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**PROPOSED  
RESOLUTIONS,  
RECOMMENDATIONS,  
AND  
STATEMENTS OF  
AVAILABILITY  
TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT OUR  
GRAND ANNUAL  
COMMUNICATION  
TO BE HELD  
DECEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 2014**



**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT OUR GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
TO BE HELD  
DECEMBER 4, 5, & 6, 2014**

SUCH CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS ARE  
HEREBY SUBMITTED AND ARE INDICATED BY ADDING AND  
DELETING CERTAIN LANGUAGE, WITH NEW LANGUAGE  
ITALICIZED AND DELETED LANGUAGE BRACKETED.

**Committee on Civil Law**

Elmer Murphy, III, Chairman  
18727 Maple Tree Lane  
Dallas, TX 76252

**Committee on Finance**

H. Buck Howard, Chairman  
5907 Meadowcrest  
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**Committee on Investments**

Thomas W. Ellison  
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**Committee on Masonic  
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Stephen F. Cross, Chairman  
PO Box 3375  
Borger, TX 79008

**Committee on Purposes  
and Policies**

Leonard P. Harvey, Chairman  
3936 Highgrove Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75220

**Committee on Work**

G. Duane Anthony, Chairman  
4505 Shadowdale Lane  
Orange, TX 7632

## 2012 TABLED RESOLUTION NO. 17A

### **Referred to Committee on Civil Law\*, Purposes and Policies, and Masonic Jurisprudence**

RESOLVED, that the following additions be made to the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas:

1. Insert a new paragraph to be numbered Article 307a as follows:

*Art. 307a. Fees: Criminal Background Report.*

*In addition to the minimum fees specified in Article 307, there shall be an added fee paid by the Petitioner to cover the cost of a criminal background report of the petitioner. This fee shall be sufficient to cover the cost of said criminal background report only.*

2. Insert a new paragraph at the end of Article 403 as follows:

*The petition shall include a written acknowledgement and agreement in which the Petitioner acknowledges and agrees that the Lodge may obtain a criminal background report of the Petitioner*

*The Lodge Secretary will order the criminal background check through an organization approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. No copies of the report shall be made nor shall the information contained within the report be disclosed to anyone other than the Lodge Investigation Committee members. The report shall be surrendered to the Petitioner after the conclusion of the balloting upon the Petition.*

3. Amend final paragraph (unnumbered) of Grand Lodge Form as follows:

Masonic Form No. 26

I understand that as part of this Lodge's procedure for processing my petition, an investigative report will be prepared *for the Lodge* whereby information is obtained through personal interviews with neighbors, friend, or others with whom I am acquainted *and the Lodge may conduct a criminal background investigation by a company engaged by the Lodge. This inquiry* will also include information as to my character, *qualifications*, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living. *I further hereby knowingly and voluntarily consent to the investigations provided for herein, and I knowingly and voluntarily waive any cause of action whatsoever that I may have for defamation, invasion of privacy or any other causes as a result*

*of said investigations. I authorize any person from whom any information about me is requested to provide the requested information. I hereby release the Lodge to which I submitted a petition, its officers, its investigating committee, the Grand Lodge of Texas and its officers from any and all liability for any damages that I may suffer as a result of said investigations. I fully understand that the degree fee set by the Lodge will include the fee that the Lodge pays to a company to conduct the background investigation.*

4. Amend the final paragraph of Masonic Form 28 as follows:

The final paragraph of Form 28 is to be amended as follows:

*After the complete investigation and review of the criminal background report, if ordered by the Lodge, I have answered all of the above questions to the best of my knowledge and believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore make the following recommendations:*

Favorable

Unfavorable

(answer "Yes" to one)

(Signed)

(Date Investigation Completed)

5. *Effective Date:*

*To insure that all procedures necessary for the implementation of these law and forms changes, the effective date of the additions and amendments set forth in Resolution No. 17, shall be January 1, 2014.*

Oak Cliff Lodge No. 705

## **2013 TABLED RESOLUTION NO. 3**

**Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

Re: Title V- Jurisdiction of Disciplinary Procedures of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A. M.

The redrafting of Title V of the Laws of Grand Lodge of Texas was first brought before the Masons of Texas at the Grand Lodge session held on December 5, 6 & 7, 2002, eventually to result in a restructured procedure as finally approved by Grand Lodge at the 2004 Annual Grand Communication.

In essence, since going into effect at the onset of Grand Lodge Year 2005, the benefits of revising Title V would seem to be questionable, especially pertaining to expeditious handling of disciplinary charges against accused brethren.

The removal of the Lodges as participants in the disciplinary process has become rather contentious.

The rather obvious and onerous administrative burden placed upon each Grand Master's many and equally important duties imposed upon him.

The very nature of the present procedures requires the Grand Secretary's office to be a buffer between the Grand Master and the legal process, requiring his office to perform duties that are inconsistent with his defined responsibilities as Grand Secretary. It might also be noted that the legal aspects of the present system unfairly places personnel of the Grand Secretary's office in the unfair position of interpretation.

Actually, the many facets involved in the present Masonic Disciplinary Violations process have become so unwieldy and burdensome that the Grand Master and Grand Secretary have been forced to implement additional administrative procedures to better handle the large number of alleged disciplinary violations being referred to the Grand Master for his disposition.

THEREFORE, for these and other valid reasons, be it

RESOLVED, that Title V of the Laws of Grand Lodge of Texas as approved

December 4, 2004 be and is hereby rescinded as of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 in its entirety, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas as effective prior to December 4, 2004 be and is hereby adopted as of June 24, 2014 to become effective December 7, 2013, same to be distributed with all law changes and other Grand Lodge actions taken and approved at the 2013 Annual Communication, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge of Texas be instructed by this Grand Lodge to prepare and cause distribution to be made to all Texas Lodges a lay-simple procedure for the handling by Texas Lodges of matters involving Masonic charges and Discipline.

Lake Worth Lodge No.1410

## RESOLUTION NO. 1

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

WHEREAS, at the request of many Lodges, the Civil Law Committee prepared the following Amendment to Title V, “*Masonic Disciplinary Procedures*”, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, for the consideration of the Grand West at the 2014 Grand Annual Communication.

WHEREAS, this Amendment would restore the Masonic disciplinary procedures as existed prior to 2004, and place the Masonic disciplinary procedures in the hands of the Lodges under the direction of the Worshipful Master.

WHEREAS, this amendment retains the concept that exist presently in Title V that being that all Masonic disciplinary procedures are administrative procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following amendments to Title V, Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas be adopted.

### **TITLE V**

#### **MASONIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

##### **Purpose**

The procedures set forth in this title are to be called Masonic Disciplinary Procedures, and they establish the procedures to be used by the Grand Lodge of Texas for Masonic discipline. These procedures are to be broadly construed to insure that a fair, just, and legal hearing system is afforded to any Mason involved in Masonic discipline.

#### **CHAPTER 1 - TITLE V**

##### **JURISDICTION OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

Art. 494. **Powers, Jurisdiction and Duty of Grand Lodge.** The [Grand] Lodge has the power, jurisdiction and duty to punish by reprimand, suspension or expulsion any Mason in its jurisdiction for Masonic disciplinary violations.

Art. 495. **Masons Amenable.** All Masons, including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, demitted and suspended Masons, who are amenable to

the Constitution, Laws, Edicts and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Texas are subject to the provisions of this title.

Art. 496. **Right To Hearing.** Any Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation has a right to a hearing under the provisions of the Masonic disciplinary procedures set forth in this title.

*Art. 497. **Offense Committee In Jurisdiction Other Than That of Membership.** Any Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation may be tried in the Lodge where he holds his membership or by the Lodge within whose jurisdiction the offense may have been committed; provided such accused shall not be subject to trial in both Lodges; and provided further, that the Lodge in which charges shall first be filed shall have priority of jurisdiction. Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts have the status of members of the Lodges holding personal jurisdiction over them for the purposes of this article.*

*Art. 498. **Where Lodges Have Concurrent Jurisdiction.** In a city where there are two or more Lodges having concurrent jurisdiction, the Lodge whose jurisdiction first attached to a case charging a Masonic disciplinary offense shall retain it to the exclusion of the others.*

*Art. 499. **Accused's Lodges To Be Notified.** If the accused is a member of any Lodge or Lodges other than the Lodge in which Masonic disciplinary violations are filed against him, such Lodge shall immediately notify such other Lodge or Lodges in which he holds membership of the filing of Masonic disciplinary violations.*

*Art. 497. **Lodges To Be Notified.** If any allegations of a Masonic disciplinary violation against a member are filed and accepted by the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary shall immediately notify the Secretary of all Lodges in which the member holds membership at the time the Masonic disciplinary violations are alleged against him. If the allegations subsequently result in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing under the provisions of this title, the Grand Secretary shall notify the member's Lodge or Lodges of the date and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.*

*Art. 498. **Neglect By Lodges Of Duty To Discipline.** It is the duty of each Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction to insure that the rules of conduct among Masons are enforced. Neglect by any Lodge to report Masonic disciplinary violations, will subject such Lodge to a disciplinary action, to include forfeiture of its Charter, upon the evidence of such fact being presented to the Grand Master. It is the duty of all District Deputy Grand Masters to report to the Grand Master any such neglect by Lodges in their respective districts.*

*Art 500. **Neglect By Lodge Of Duty To Discipline.** Neglect by any Lodge under this jurisdiction to exercise Masonic discipline and assess the punishment due for Masonic disciplinary violations on the part of a member, will subject such Lodge to a forfeiture of its Charter, upon the evidence of such fact being presented to the Grand Lodge. It is the duty of all District Deputy Grand Masters to report to the Grand Master any such neglect by Lodges in their respective districts.*

~~Art. 499. **Powers Of The Grand Master.** The Grand Master shall have the power to supervise and direct all procedures after allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been filed with the Grand Secretary.~~

*Art. 501. **Personal Or Pecuniary Differences Between Members.** Lodges shall not take cognizance of differences or controversies between members, growing out of purely personal or pecuniary transactions, unless the Masonic disciplinary violation involves a Masonic obligation or law.*

**Art. 502. Exclusive Jurisdiction Of The Grand Lodge.** The officers of the Grand Lodge and the Masters of Lodges, are not subject to Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearings in a Subordinate Lodge on any allegation(s) growing out of or in connection with any official act of any such officer. Any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing of such officers shall be conducted in the Grand Lodge pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17 of this Title; however, a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing may be conducted after said term of office has expired, on any such charge where a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing was not conducted by the Grand Lodge during said term of office.

