxy, give their assent.

Where reference is made to an article, resolution, vote or decision it likewise includes all amendments to the same. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 63. Repeal.** All General Regulations and Standing Resolutions of this Grand Chapter heretofore adopted are hereby repealed.

**Art. 64. Time of Taking Effect.** The foregoing regulations and the following Standing Resolutions shall take effect from adoption.

**Art. 65. 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 Secretary so as to be in his office on the second Monday in May each year:

Grand High Priest	District Deputy Grand High Priests
Grand Lecturer	Doings of Grand Officers
Grand Treasurer	Finance Committee
Grand Secretary	Jurisprudence Committee (2003)

Section 2 – changes in Grand Chapter Rules, Regulations and Operational Procedures. A companion desiring to recommend a change, deletion or addition in the Grand Chapter 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.

If it is a General Rule and Regulation Change the resolution shall cite the Article or Section with page number, whether it is the original article or section or whether it is the amended article or section with page number of the General Rules and Regulations. It shall further indicate in detail the present wording along with the proposed wording in a clear, concise and understandable form.

If other than a change in the General Rules and Regulations the resolution shall cite the present “set/up and/or wording” followed by the proposed “set/up and/or wording”. All resolutions in order to be acted upon at the next Annual Convocation shall be in the hands of the Grand Secretary not later than the second Monday in January of the year of the Annual Convocation at which the resolution will be presented. This is a must and is imperative that it be done in order that the Grand High Priest may make the necessary referral to the proper committee for investigation, study and report.

The Grand Secretary shall forward to each subordinate Chapter a copy of the resolution together with advice as to the referral by the Grand High Priest for their information.

A resolution presented at an Annual Convocation will, of course, be accepted and referred to the proper committee. However, that committee 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.

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

The Grand High Priest shall: (1) Call for a vote on the subject as proposed by the proposer or proposers of the 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, etc. which are referred to committee for investigation, study and report. (1980, page 21)

**Art. 66. General Regulations.** If nothing is found in the General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Vermont adopted June 9, 1953 and all amendments thereto, 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. (1980, page 21)

## STANDING RESOLUTIONS AND VOTES

### I. **Representation in Grand Chapter – Payment of dues.**

**Resolved** that no Chapter shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Chapter, nor shall its representatives be entitled to mileage or other compensation, unless its returns have been filed with, and its dues, per capita and assessments paid to the Grand Secretary, in accordance with the regulations of the Grand Chapter. Proc. 1878, P. 19

### II. **Keystone Chapter, Number 16 – Degree Work in Island Pond**

**Resolved** that Keystone Chapter, No. 16, of Barton Vermont, be and is hereby authorized to hold convocations, for the purpose of conferring the Capitular degrees, at Island Pond at its discretion. This authorization to continue in force until revoked by Grand Chapter. Proc. 1922

### III. **Grand Secretary – Clerical Assistance**

**Resolved** that the Grand Chapter shall contribute to the cost of clerical and bookkeeping assistance in the office of the Grand Secretary. Such contribution shall be such part of the total cost as the salary of the Grand Secretary bears to the total of his salaries as Grand Secretary and/or Grand Recorder in all Grand Masonic bodies. (1940, PP 35, 38)

### IV. **Triennial Fund.**

**Resolved** that the sum of \$200.00 shall be appropriated each year to a fund known as the Triennial Fund, except that, in any year when the Grand Treasurer's final account shows a balance of \$600.00 in such fund, the mentioned appropriation shall be omitted for the following year. This fund shall be carried as a separate item in the Grand Treasurer's accounts.

Up to one third of the amount in this fund (\$200.00) shall be available in Triennial years to each of the first three officers of this Grand Chapter who attend the Triennial of the General Grand Chapter, but only to the extent of necessary travel and hotel expense. (2003)

### V. **Distribution of General Regulations**

**Resolved** that each Grand High Priest, King, Scribe and District Deputy Grand High Priest, who has not previously supplied himself, shall, on assuming office, be presented a copy of these General Regulation, Standing Resolutions, and Digest of Decisions gratis; that each Chapter Secretary be furnished one copy of the use of his chapter; that the remainder on hand be sold by the Grand Secretary to Royal Arch Masons at a cost to cover printing and mailing.