**Art. 503. No Time Limitation On Asserting Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** This [Grand-]Lodge recognizes no positive rule or limitation against making allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and any such rule or limitation is null and void; but the lapse of time after an offense is known is a matter to be considered by the Grand Master within his power to receive, dismiss, and supervise Masonic disciplinary matters, and is a matter to be considered by a Masonic Mediation Committee and/or the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, according to the circumstances.

*Art. 504. **Disciplinary Hearings For Suspended Masons.** These Masonic disciplinary procedures apply to a suspended Mason for Masonic disciplinary violations committed after suspension. He is not to be restored to membership for the purposes of processing the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations under this title, but the new allegations are to be served on him; he shall be notified to appear; and the same Masonic disciplinary hearing procedures shall be followed as for all other Masons accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation.*



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**CHAPTER 2 - TITLE V****MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS**

**Art. 505. Term Masonic Offenses Repealed.** The use of the term “Masonic offenses” is no longer used in Title V. The term that is now used is “Masonic Disciplinary Violations.” Any reference to “Masonic offenses” found in any part of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, except Title V herein, are not repealed, but continue to be part of the Law of the Grand Lodge of Texas. As continuing revisions of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas are made, the term “Masonic offenses” will be replaced with “Masonic Disciplinary Violations.”

**Art. 506. Violations Of Obligations And Laws.** Every violation of a Masonic obligation, every violation of the Constitution, Laws, Resolutions or Edicts of this Grand Lodge, or usages and customs of Masonry, and every violation of the laws of the United States, a State, or of a municipality, involving moral turpitude is a Masonic disciplinary violation.

**Art. 507. Certain Other Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for a Lodge, a committee or any combination of Masons, or an individual Mason to:

1. Traduce, slander, libel or falsely accuse any person.
2. Make false charges, or utter any word or statement, either orally, in writing, or otherwise, or to commit any act or engage in any activities or conduct calculated to bring reproach upon this Grand Lodge or any of its officers, institutions, agencies or subordinate Lodges or officers thereof; or which is calculated to bring discredit or disgrace on Masonry; or which is reasonably calculated to reflect unfavorably on the good name of Masonry.
3. Use the words “Masonic,” “Mason,” or “Masonry” or the faith and credit of Masonry, to display Masonic emblem, for a secular, business or political purpose; or, being a candidate for office, to mention in his announcements or political advertisement or literature, or otherwise publish the fact of his Masonic connection; or permit knowingly the printing of any advertisement in a Masonic book, journal or other periodical in which advertisement the words “Masonic,” “Masons,” “for Masons only,” “for Masons and their families,” or any other term, sign or symbol of Masonry are used; or solicit business for any company or firm making use of such words, terms, signs or symbols for any such purpose; provided, however, that such regulations shall not apply to:
  - (a) The manufacture and sale of Masonic supplies, paraphernalia and equipment;

(b) Advertisements, publications, sale or distribution of Masonic books, journals or other such periodicals;

(c) Masonic Temple Associations, cemetery associations or companies which set aside a section for the exclusive use of Masons and their families;

(d) Employment and relief bureaus operating wholly under the management and control of Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, without profit for the benefit of Masons and their families;

(e) The display of Masonic symbols upon tombstones, monuments or vaults erected in cemeteries or mausoleums or the cornerstones of buildings laid with Masonic ceremonies;

(f) The statement by a candidate for office in a political announcement or advertisement of the fact that he is a Mason, if such announcement or advertisement also lists his church and civil affiliations. He shall not be permitted to list offices held or the name of his Lodge or the names of other Masonic Bodies. Neither shall he be permitted to display any Masonic emblem or in any other manner to solicit directly or indirectly the vote or votes of any person or persons based on any Masonic affiliation or connection.

(g) Travel tours arranged and conducted under the supervision of the Grand Master as provided for in Grand Master's Recommendation No. 6, approved at the 1972 Grand Communication of this Grand Lodge.

(h) Use the Square and Compasses emblem on commonly accepted items of jewelry, such as lapel pins, tie tacks, tie chains, tie bars, rings and belt buckles and on articles of clothing such as caps, ties, shirts, and jackets – regardless of manufacture or source of supply. To prevent improper use, Texas Masons are required to remove the Square and Compasses emblems from autos or clothing prior to changing ownership or discarding.

4. Publish or print, or participate in the publishing or printing, or advertise in, subscribe for or, solicit advertisement or subscriptions for, or otherwise knowingly aid, any publication not authorized under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas and approved by the Grand Master, which publication uses the word "Masonry," "Masons," or any derivations of such word, in the title, slogan, catch word or advertisements of such publication, or any insignia, emblems, hieroglyphs, or Masonic picturization as a part of the format of such publication or which purports to be for or in the interest of Masons or Masonry, except as permitted under the immediately preceding subparagraph.

5. Give circulation, either orally or in writing, to any statement reasonably calculated to bring Masonry, its history, traditions, institutions, ritualistic work, ceremonies, officers or membership into disrepute.

6. Criticize Masonry, either publicly or privately.

7. Consume, possess, have in possession, or sell intoxicating liquor in any portion of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, or of any building or portion of any building occupied or used by any Lodge, provided, however, that this prohibition does not apply to small quantities of any such beverages or liquors required by existing rituals of such organization in the conferring of its degrees or orders, or in the ceremonies in observance of special occasions required by existing regulations of such organizations; and further, this prohibition shall not apply to space properly leased for commercial purposes. Constituent Lodges may meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served. Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas may meet in buildings where other appendant Masonic organizations may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages so long as such service is not in progress while the Lodge is open there. Constituent Lodges may let, lease, or rent portions of their buildings to other appendant Masonic organizations who may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service does not occur in the Lodge room of the building.

8. Willfully refuse to pay a just debt to a Lodge if financially able to do so.

9. Affiliate with a Lodge under an assumed name with intent to deceive the Lodge or its members.

10. Knowingly permit an expelled Mason to visit a Lodge.

11. Knowingly permit any of the degrees of Masonry to be conferred on a candidate who has been previously rejected and who has not disclosed such fact of rejection to the Lodge.

12. Conceal from, or fail to reveal to, a Lodge to which he has applied for any of the degrees of Masonry, the fact that he has been previously rejected by it or any other Lodge.

13. Represent in his petition for the degrees that he has never petitioned any other Lodge for the degrees when such representation is false.

14. Inquire into, or in any way investigate, either directly or indirectly, the ballot upon any petition for affiliation, or for either of the three degrees, or on any question decided by a secret ballot.

15. Give a rejected applicant the names of members present at such rejection with a view to ascertaining who cast a blackball.

16. Disclose to any person how he voted on any applicant for affiliation or for the degrees, or on any question decided by a secret ballot.

17. Canvass publicly for or against the admission of a candidate into Masonry, the reinstatement of a suspended or expelled Mason, or the admission of an unaffiliated

18. Inform a candidate by whom he was blackballed.

19. Inform any person, not a member of the Lodge taking such action, of the rejection of a candidate.

20. Possess, or use a cipher/code book anywhere on a Lodge premises, and to use a cipher/code book in the presence of a candidate when instructing the candidate in the esoteric work of a Masonic Degree. (Revised 2007)

21. Being a suspended or expelled Mason, knowingly wear, display or use a Masonic badge, button, label or emblem during the time of his suspension.

22. Participate in, approve, or aid in the formation of any organization predicated its membership on Masonic membership or in the formation of any local chapters or groups, by whatever name called, of any organization predicated membership on Masonic membership. It shall be a Masonic offense for any Texas Mason to be, remain, or continue as, a Member of any organization predicated its membership or affiliation on Masonic membership unless such organization is now currently approved or recognized in Article 225 or Article 225a.

23 Circularize by letter or other form of publication to other Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction proposing or advocating any amendments, repeal or enactment of laws in or by this Grand Lodge, without first securing a dispensation for such purpose from the Grand Master.

24. Directly or indirectly solicit or procure the vote of a Mason or campaign for the election of a Mason or otherwise electioneer for any Mason, in any location where Masons assemble, including, without limitation, in a Lodge, a Lodge room, the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge building, or any other such location or facility.

25. Willfully, or without an excuse found by the Lodge to be satisfactory, neglect or refuse to present himself and be examined as to his proficiency in the Masters' Degree within ninety (90) days after being raised.

26. Failing to complete, execute and deliver to the youth organization approved for Masonic sponsorship and its Chief Executive Officer in Texas, the sponsoring body and to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, at the time of application, or in any event, prior to performing as an advisor to a youth organization, a completed Form No. 79, which in summary, the applicant states he has no arrests or convictions, misdemeanor or felony, nor any form of child abuse or child molestation or child exploitation; to specifically include, but not limited to, any arrests or convictions for any allegations under the provisions of Chapter 22 (Assault Offenses), Chapter 25 (Offenses Against Family), and Chapter 43 (Public Indecency), Texas Penal Code.

27. Contribute to the delinquency, or abuse of a child, or having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person and fails to report the same in accordance with the provision of the Texas Family Code. A child is deemed to be a person under the age of seventeen (17) years.

28. Make use of any stenographic or electronic record of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing except as provided in these laws. 29. Raise money by lotteries or any other gambling devices prohibited by the Laws of Texas or the Laws of the United States of America.

30. Receive or accept a fee or gift, either directly or indirectly, for participation in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing, to include, but not limited to: Trial Master, counsel for the accuser, counsel for the accused, or a member of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

31. Discuss privately with any member of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission the facts of any case pending before said Commission, or attempt in any way to influence the action of Commission or any member thereof for or against a Mason involved in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

32. Willfully disobey a summons to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, as a witness, during discovery or at the hearing, as a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission, or otherwise.

33. Willfully fail or refuse to appear at the appointed time and place, after due notice, to receive a reprimand which has been duly inflicted upon him in a Masonic disciplinary proceeding.

34. Knowingly give false testimony in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

35. Willfully refuse to act as Trial Master, ~~advocate for an accuser, advocate for an accused,~~ or member of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing panel, without a valid reason. A valid reason not to act as a Trial Master, ~~advocate for an accuser, or advocate for an accused~~ shall be deter-

mined by the *Worshipful Master of the Lodge*. A valid reason not to serve on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing panel shall be determined by the Trial Master at the time of the impaneling of the commission.

~~[36. Willfully violate or fail to comply with any of the duties set forth in Title V of these laws for an accuser, advocate for an accuser, accused, or advocate for an accused.]~~

*36. Make any negative reference or take any negative action in regard to a petitioner's or member's faith, creed or race at any time. (Revised, 2010) The foregoing enumeration of Masonic disciplinary violations shall not be exclusive, nor shall they be considered or deemed to have the effect of repealing any other law of the Grand Lodge, now existing or hereafter to be enacted, specifying or defining any other Masonic disciplinary violations.*

**Art. 508. Automatic Suspension Or Expulsion.** Any Mason in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas shall be expelled or suspended, as hereinafter provided, upon his conviction of a felony by any court of competent jurisdiction of this or any other state of the United States, or by any federal court of the United States, or upon the discovery of an undisclosed or concealed felony conviction occurring prior to said person becoming a Mason. (Revised 2011)

1. Suspension shall be effective on the date of sentence and continue until said conviction shall become final, at which time the subject Mason shall be expelled, said expulsion to be effective as of the date of sentence without further action by the Grand Lodge.

2. (a) Should such conviction be reversed or set aside by the judgment of any court, the suspension shall continue until the final disposition of the case, unless the charges shall be dismissed in which event the subject Mason shall be restored to good standing without further action by the Grand Lodge.

(b) In any case in which probation or deferred adjudication is not in issue, should such conviction be reversed or set aside by the judgment of any court, the suspension shall continue until the final disposition of the case, unless the charges shall be dismissed in which event the subject Mason shall be restored to good standing without further action of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

(c) In any instance where a Mason is charged with the commission of a felony and there is a finding of guilty by a court or jury or if a Mason enters a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere to such offense of felony and the court, after receiving evidence, finds that the defendant is guilty and places the defendant on probation or otherwise suspends the imposition of

the sentence, or in the event a defendant is charged with the offense of a felony and enters a plea of guilty or enters a plea of nolo contendere and the court, after hearing evidence, finds that such evidence substantiates the defendant's guilt and defers further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and places the defendant on probation, such proceeding shall be deemed a conviction of a felony for all purposes relative to this article, and said Mason shall be expelled to be effective as of the date defendant is placed on probation.

3. The Grand Secretary shall notify the subject Mason by U.S. mail at his last known address of his expulsion or suspension from the Lodge as a result of his conviction. (Note: See Form 2)

4. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to certify the record of expulsion or suspension, in writing, to each Subordinate Lodge of which the Mason is a member and any other known organization upon which membership is in any manner dependent upon being a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas in good standing of which the Mason is a member. ( Note: See Form 2)

**Art. 509. Voluntary Expulsion For Life.** In addition to an occurrence contemplated in Article 506, herein above, any Mason in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall be EXPELLED without NOTICE and without a right to any MASONIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, if upon allegations of Masonic disciplinary violation or violations, completes, executes, and delivers to the Secretary of a Subordinate Lodge, the Chair of any Mediation Committee, a Trial Master, or the Grand Secretary, Form 3, or a like or similar form satisfactory in form and content to the Grand Master, thereby requesting to avoid and waive for all purposes any and all of the Masonic disciplinary procedures under this Title, to include a formal hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, on said Masonic disciplinary violation or violations, and thereby agreeing to EXPULSION FOR LIFE, without: (i) any right to appeal same or to request any modification or reduction of same at any future date, or (ii) any right to ever request his status as a Mason to be restored or his membership in any Subordinate Lodge or in the Grand Lodge of Texas to ever be reinstated. The Secretary of the Subordinate Lodge, the Chair of any Mediation Committee, a Trial Master, or the Grand Secretary, who received Form 3, upon verifying the genuineness of the Mason's signature shall sign Form 3 in the space provided and then shall forward same to the Grand Master for his approval and, if said form is executed by the Grand Master, the Mason will then be EXPELLED FOR LIFE and the Grand Secretary will notify in writing each subordinate Lodge, of which the Mason is a member and any other known organization upon which membership is in any manner dependant upon being a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas in good standing of which the Mason is a member, that the Mason has been EXPELLED FOR

LIFE; however, if said form is not executed by the Grand Master, notice and/or Masonic disciplinary proceeding will continue as required herein. A Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation may exercise his right to file a Form 3 at any time during Masonic disciplinary procedures, to include filing the same during mediation, after the proceedings have been referred to a Trial Master, or during any proceedings before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If a Mason desires to file a Form 3 during the mediation process, it shall be filed with the Chair of the Masonic Mediation Committee appointed by the Grand Master. It shall be accepted by the Chair of said committee; and all further mediation shall terminate. If a Mason elects to file a Form 3 after a Trial Master has been appointed by the ~~[Grand Master]~~ *Master of the Lodge*, it shall be filed with the Trial Master. It shall be accepted by the Trial Master; and all other Masonic disciplinary proceedings shall terminate. If a Mason elects to file a Form 3 after a Masonic Disciplinary Commission has been selected, it shall be filed with the Trial Master. It shall be accepted by the Trial Master, the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be dismissed and all other Masonic disciplinary proceedings shall terminate. The Chair of any Mediation Committee or any Trial Master who receives a duly executed Form 3 shall immediately verify the signature of the Mason signing the same and forward the same to the Grand Secretary for action by the Grand Master.

### CHAPTER 3 - TITLE V

#### ALLEGATION OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Art. 510. **Necessity Of Written Allegations Of A Masonic Disciplinary Violation.** No penalty can be inflicted upon a Mason without the filing of a written allegation accusing a Mason of a Masonic disciplinary violation, except as provided in ~~[Article 507]~~ *Article 508* herein above. Allegations of a Masonic disciplinary violation shall be in writing and signed by the accuser and submitted to the *Master of the Lodge for his action*. ~~[Grand Secretary for action by the Grand Master.]~~ The written allegations must specifically allege a Masonic violation with certainty to include: a) the specific Masonic disciplinary rule being violated, b) the time, date and place of the alleged violation, c) a full and complete description of all acts taken by a Mason that resulted in a violation, and d) a list of all witnesses by name, Lodge, residence address, and telephone number who have knowledge of such violation. A general charge of un-Masonic conduct without the information set forth herein will not be entertained by the *Worshipful Master* ~~[Grand Master]~~. In case of allegations of a violation of a national, state or municipal law, the crime itself shall be asserted, rather than the conviction.



**Art. 511. Status Of Mason Under Allegations Of A Masonic Disciplinary Violation.** When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been referred to, accepted by the [~~Grand Master,~~] *Worshipful Master* and referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, his standing will be a “Mason laboring under disciplinary action” and, until such Masonic disciplinary violations have been fully disposed of, he shall not be entitled to a demit, a certificate of withdrawal, a certificate of good standing or be installed in office or, in case of death, prior to final conclusion of the disciplinary action, a Masonic burial; otherwise, his rights and privileges shall be unaffected thereby until Masonic disciplinary violations have been found and his penalty assessed by the Grand Master, mediation, or Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

**Art. 512. Acts Committed Before Accused Became A Mason.** Allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations cannot be based upon acts committed before the accused was made a Mason, unless he procured admission into the Lodge by fraudulent representation or concealment.

**Art. 513. Duty of Junior Warden.** *It is the duty of the Warden to prefer charges against offending Brethren and prosecute same; but he is invested with discretion in the exercise of this duty, except when ordered to do so by the Grand Master. In case of his refusal to act, charges may be preferred by any member, on his own motion, or by the request of the Worshipful Master, or when ordered by the Grand Master to do so.*

**Art. 514. Complaint By Any Master Mason.** *Any Master Mason feeling himself aggrieved or injured by any member of his Lodge, or by any Master Mason under the jurisdiction of said Lodge, shall make his complaint known in writing, at a stated meeting; or in case a matter of grievance is known to exist, and no charges are preferred by a Brother; or when order to do so by the Grand Master; then it shall be the duty of the Junior Warden to immediately present such charges, in the manner and form required by Masonic law.*

**Art. 515. Procedure When Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations Are Received By The [~~Grand Master~~] Worshipful Master.** When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are received by the [~~Grand Master~~] *Worshipful Master*, the form required by Art. [508] 509, the [~~Grand Master~~] *Worshipful Master* shall review the allegations. After his review, the [~~Grand Master~~]-*Worshipful Master* shall take one of the following actions, within thirty (30) days after said allegations have been filed with him.

(a) Determine that the allegations are not of sufficient detail to enable the him to make a determination of future action. If the [~~Grand Master~~] *Worshipful Master* so determines, he may require the Junior Warden [~~District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic district where the allegations~~]-to [~~arose~~] make further investigation of the facts and make further

written reports to the Worshipful Master [~~Grand Master~~]. Such written reports shall be filed with the Worshipful Master [~~Grand Secretary~~] within sixty (60) days

(b) Determine that the allegations do not rise to the level of a Masonic disciplinary violations, and dismiss the allegations. If the [~~Grand~~] Worshipful Master dismisses the allegation, the [~~Grand~~] Secretary shall notify the accuser, the accused, and the Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member.

(c) Determine that the allegations may set forth a private grievance between Brothers, and ~~[order the Worshipful Master of the Lodge where the allegations arose to]~~ appoint a Lodge Committee on Reconciliation. No record shall be made of such appointment in the minutes of the Lodge. ~~[The Worshipful Master of said Lodge shall file a written report with the Grand Secretary after the Reconciliation Committee completes its work.]~~

(d) Determine that the allegations may set forth a Masonic disciplinary violation, and refer the matter to a Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation having jurisdiction over the matter for mediation under the rules prescribed for mediation.

(e) Determine that the allegations may set forth a Masonic disciplinary violation, and order that a Masonic Disciplinary Commission be convened to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations, and assess an appropriate punishment if the allegations are determined to be true.

***Art. 516. When Worshipful Master Dismisses Allegations of Masonic Disciplinary Violations, Appeal To Grand Master.*** *If the Worshipful Master shall determine that the allegations in any case do not distinctly set forth Masonic disciplinary violations, and dismisses such allegations, the Junior Warden, or any three members of the Lodge, may appeal from his decision to the Grand Master. In any such case, the Grand Master may pass upon the sufficiency of the allegations, and if he finds the allegations sufficient to set for Masonic disciplinary violations, as required in Masonic law, he may overrule the decision of the Worshipful Master, and order a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing to be held thereon, or on such of them as he may conclude to be adequate allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations.*

**Art. 517. Duty Of [~~Grand~~] Secretary When Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations Received By The Grand Lodge.** When the [~~Grand Secretary or the Grand~~] Worshipful Master receive any allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations under this title, the [~~Grand~~] Secretary shall open a Masonic Disciplinary Violations file. The file shall contain the ~~[number of the case, the]~~ name of the accused, the name of the accuser, the Lodge of the accused, the date received, and any other information neces-

sary to be preserved, upon a docket provided and prepared by the [Grand] Secretary for such purpose. ~~[After receiving Masonic disciplinary violations and opening a file, the allegations shall be immediately forwarded to the Grand Master for his action.]~~

**Art. 518. Lodge Committee On Reconciliation.** When ordered by the [Grand] Worshipful Master as a result of the filing of allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge shall appoint a Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, consisting of three (3) members of the Lodge, whose duty it shall be to make every reasonable effort to compose or adjust the differences between the Brothers and report the result of their efforts to the Worshipful Master. Their report to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge shall be as follows:

(a) If there is reconciliation, composition, compromise, or adjustment effected by the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, a written report to that effect, signed by all members of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, the accusing Brother and the accused Brother, shall be filed with the Worshipful Master. ~~[The Worshipful Master shall immediately forward such report to the Grand Secretary for review and action by the Grand Master. If the Grand Master approves the recommendations of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation]~~ and no further action will be taken on the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and the [Grand ]Secretary will notify ~~[the Worshipful Master,]~~ the accusing Brother and the accused Brother of the Master's acceptance of the report of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation.

(b) If the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation can not adjust the dispute between the Brothers, the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation shall make a written report to that effect to the Worshipful Master. Said report of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation shall fully describe the dispute between the Brothers, the position advocated by the accusing Brother, the position advocated by the accused Brother, and what prevented an adjustment of the dispute between the Brothers. ~~[The Worshipful Master shall immediately forward such report to the Grand Secretary for further action by the Grand Master.]~~ Upon receipt of the report of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation that the dispute between the Brothers could not be reconciled, or if the [Grand] Worshipful Master does not approve the recommendation of the Lodge Committee on Reconciliation, the [Grand] Worshipful Master shall take any action prescribed in Article ~~[515]~~ 514.

**Art. 519 . Grand Lodge Committee On Mediation.** When ordered ~~by the Grand Master~~ requested by a Worshipful Master as a result of the filing of allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, the ~~Grand Master will direct the appropriate Committee on Masonic Mediation to conduct a mediation of the allegations~~ the Grand Master shall direct the appropriate Grand

Lodge Committee on Medication to conduct a mediation of the allegations. The Committee on Mediation shall proceed to attempt to resolve the pending charges within thirty (30) days of receiving the order directive from the Grand Master, and report the results to the Grand Master of the Lodge requesting mediation. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall be bound by the provisions of Article 126f.

(a) If there is a successful mediation of the allegations, the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall prepare a written mediation report containing all of the terms and conditions of the agreement of the parties, signed by all members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation *that participated in the mediation*, the accusing Brother and the accused Brother and the report shall be filed with the ~~[Grand]~~ Worshipful Master *of the Lodge requesting mediation*, and ~~If the Grand Master approves the recommendations of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation,~~ *No further action will be taken on the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and the Grand Secretary will notify the Worship Master, the accusing Brother and the accused Brother of the Master's acceptance of the mediation report.*

(b) If the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation cannot resolve the allegations by mediation, the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall make a written report to the ~~[Grand]~~ Master *of the Lodge requesting mediation*. Said report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation shall fully described the dispute between the Brothers, the position advocated by the accusing Brother, the position advocated by the accused Brother and what prevented a Mediation of the dispute between the Brothers. Upon receipt of the report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation that the allegations could not be resolved by mediation, the ~~Grand~~ Master shall take any other action proscribed in Article ~~515~~ *514*.

## CHAPTER 4 - TITLE V

### ~~[GRAND]~~ MASTER'S REFERRAL TO MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

**Art. 520. When Commission Appointed.** When the ~~[Grand]~~ Worshipful Master determines that a Masonic Disciplinary Commission should be appointed to determine the truth or falsity of Masonic disciplinary violations, he shall take the following actions:

(a) Notify the Accuser and the Accused ~~[District Deputy Grand Master and Worshipful Master of the accused's Lodge or Lodges]~~ that allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been accepted by the ~~[Grand]~~ Worshipful Master;

(b) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Trial Master;

(c) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Secretary of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission;

~~(d) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as the advocate for the accuser;~~

~~(e) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as the advocate for the accused;~~

~~[(f)]~~ (d) Order the Tiler ~~[District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic district in which the accused Mason resides]~~ to either personally serve or serve by certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery-deliver to addressee only, such accused Mason with a true and correct copy of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, the name of the Trial Master. ~~[the name of the advocate for the accuser, and the name of the advocate for the accused.]~~ The Tiler ~~[District Deputy Grand Master]~~ shall make a written notation of the date, time, and place of service of the foregoing documents on the accused, and file the same with the Trial Master for inclusion in the records. *The Master may appoint any Master Mason in good standing as Tiler Pro Tempore to serve in this purpose if for any reason he deems it advisable to do so.*

(e) *The Secretary shall also forthwith send to the Grand Master a copy of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations under the seal of the Lodge.*

**Art. 521. If Accused Cannot Be Found.** If the Tiler ~~District Deputy Grand Master~~ can not find the accused, so as to serve him with the notices required in Article ~~517~~, 520 he shall make inquiry as to the cause of his absence, and make a return to the Trial Master so such absence may be included in the records.

**Art. 522. Service On Accused Essential.** No Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be held until the accused has been served with a copy of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and has been duly summoned to a disciplinary commission hearing as set forth herein after, except on special permission by the Grand Master. Said permission shall not be granted by the Grand Master unless there is good cause shown, i.e.; flight of accused, voluntary concealment, absence from United States, etc. If the accused secretes himself, or in any manner evades service of a copy of the allegations, or if his residence or whereabouts are unknown, and cannot be ascertained by reasonable effort to do so, then the Trial Master shall

appoint some member to represent the accused, as proxy, in all matters pertaining to the disciplinary hearing, upon whom notice can be served, which will have the same effect and be as binding as if served on the accused in person.

Art. 523. **Appointment Of Trial Master.** It shall be the duty of the [Grand] Master to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Trial Master at any time he orders allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The necessary travel expenses of the Trial Master shall be paid by the [Grand] Lodge of [Texas.]

Art. 524. **Duties And Powers Of Trial Master.** Once appointed by the [Grand] Worshipful Master, the Trial Master shall have control of all of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations referred to him for Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The Trial Master shall have the specific duties and powers:

(a) To preside during all deliberations of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

(b) To determine the place and date of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, and to notify the accuser and the accused, [~~and their advocates~~] of such time, date, and place. Each party and each advocate shall have at least thirty (30) days notice of the date of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

(c) To order the Secretary of the Lodge where the Disciplinary Commission hearing is to be conducted to summons a Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel as set forth herein after.

(d) To enter pre-hearing orders.

(e) To hear and rule on all pre-hearing motions, to include motions to amend the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, motions to dismiss, motions to quash, motions for bill of particulars, motions for continuance, motions for change of venue, stipulations of evidence, the taking of written discovery and oral depositions, discovery disputes, motions to enter agreements, negotiated findings, agreements to settle contested issues by agreed findings of fact and law, agreements as to punishments, and to dismiss the Masonic Disciplinary Commission if the allegations have been resolved by pre-trial agreements between the parties and approved by the Trial Master.

(f) To resolve and conclude the disputed facts prior to or during hearing. Although the Trial Master has full authority to resolve and conclude the

disputed facts, the Trial Master may not at any time deprive an accused of his right to have the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations fully determined by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and his right to have a Masonic Disciplinary Commission determine an appropriate punishment for the accused with respect to the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against him.

(g) To enter an Order dismissing the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations if, after discovery is complete or after the evidence has been presented at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, there is no credible evidence to support the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations and no reasonable Masonic Disciplinary Commission would have found the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to be true.

(h) To enter an appropriate punishment for Masonic disciplinary violations that have been referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission if all of the parties agree to the punishment recommendation, and the Trial Master believes that the punishment is a fair and reasonable punishment for the accused based on the Masonic disciplinary violations alleged. If the punishment agreement is agreed to by the Trial Master, he shall enter an appropriate order assessing the punishment, dismiss the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and file his Order with the [Grand] Secretary of the Lodge. The [Grand] Master has no authority to set aside or over rule any Order by a Trial Master of any agreed punishment under the provisions of this Article.

**Art. 525. Appointment of Secretary.** It shall be the duty of the [Grand] Master to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as Secretary at any time he orders allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The necessary expenses of the Secretary shall be paid by the [Grand] Lodge [of Texas. No member of a Lodge in which an accused or an accuser is a member shall be appointed as Secretary.]

**Art. 526. Duties and Powers of Secretary.** The Secretary shall have the specific duties and responsibilities to see that the testimony of all witnesses before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission is duly recorded. The recording shall be by either audio or video, and shall insure that the testimony of any witness or witnesses is preserved for use by any party on appeal to the Grand Master.

**Art. 522. Appointment of Advocates for Accuser and Accused.** Any time the Grand Master orders allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as advocate for the accuser and to appoint

~~a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as advocate for the accused. The necessary travel expenses of these advocates shall be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas.~~

~~Art. 523. **Duties of Advocate For Accuser.** Once appointed by the Grand Master, the advocate for the accuser shall have the responsibility of representing the accuser at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.~~

~~(a) He shall fully investigate the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused and prepare all evidence necessary to sustain the Masonic disciplinary violations being asserted by the accuser.~~

~~(b) He shall present all evidence on behalf of the accuser and call all witnesses necessary to fully provide the Masonic Disciplinary Commission with facts and evidence to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused.~~

~~(c) He shall obey and follow all laws and procedures set forth in Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.~~

~~(d) He shall obey all orders of the Trial Master.~~

Art. 524. **Duties of Advocate For Accused.** Once appointed by the [Grand] Worshipful Master, the advocate for the accused shall have the responsibility of representing the accused at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

(a) He shall investigate the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused and prepare all evidence necessary to present any defenses or mitigation to such allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations.

(b) He shall present all evidence on behalf of the accused and call all witnesses necessary to fully provide the Masonic Disciplinary Commission with facts and evidence to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused.

(c) He shall see that all legal defenses are presented in behalf of the accused, and that the accused's rights are fully protected according to Masonic law.

(d) He shall obey and follow all laws and procedures set forth in Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

(e) He shall obey all orders of the Trial Master.



**Art. 527. Failure of Accused To Appear.** If the accused fails to appear at the time and place set for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, and the Trial Master finds that the accused was duly notified of the date, time, and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, the Trial Master shall proceed with the hearing in the absence of the accused, and enter a plea of Not True to all of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against the accused.

~~{The advocate for the accused shall have no authority to enter any pleas of True to the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations unless specifically authorized to do so by the accused, in writing, and filed for record with the Trial Master prior to the commencement of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.}~~

**Art. 528. Accuser and Accused May Choose Own Advocates.** Both the accuser and the accused may choose their own advocates. Such advocates must be Master Masons in good standing in the Grand Lodge of Texas. If an accuser or an accused chooses his own advocate, the name, address, and Lodge membership shall immediately be provided to the Trial Master. The Trial Master does not have the authority to reject an advocate selected by the accused. ~~[, but if the Trial Master does not believe the advocate selected by the accused has the ability to comply with all of the requirements of an advocate for an accused, the Trial Master may require that the advocate for the accused selected by the Grand Master continue to advise the accused throughout the disciplinary procedures, to include the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing].~~

## CHAPTER 5 - TITLE V

### WAIVER OF RIGHT TO HEARING BEFORE MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

**Art. 529. Right To Hearing Before A Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** Every Mason accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation has a right to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. Said right to such hearing cannot be waived except upon the request of and consent of the accused.

**Art. 530. Waiver Of Right To Hearing Before Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** An accused may, upon written request submitted to the Trial Master, waive his right to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and submit all contested facts and evidence to the Trial Master for his determination without the benefit of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 531. **Admonishments To Accused.** The Trial Master shall, prior to proceeding to a hearing without a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, fully admonish the accused of his rights to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and insure that the accused's waiver of a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission is freely, voluntarily and intelligently made based on a full understanding of his rights.

Art. 532. **Hearing Before Trial Master.** If the Trial Master accepts the accused's waiver of his right to a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Trial Master shall proceed to hear the evidence and testimony of the witnesses under the same discovery, evidentiary and procedural rules required in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing set forth hereafter in this Title.

Art. 533. **Ruling of Trial Master.** After the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing and the argument of all advocates, the Trial Master shall determine if the Masonic disciplinary allegations are True or Not True; provided however, if the accused shall plead True to the allegations, it shall not be necessary to determine the truth of the allegations, only the penalty. If the Trial Master determines the allegations to be Not True, the accused shall be released from all jeopardy for such Masonic disciplinary allegations. If the Trial Master determines the Masonic disciplinary allegations to be True, or if the accused has pled True to the Masonic disciplinary allegations, the Trial Master shall determine the appropriate penalty as follows:

1. Expulsion;
2. Indefinite suspension;
3. Definite suspension for a specific period of time; or
4. Reprimand.

The Trial Master shall orally announce his penalty decision to the accuser *and* the accused, and advocates for the accuser and the accused, *if any*. Within five (5) days after the hearing, the Trial Master shall make a written record of his findings and forward a copy of the same to the *Worshipful Master of the Lodge and* to the Grand Secretary for filing with the Grand Lodge of Texas, with a copy to the accuser, the accused, and advocates for the accuser and the accused, *if any*.

Art. 534. **Grand Secretary to Notify Lodge of Action of Trial Master.** Upon receipt of the written report of the Trial Master, the Grand Secretary shall notify any Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member of the action taken by the Trial Master.

## CHAPTER 6 - TITLE V

### ORGANIZATION OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

**Art. 535. Selection And Empaneling Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** After Masonic disciplinary violations are referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission for hearing as set forth herein above, the Trial Master shall provide for the selection and Empaneling of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission in the following manner:

(a) The Trial Master shall contact the advocates for the accuser and the accused to arrange for an agreed hearing date. If no hearing date can be agreed upon, the Trial Master shall set a date for the hearing, giving consideration to the length of time necessary for the accuser, the accused, and their advocates to prepare for hearing; the length of time necessary to complete discovery, if any; and time needed to select a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If no hearing date can be agreed upon, the Trial Master *shall set the hearing date and* give the accuser, the accused, and their advocates not less than thirty (30) days advance written notice of the date, time, and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

(b) The Trial Master shall, from the membership of the Lodge where the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing is to be held, select three (3) Master Masons who shall be called "Commissioners." These commissioners shall, within five (5) days of their selection as commissioners, meet at the Lodge to select twenty-four (24) Master Masons of the Lodge, who shall be fair and impartial, to serve as the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel. If there are not twenty-four (24) such members, the Commissioners, and the remaining membership of the Lodge shall constitute the panel list.

(c) The names of the twenty-four (24) Master Masons selected by the commissioners shall be written and mailed to the Trial Master. The list will be provided by the Trial Master to the accuser, the accused and their advocates, *if any*. If there are twenty-four (24) on the list, the accuser and the accused shall each have a right to strike three (3) names from the list. If there are less than twenty-four (24) names on the list, the right of challenge shall be proportionately reduced by the Trial Master. The challenges of the accuser and accused shall be returned to the Trial Master within five (5) days after they are received.

(d) After the challenges of accuser and accused have been received by the Trial Master, he shall strike those names from the list, place the remaining names on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel list, *and forward the same to the Secretary of the Lodge where the disciplinary hearing will be conducted.* ~~[District Deputy Grand Master who has jurisdiction over the Lodge.]~~

(e) The *Secretary* [~~District Deputy Grand Master~~] shall immediately [~~meet with the Secretary of the Lodge and~~] prepare a summons to each Master Mason on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel list. The summons shall be under the seal of the Lodge, to appear at the time and place set for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and advising that failure to answer such summons shall subject such member to discipline as a Masonic disciplinary violation. Said summons shall be mailed to each person on the list by regular mail and advising each person to contact the Secretary of the Lodge to verify that the summons was received. Upon receipt of the summons, each person shall immediately notify the Secretary of the Lodge that he received the summons, and that he will appear at the time and date specified on the summons to serve on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel.

(f) Upon the date and time of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, the Trial Master shall call the names from the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel in the order they appear on the panel list. The first twelve names on the list shall constitute the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

(g) If, for any reason, a member of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel summoned fails, or shall be unable, to appear and act, the next following name on the list shall be placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, until twelve (12) Master Masons are placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

(h) If, after the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is empaneled, and the hearing has commenced, any of said commissioners should become disqualified by sickness, death, removal, or refusal to act, the hearing shall nevertheless proceed, provided there still remain as many as nine qualified commissioners. In case less than nine remain, the proceedings shall be suspended and a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be selected.

**Art. 536. Disqualifications for Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** The following Masons are not qualified to serve on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and the Trial Master shall make inquiry of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission as to these matters prior to commencement of the hearing;

(a) A Master Mason who is not in good standing in a Lodge in the State of Texas;

(b) A Master Mason who is under allegations of a Masonic disciplinary violation;

(c) A Master Mason who is a material witness in the hearing for either the accuser or the accused;

(d) A Master Mason who is related to the accuser or the accused in the second degree affinity or the second degree consanguinity;

(e) A Master Mason who has expressed an opinion as to the truth or falsity of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations, and said opinion is so fixed as to cause him to be prejudiced against, or biased in favor of the accuser or the accused;

(f) A Master Mason who has previously served on a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing *the same allegations against the same accused*;

(g) A Master Mason who, for whatever reason, is incapable of giving the accuser or the accused a fair and impartial trial based solely on the testimony and Masonic Law.

**Art. 537. Effect of Disqualification.** If, after the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is seated, the Trial Master finds that any member of the commission is disqualified, the member shall be dismissed, and the next following name on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel list shall be placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. This procedure shall continue until twelve (12) qualified Master Masons are placed on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

**Art. 538. Oath To Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** The following oath shall be administered to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission:

*“Do each of you, upon your honor as Master Masons, pledge to render a fair and impartial verdict according to Masonic law and upon the testimony presented at the hearing of this cause?”*

**Art. 539. Instructions To Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** After a Masonic Disciplinary Commission has been empaneled, the Trial Master shall give the following instructions to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission:

*(a) Do not mingle with, nor talk to, the parties, the witnesses, or any other person who might be connected with, or interested in, this case, except for casual greetings. They have to follow these same instructions and you will understand it when they do.*

*(b) Do not accept from, nor give to, any of the persons specified next above any favors however slight, about this case or even mention it to anyone whomsoever nor permit anyone to mention it in your hearing such as rides, food, or refreshments.*

(c) *Do not discuss anything g until you are discharged. If anyone attempts to discuss the case, report it to me at once.*

(d) *Do not discuss the case among yourselves until after you have heard all of the evidence, the Trial Master's instructions, the advocates' arguments and until I have instructed you to consider your verdict.*

(e) *Do not make any investigation about the facts of this case. Occasionally, we have members of a Masonic Disciplinary Trial Commission who privately seek out information about a case on trial. This is improper. All evidence must be presented in open Lodge during hearing so that each side may question the witness and make proper objections. This avoids a hearing based on secret evidence. This applies to the parties and to me. If you know of, or learn anything about this case except from the evidence admitted during the course of this trial, you must tell me about it at once.*

(f) Do not make personal inspections, observations, investigations or experiments nor personally view premises, things or articles not produced in this Lodge during trial. Do not let anyone else do any of these things for you.

(g) Do not seek information contained in law books, dictionaries, public or private records or elsewhere which is not admitted into evidence.

(h) At the close of the evidence, I may submit to you a written charge and a verdict form for your use in determining your verdict and the punishment to be assessed, if any.

**Art. 540. Place of Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing.** All Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearings shall be held in a Lodge room or adjoining anteroom or other room connected therewith.

**Art. 541. Who May Attend A Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearing.** Any Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas may attend a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and be present during the presentation of all evidence.

## **CHAPTER 7 - TITLE V**

### **DISCOVERY PRIOR TO MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION HEARING**

**Art. 542. Forms of Discovery.** The permissible forms of discovery are:

Request for disclosure;

Request for production and inspection of documents;

Written interrogatories;

Oral depositions.

**Art. 543. *Scope of Discovery.*** *In general, an accuser or an accused may obtain discovery regarding any matter that is relevant to the Masonic disciplinary violations pending before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.*

**Art. 544. *Request for Disclosure.***

1. Name, address, and telephone number of persons with knowledge of relevant facts and a brief, general statement of their knowledge;

2. Name, address, and telephone number of all persons expected to be called as witnesses at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing;

3. Name, address, and telephone number of any expert witnesses that will be called as witnesses at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing;

4. A copy of the written statement of any witness;

5. The legal contentions and the factual basis for such contentions.

**Art. 545. *Request for Production of Documents.*** An accuser or an accused may serve on the other person a request for production or inspection, to inspect and copy documents regarding any matter that is relevant to the Masonic disciplinary violations pending before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. An accuser or an accused may not submit more than twenty-five (25) written requests for production of documents to the other person without leave from the Trial Master.

**Art. 546. *Written Interrogatories.*** An accuser or an accused may serve on the other person written interrogatories to inquire about any matter that is relevant to the Masonic disciplinary violations pending before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. Such interrogatories may inquire into the specific Masonic disciplinary violations, to include asking the responding person to state the factual basis for the other's claims and/or defenses. Such interrogatories shall not be used to require the responding person to marshal all of his available proof or the proof the party intends to offer at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. An accuser or an accused may not submit more than twenty-five (25) written interrogatories to the other person without leave from the Trial Master.

Art. 547. **Oral Depositions.** *An accuser or an accused may take the oral deposition of any person or entity by deposition on oral examination before any person authorized to take oral depositions under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (preferably a Master Mason); or take a video or audio recorded oral deposition under rules that are set forth by the Trial Master. If a request is made to take a video or audio recorded oral deposition without the use of a person authorized to take oral depositions under the Texas Rules for Civil Procedure, the Trial Master shall either personally supervise the taking of such depositions, or appoint another Master Mason to supervise the taking of such video or audio recorded oral deposition. Such person shall provide a copy of the oral deposition to the Trial Master with his certification that it is a true and correct representation of the testimony of the witness being deposed. The accuser and the accused shall diligently work to set an agreed date and place for the taking of any oral depositions as soon as possible. If an agreement as to a date and place for oral depositions can not be determined by the parties, the Trial Master, upon request of either the accuser or the accused, shall determine the date and place of any oral depositions.*

**Notice of an oral deposition upon an accuser, an accused or any other Master Mason shall be given in writing delivered in person, or by delivery through the U.S. mail, registered mail, return receipt requested, setting for the date, time, place of the deposition and the manner in which the deposition will be taken. Each Mason shall be given not less than three (3) days written notice of the time, date and place of his oral deposition, if within the jurisdiction of the Lodge, and five (5) days written notice if outside the jurisdiction of the Lodge. Said notice to a Mason shall inform him that it is a Masonic disciplinary violation for him to willfully fail to appear for his oral deposition. If a Mason fails to appear after receiving notice of his deposition, he shall be immediately contacted by the District Deputy Grand Master in his jurisdiction to ascertain why he did not appear. If the Mason does not have good cause for his failure to appear for his oral deposition, the District Deputy Grand Master shall file Masonic disciplinary violations against such person.**

Every witness whose deposition is taken by oral examination must first be placed under oath as prescribed by Article 570-(Oath To Witnesses), and, if the deposition is taken in writing, the witness shall be given the opportunity to read, correct, and sign his oral deposition if he chooses to do so.

Art. 548 **Notice and Service of Discovery Request.** All requests for discovery requested by the accuser or the accused shall be served on the other person by hand delivery, by registered mail, return receipt *requested*, or by *fax transmission with confirmation requested*. All discovery will be exchanged between the accuser and the accused only, unless there is a dis-



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*covery dispute, in which case, a copy of any discovery in dispute shall be submitted to the Trial Master with the person's request for the Trial Master to rule on the discovery dispute.*

**Art. 549. Time for Response To Discovery.** All discovery shall be responded to in writing by the person receiving the discovery within fifteen (15) days from the time of his receipt of the discovery. If such time is not adequate, the person receiving the discovery may request additional time for his response from the Trial Master. Upon request, the Trial Master may determine the time for response to discovery.

**Art. 550. Duty to Supplement or Amend.** If an accuser or an accused learns that his responses to written discovery were incomplete or incorrect when made, or although complete and correct when made, are no longer complete and correct, the person must amend and supplement his written responses to discovery to make the responses complete and correct.

**Art. 551. Discovery Disputes.** An accuser and the accused and their advocates are expected to cooperate in discovery and to make any agreements reasonably necessary for the efficient disposition of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations. Any discovery disputes between the accuser and the accused shall be resolved by the Trial Master, and his discretion on discovery disputes is final and not appealable.

**Art. 552. Pre-Hearing Discovery Order.** Upon the request of an accuser or an accused, or upon his own motion, the Trial Master may prepare a pre-hearing discovery order setting forth the permissible discovery, the manner of service of discovery, the permissible time for response and supplementation of discovery and any other discovery orders that the Trial Master deems appropriate.

**Art. 553. Discovery Abuse.** It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for an accuser, an accused or an advocate for either to abuse the discovery process by: (1) seeking, making or resisting discovery or filing unreasonably frivolous, oppressive or harassing discovery requests or (2) filing a response or answer to discovery that is unreasonably frivolous or made for the purposes of attempting to delay a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. A Trial Master who finds that an accuser, an accused or an advocate for the same is abusing the discovery process shall immediately advise such person in writing of such abuse. If the person persists in abusing the discovery process after a written warning of such, the Trial Master shall file Masonic disciplinary violations against such person.

## CHAPTER 8 - TITLE V

### CHANGE OF VENUE

Art. 554. **Motion For Change of Venue.** Motion may be made to the Trial Master by an accuser, or an accused for change of venue. The grounds for change of venue are:

(a) It is apparent that a fair and impartial trial cannot be obtained in such Lodge where the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is to be convened;

(b) The membership of the Lodge where the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is to be convened, exclusive of officers, and material witnesses, is not sufficient to provide a Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel of at least twenty-four (24) members;

(c) When a new hearing has been granted in any proceedings before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and there appears to be an insufficient number of qualified members in the Lodge to provide a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission; or

(d) When it becomes apparent to the Trial Master, without motion, that a fair and impartial hearing cannot be obtained in a Lodge or when a new hearing is granted and there is an insufficient number of qualified members in a Lodge to provide a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel, the Trial Master is authorized to transfer the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing to any Lodge which is located not more than one hundred (100) miles from that Lodge in which the original hearing was set, and which is not open to the same objection, for a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 555 **Time For Filing Of Motion.** Any motions for change of venue must be filed fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and any such motions filed on the date of the hearing will not be considered for any purpose.

Art. 556. **Procedures After Change of Venue.** When the venue for any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing is changed to another Lodge for hearing, the Trial Master shall proceed in the same manner and shall exercise the same powers to convene another Masonic Disciplinary Commission as set forth herein. ~~[The Trial Master may require the advocates for the accuser and the accused to continue or he may request the Grand Master to appoint other advocates.]~~

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**CHAPTER 9 - TITLE V****CONTINUANCE OF MASONIC DISCIPLINARY  
COMMISSION HEARING**

Art. 557. **Grounds For Continuance.** Motion may be made to the Trial Master to continue the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing for the following reasons:

1. Absence of the accuser, accused, or advocates for either;
2. Absence of necessary witnesses;
3. Sickness;
4. To await action of state or federal courts;
5. Any other just and equitable reason.

Art. 558. **Length Of Continuance.** It shall be the duty of the Trial Master to reconvene the Masonic Disciplinary Commission as soon as possible, giving due diligence to the rights of the parties to a fair and impartial hearing. The Trial Master shall not continue a hearing for longer than thirty (30) days unless there is good cause to do so. Sickness of necessary persons and time to complete discovery are to be deemed necessary reasons.

Art. 559. **Postponement To Time Certain.** When granting a continuance, the Trial Master shall at the same time fix a specific date and time for the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. No indefinite postponement shall be granted by a Trial Master. The Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing as prescribed herein above.

Art. 560. **Acquittal By Civil Courts Not To Govern Disposition Of Allegations of Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** The acquittal of any Mason by the state or federal courts of any offense of which he stands accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation shall not serve as a criterion for, or govern the action to be taken by, the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Grand Master may proceed with its disciplinary procedures notwithstanding, if the facts show that a Masonic disciplinary violation has been committed. Each such case must be governed by its own facts and demands of Masonic justice tempered by the exercise of such charity as the circumstances justify.

**CHAPTER 10 - TITLE V****PRESENTATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MASONIC  
DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS AND ANSWERS OF THE ACCUSED**

Art. 561. **Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations To Be Read.** The Trial Master shall read the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 562. **Answer Of Accused.** After the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been read to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the accused will enter his answer to the allegations. The accused's plea shall be "True" or "Not True."

Art. 563 **Two Sets Of Allegations May Be Heard At The Same Time.** All allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations may be heard at the same time, even though the alleged violations occurred at different times and the allegations were referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission at different times. All allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations must be voted on separately by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 564. **Burden On Accuser.** The allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against any Mason are presumed to be Not True. The burden rests with the Accuser and his advocate to introduce evidence to prove the allegations are true before a finding of True may be made by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 565. **In Absence Of Answer By Accused, Answer Of Not True To Be Recorded.** If the accused neglects or refuses to answer or stands mute, an answer of Not True shall be recorded by the Trial Master, and the hearing shall proceed in all things as though the accused answered Not True.

Art. 566. **Accused May Answer Orally Or In Writing.** The answer of the accused may be in writing or he may answer generally "True" or "Not True." In case he answers orally, such answer shall forthwith be recorded by the Secretary. If he answers in writing, his answer shall be read to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by the Trial Master, recorded, and filed with the papers in the hearing.

Art. 567. **Procedure When Accused Answers True.** When an answer of "True" is entered in any hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, it shall not be necessary to vote on the question of the truth of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations. The Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall then proceed to the question of an appropriate punishment to be entered for the accused. Both the accuser and the accused are

entitled to introduce evidence before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission for its use in determining an appropriate punishment to be entered for the accused. Evidence of the gravity of the offense or evidence in mitigation of the offense may be offered for the limited purpose of determining a proper punishment for an accused.

## CHAPTER 11 - TITLE V

### WITNESSES

**Art. 568 Testimony If Witness Present.** The testimony of all resident Masons who can attend the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing must be given orally before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

**Art. 569. Masons May Be Summoned As Witnesses.** The attendance of witnesses who are Masons may be enforced by summons. To summon witnesses, either the accuser or the accused must make application for summons to the Trial Master in writing. Such application shall provide the full name, residence address, home telephone number, and Lodge of the Mason being requested to appear by summons. The Trial Master shall then forward the request for summons to the  ~~District Deputy Grand Master in whose district the Mason resides. The District Deputy Grand Master shall insure that~~ the Secretary of the Lodge *who will* issue a summons, under the seal of the Lodge, to the witness to appear at a time certain to be a witness in the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. The summons shall be personally delivered to the witness by the District Deputy Grand Master, or other Masons designated by him. At the time of delivery of a summons to any witness, the witness must be advised that it is a Masonic disciplinary violation to willfully refuse to obey a witness summons.

**Art. 570. Those Connected With Trial May Be Summoned.** The Trial Master is authorized to issue summons to enforce the attendance of any other person officially connected with a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. Disobedience of any such summons is a Masonic disciplinary violation.

**Art. 571. Witnesses Shall Be Sworn And May Be Put Under The Rule.** Witnesses testifying before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall first be sworn as provided in Article 570. In all hearings, upon the request of the accuser or the accused, the witnesses (other than the accuser, the accused, or any other officer of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission), after being sworn, shall be removed from the room in which the hearing is being conducted to some place where they cannot hear the testimony of any other witness. This is termed "placing the witness under the rule." Witnesses, when placed under the rule, shall be instructed by the Trial Master that they are not to converse with each other or with any other person about

their testimony at the hearing other than the accuser and his advocate or the accused and his advocate except by permission of the Trial Master, and they are not to read any report of or comment upon the testimony in the hearing while under the rule.

Art. 572. **Oath Of Witnesses.** The Trial Master is vested with the power and authority to administer an oath to any witness before he testifies at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. Said oath shall be as follows:

*“Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony which you shall give in the matter pending against Brother \_\_\_\_\_ shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?”*

In case any witness refuses to be sworn, the fact shall be noted and his testimony taken notwithstanding, but same shall be given such credence as the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members shall accord it.

Art. 573. **Qualification Of Witnesses.** Any person of normal intelligence or understanding is a competent witness. A witness cannot be compelled to incriminate himself or herself.

Art. 574. **Certain Witnesses To Retire After Testimony.** When a suspended or expelled Mason, or a non-Mason, is a witness at any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and his/ her testimony has been completed, he/she shall be courteously requested to retire by the Trial Master.

Art. 575. **Accused Cannot Be Compelled To Testify.** An accused may not be compelled to testify.

## **CHAPTER 12 - TITLE V**

### **EVIDENCE**

Art. 576. **Limitation On Use Of Evidence.** Any evidence introduced in a hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission may not be used outside the Lodge room for any purpose except before the Grand Lodge on appeal.

Art. 577. **Evidence Of Mediation Or Settlements.** If any accusations of Masonic disciplinary violations are referred to Mediation by the Grand Master, or if any settlement conference or procedures are ordered by the Trial Master, the fact of such actions and any facts disclosed by the accuser or the accused at any mediation or settlement conferences are strictly prohibited from being introduced into evidence at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 578. **Order Of Introduction Of Evidence.** The advocate for the accuser shall present his witnesses and introduce his evidence. The advocate for the accused shall then present his witnesses and introduce his evidence after which rebuttal evidence may be introduced by both the advocate for the accuser and the advocate for the accused.

Art. 579. **Official Record As Evidence.** The official books and records of the Lodge, the Charter of the Lodge, and the official records of the Grand Lodge or certified copies thereof, as well as the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, are admissible as evidence and are proof of any fact contained therein.

Art. 580. **Certain Court Records Admissible.** The record of a Court of competent jurisdiction, duly certified, showing complaint, information, indictment, arraignment, conviction, and sentence of the accused, according to the forms of law, for the same offense for which the accused is accused under a Masonic disciplinary violation, is legal and competent evidence against the accused, and, if offered, shall be admitted in the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and such weight given to it as the Masonic Disciplinary Commission may deem appropriate to the hearing.

Art. 581. **Written Pre-Trial Discovery Admissible.** Written pre-trial discovery, if taken under the provisions of Chapter 7, Title V, of these laws shall be admissible, unless the Trial Master finds that such discovery would be irrelevant to the accusations or prejudicial to either party. If a Trial Master prohibits the admission of pre-hearing discovery at any Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, he shall state on *the* record his reasons for such rejection.

Art. 582. **Voluntary Statement of Accused.** The voluntary statement of an accused is not admissible as evidence in his behalf but may be used against him when made under such circumstances as to constitute a voluntary confession of the truth of a Masonic disciplinary violation.

Art. 583. **Hearsay Evidence.** *The admission of hearsay evidence is under the discretion of the Trial Master. Such evidence has to be relevant and material to a contested issue, the introduction of such evidence is admissible only if the Trial Master determines that the hearsay evidence a) has a tendency to make the existence of any fact more probable or less probable than it would be without the hearsay evidence; and b) the probable value of the evidence is not outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence. c) the evidence is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent individuals in the conduct of their business or major personal financial affairs.*

Art. 584. **Ex Parte Affidavits Inadmissible.** Ex parte affidavits cannot be used in evidence. The accuser and the accused have the right to require that all witnesses appear and subject themselves to cross examination of the other party.

Art. 585. **Proof Of Day Violation Occurred.** Proof of the specific day and time the violation was committed is not confined to a particular day as alleged in the written accusations of a Masonic violation. However, substantial proof of the time and date of the occurrence will be made to insure that the allegations of a Masonic violation are not too remote as to deprive an accused of his right to a fair and impartial Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

Art. 586. **Truth Of Alleged Defamation Admissible In Defense and Mitigation.** An accused answering accusations of defaming a Brother may introduce evidence to establish the truth of the alleged defamation in defense or mitigation of the accusations.

Art. 587. **Accused May Testify.** An accused shall, in all hearings, be allowed to testify in the same manner and under the same rules as other witnesses, provided that, if the accused be an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, or a suspended or expelled Mason, such testimony shall be taken in the same manner and under the same rules as provided for the taking of the testimony of persons who are not Masons.

Art. 588. **Hearings For Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Masons.** Masonic Disciplinary hearings for an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason shall be conducted with the same procedure employed in the trial of a Master Mason.

Art. 589. **Testimony Given In Previous Hearing Admissible.** Testimony given before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and reduced to writing shall be admissible evidence on a subsequent hearing of the same accusations with said testimony, or a copy thereof, being certified to as correct by the Secretary or the Trial Master in the hearing from which the testimony was taken; provided that both the accuser and the accused had the opportunity for cross-examination of the witness while said testimony was being given; and provided that either party may re-examine the witness at such subsequent trial, if present, notwithstanding the former testimony of such witness may have been read under the provisions of this article.

Art. 590. **The Trial Master May Question Witnesses.** The Trial Master may propound questions to witnesses at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. Said questions shall only be propounded after the accuser and accused have completed their examination of the witness, and only for the purpose of clearing up ambiguities and conflicts in the



testimony, if any. The members of the Masonic Trial Commission may not propound questions to any witness at the hearing.

**Article 591. *The Trial Master Shall Rule On Evidentiary Questions.*** *The Trial Master shall have the authority to rule on all matters involving the introduction of evidence at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.*

*(a) The Trial Master may, in his discretion, direct the order of proof, exclude cumulative or irrelevant testimony or other evidence, and direct the parties to focus their presentations on issues the decision of which could dispose of all or part of the allegations.*

*(b) All evidence shall be taken in the presence of the Trial Master and the parties, except where any party is absent, in default, or has waived the right to be present.*

*(c) All parties shall be afforded an opportunity to examine such documents or other evidence and to lodge appropriate objections, if any.*

*(d) The Trial Master is not required to follow strict rules of evidence as required in civil or criminal trials in state and federal courts, but a Trial Master shall follow all rules of evidence set forth in this Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and he shall make such ruling as to provide the accused and the accused with the right to a full, fair, and impartial hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.*

*(e) In the administration of the rules and procedures set forth herein by the Trial Master, the central principal shall be fairness to all concerned.*

**592. *An Accuser Or Accused Without Advocate.*** *An accuser or an accused who does not have an advocate shall have the same right to present evidence as would his advocate if he had such advocate.*

## CHAPTER 13 - TITLE V

### ARGUMENT OF ADVOCATES

**Art. 593. *Argument Of Advocates.*** After the close of the evidence, arguments may be presented to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by ~~[the advocates for ]~~the accuser and the accused, or *their accused*, of any under such regulations and restrictions as to time as the Trial Master shall determine; provided that both parties shall be afforded an equal division of time for arguments.

Art. 594. **Order Of Arguments.** The ~~[advocate for]~~ the accuser shall have the right to present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission first, and then~~[ the advocate for]~~ the accused shall present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If he elects to do so, ~~[the advocate for ]~~the accuser may split his argument, to be given the right to close the arguments. If the ~~[advocate for the]~~ accuser elects to split his arguments, he shall be required to fully present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission when he first makes his argument, and his closing argument shall be limited to rebutting arguments of the advocate for the accused.

Art. 595. **Limitations Of Arguments.** Arguments of advocates shall be limited to a summarization of the evidence offered at the hearing, reasonable deductions to be made from such evidence, and arguments as to an appropriate punishment to be entered by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. A Trial Master may, within his discretion, establish reasonable time limits on arguments of advocates.

Art. 596. **Arguments If No Advocates.** If the accuser or the accused does not have an advocate, he shall be given the same right to present arguments as would his advocates.

Art. 597 **No Comments After Arguments.** After the arguments of the advocates for the accuser and the accused are concluded, no further remarks may be made to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by any person as to the merits of the case.

## CHAPTER 14 - TITLE V

### CONSIDERATION AND BALLOTING BY MASONIC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Art. 598. **Who May Be Present During Consideration And Balloting.** After arguments of advocates, and prior to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission considering any evidence and punishments, the Trial Master shall close the proceedings and remove all persons from the room. The only persons authorized to be present in the Lodge room when the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is convened to consider the evidence and/or punishment are the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members and the Trial Master. All others present, to include the accuser and the accused, and their advocates, shall be ordered from the room. The Tiler shall be ordered to secure the door from the outside.

The Trial Master may authorize the secretary to appear before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, if necessary, to review evidence with the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

**Art. 599. Trial Commission May Discuss Evidence and Punishments Before and During Balloting.** Before and during the balloting on the allegations and penalties, if any, any member of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission has the right to discuss the merits of the matter and to present his reasons governing his judgment in the matter.

**Art. 600. Ballot On Allegations Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** After discussion by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, if any, the Commission shall proceed to determine, by ballot, whether the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are True or Not True; provided, however, that, if the accused shall plead True to the allegations, it shall not be necessary to ballot on the allegations, but only on penalties.

**Art. 601. Ballots Necessary To Sustain Allegations And Enter Punishment.** A majority of the votes of the members of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission present shall be necessary for finding the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to be true. A majority of the votes of the members of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission present shall also be necessary to assess any penalties against an accused.

**Art. 600. Preparation Of Ballot Box.** Before the ballot is taken, the Trial Master shall see that not less than twelve ballots, each, of black and white, are provided and placed in the ballot box.

**Art. 602. Meaning Of White And Black Balls On The Allegations.** In balloting upon the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against an accused, a black ball shall be held as a vote of True to the allegations, and a white ball shall be held as a vote of Not True.

**Art. 603. Meaning Of White And Black Balls On The Penalties To Be Assessed.** In balloting upon the penalties to be assessed against a Mason accused of Masonic disciplinary violations, a black ball shall be held as a vote “for the penalty being considered” and a white ball shall be held as a vote “against the penalty being considered.”

**Art. 604. Manner Of Voting.** The vote shall be by secret ballot, and shall be taken upon each specification separately and presented in the following manner. When the Masonic Disciplinary Commission advises the Trial Master they are ready to vote, the Trial Master shall read the first specification of a Masonic disciplinary violation and ask the Masonic Disciplinary Commission: “Is this allegation of a Masonic disciplinary violation sustained by the evidence?,” and then the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall vote on the allegation. In like manner, all other allegations shall be separately presented to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and voted on.

Art. 605. **Ballot On Penalties.** After one or more allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been sustained by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, or in the event an accused has pled True to the allegations, the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall immediately proceed to balloting on the appropriate penalty to be assessed in the following order, beginning with the highest and descending until the requisite vote is reached for a specific penalty:

1. Expulsion;
2. Indefinite suspension;
3. Definite suspension;

4. In the event the vote shall be against expulsion, indefinite suspension, or definite suspension, the penalty of reprimand will be inflicted without the necessity of voting hereon and such reprimand shall be given. The Trial Master will order that the District Deputy Grand Master, after the time for appeal has expired, and provided the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission have not been reversed, summon the accused before his Lodge and give him such reprimand. Where reprimand is ordered, and an accused moves out of the jurisdiction of the Lodge before the reprimand is given, the Grand Master shall order the District Deputy Grand Master of the district wherein the accused resides to summon the accused before a Lodge there and to give him such reprimand.

Art. 606. **Certain Ballot Cannot Be Reconsidered.** A ballot resulting in a refusal to assess a penalty cannot be reconsidered.

Art. 607. **Suspension.** A member may be suspended indefinitely or for a definite period determined by a majority of the members of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission present.

Art. 608. **Balloting On Definite Suspension.** If a ballot of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission approves a penalty of definite suspension, the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall then ballot on a period of the definite suspension until a majority of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission agrees on the period of the definite suspension. The period of the definite suspension shall be in days, months, and/or years. The time of the suspension commences on the date the penalty is handed down by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, or the date the Grand Secretary certifies that all appeals have expired and the decision of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission has become final. In such case, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Trial Master, accuser, accused, advocates for both, and the Secretary of the Lodge of the accused of the date a definite suspension shall commence.

Art. 609. **Where Penalty Specified By Law.** If a specified penalty is provided by the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas for any Masonic disciplinary violation, no other penalty may be assessed.

Art. 610. **Result Of A Tie Vote.** A tie vote on any allegation of Masonic disciplinary violation submitted to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission fails to sustain the truth of the allegation. A tie vote on any penalty considered by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission defeats the punishment being considered.

Art. 611. **Results Of Ballot To Be Recorded.** The result of the ballot upon each allegation of Masonic disciplinary violation and result of the ballot upon each penalty considered by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be recorded by the Trial Master.

Art. 612. **Notification Of Action Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** After the Masonic Disciplinary Commission has considered and balloted upon all matters submitted to them by the Trial Master, the Trial Master shall then open the proceeding and return all Master Masons present to the Lodge room, to specifically include: the accuser, the accused, and the advocates for both. The Trial Master shall orally announce the decisions of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Art. 613 **Report Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearings.** Within five (5) days after the hearing, the Trial Master shall make a written record of all findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and forward a copy of the same to the *Worshipful Master and the Grand Secretary* for filing with the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Art. 614. **Grand Secretary To Notice Lodge Of Action Of Trial Master.** Upon receipt of the written report of the Trial Master, the Grand Secretary shall notify any Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member of the action taken by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. In the case of expulsion and suspension, the Grand Secretary shall notify all Lodge or Lodges of which the accused is a member of the date when the expulsion and suspension is to commence.

Art. 615. **Result Of Failure To Sustain An Allegation.** If no allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are sustained by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Trial Master shall declare the allegations have not been sustained, and the accused shall be released from all jeopardy for such allegations. A Mason can not be held to answer for the same allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations more than once unless upon appeal the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission are set aside and a new hearing is ordered by the Grand Master.

**CHAPTER 15 - TITLE V****RE-HEARINGS**

**Art. 616. Trial Master To Decide Motions For Re-Hearing.** The Trial Master alone has authority to grant a motion for rehearing, if filed by the accused, after any Masonic Disciplinary Commission decision. A re-hearing should only be granted upon good cause being shown or where it is apparent to the Trial Master there was not a fair and impartial hearing.

**Art. 617. Time For Filing A Motion For Re-Hearing.** A motion for re-hearing, and reasons therefor, shall be filed with the Trial Master and the other party or his advocate, in writing, within ten (10) days after the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is rendered.

**Art. 618. Procedure For Consideration of Motion For Re-Hearing.** The Trial Master may grant the other party the right to file an answer to any motions for re-hearing, and may permit oral arguments on the motion and answer, but is not required to do so. The Trial Master shall act promptly upon the motion and either grant or overrule the same. If not acted upon within thirty (30) days by the Trial Master, the motion shall be considered as having been overruled, as of the expiration of such thirty (30) day period, for the purpose of fixing the time within which notice of appeal may be given. A motion for re-hearing is not a necessary predicate or prerequisite to an appeal.

**Art. 619. No Motion For Re-Hearing After Notice Of Appeal.** A re-hearing cannot be granted after notice of appeal has been given to the Grand Lodge.

**Art. 620. When A Re-Hearing Is Granted.** When a re-hearing is granted, the same shall be conducted before a new Masonic Disciplinary Commission, selected in the same manner as the first Commission, and the same proceedings shall be followed as in any other Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

**Art. 621. Result Of Failure To Sustain Allegations At Second Hearing.** In the case of expulsion or suspension of an accused and if, upon a subsequent hearing before Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations are not sustained, he is thereby reinstated as a member in good standing in all Lodges in which he is a member.

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**CHAPTER 16 - TITLE V****APPEALS TO GRAND MASTER**

Art. 622. **Notice Of Appeal.** Within thirty (30) days after the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is rendered, or, if a motion for re-hearing is filed, within thirty (30) days after the motion for re-hearing is overruled, the accused shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Master from any final decision of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. Notice of appeal shall be given, in writing, to the Trial Master, whose duty it shall be to enter the appeal and the date of the notice of appeal in the records of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing and promptly report the notice of appeal to the Grand Secretary.

Art. 623. **Secretary Of Commission To Prepare Record Of Testimony.** When notice of appeal is given, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission to promptly prepare a record of the testimony of all witnesses. This record shall be either audio or video, and a copy of such audio or video recording of the testimony of witnesses shall be made available to the accuser and/or the accused upon their request. All costs of providing a copy of the audio or video recording of the testimony of witnesses shall be paid for by the party requesting the copies.

Art. 624. **Certification Of Record Of Testimony.** Once copies of the audio or video are prepared by the Secretary, the Secretary shall certify to the party requesting the same, in writing, that the copy is a true, correct, and unedited copy of the testimony of all witnesses before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If a party only requests part of the testimony of witnesses, and not all of such testimony, the Secretary shall prepare a copy of the witness testimony being requested under the same procedures as set forth herein and the party making such request shall pay for the expenses of copies of such partial testimony.

Art. 625. **Time For Filing Transcript.** It is the duty of the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission to see that a transcript is filed with the Grand Secretary within thirty (30) days after notice of appeal is given. The Grand Master may authorize additionally the filing of a transcript upon request of the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission showing good cause therefor. In no case will the Grand Master entertain an appeal from a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing unless a complete transcript of the record is filed with the Grand Secretary within twelve (12) months from the date of the notice of appeal or satisfactory cause is shown for failure to do so.

**Art. 626. Notice of Filing Transcript.** It is the duty of the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission to give written notice of the filing of the transcript with the Grand Secretary to the accuser, accused, and their advocates, if any.

**Art. 627. Contents Of Transcript.** When an appeal is made to the Grand Lodge, the transcript shall contain: (1) all motions of the parties and orders of the Trial Master; all exhibits admitted into evidence, (2) all allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations submitted to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, (3) the result of the ballots taken by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission on allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations and the results of the ballots taken by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission on any penalties assessed by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, (4) notice of appeal, (5) any request for preparation of a transcript to the Trial Master, (6) the notice of filing of the transcript with the Grand Secretary and (7) the findings of fact and conclusions of law on the part of the Trial Master. In addition, the accuser or the accused may request any other document or documents be made a part of the transcript, upon written request to the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission pointing out that such document or documents are a part of the contested matters in the appeal and providing the Trial Master a copy of such document, if requested to do so. Either the accuser or the accused may request that any documents filed with the Grand Master or Grand Secretary be placed in the transcript, by written request to the Trial Master, pointing out that such document or documents are a part of the contested matters in the appeal. Any request for documents by the Trial Master, the accuser or the accused to the Grand Master or Grand Secretary for inclusion in the transcript shall be promptly forwarded to the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission for inclusion in the transcript. In lieu of the requirements of the transcript set forth hereinabove, and with the intent to save the cost associated with the preparation of a transcript, the accuser and the accused or their advocates may, with the consent of the Trial Master, agree to the contents of a transcript and jointly file a transcript containing only the matters requested by the parties. If the Grand Master requests any additional matters or documents be contained in the transcript other than those submitted by the accuser and the accused, the cost of same will be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

**Art. 628. Cost Of Transcript.** The cost of preparation of the transcript by the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be paid by the party giving notice of appeal. The party giving notice of appeal shall contact the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission and request an estimate of the costs of preparation of the transcript and, upon request, the Trial Master of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall provide such estimate. The only costs being referred to here are the cost of copying documents and records and the costs of mailing such transcript to



the Grand Secretary, the accuser, the accused, and advocates for the accuser and the accused.

Any other party requesting a copy of the transcript shall pay the cost of the copy prepared for such party and the mailing expenses. In the event the Grand Master requests a copy of the transcript, the cost of the same shall be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

**Art. 629. Affidavit Of Inability To Pay Cost Of Transcript.** If an accused is unable to pay the estimated amount of the costs of the preparation of the transcript, or any part thereof, and he files with the Grand Secretary an affidavit to such fact, he shall be entitled to appeal and the Grand Lodge shall pay the costs of the transcript for such party.

**Art. 630. Appeal Does Not Suspend Findings Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** An appeal to the Grand Lodge shall not suspend the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, but same shall remain in force until reversed or otherwise ordered by the Grand Master; except that if a reprimand is assessed by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and an appeal is taken, the reprimand cannot be administered until the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission are affirmed by the Grand Master.

**Art. 631. Appeals May Be Abandoned.** The accused may abandon his appeal at any time prior to final determination by the Grand Master, by written notice forwarded to the Grand Secretary. Upon notice of the abandonment of appeal, the Grand Secretary shall give notice to the Grand Master, Trial Master, accuser, accused, and their advocates, and no other action shall be taken on the appeal. The findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission become final upon the filing of written notice of abandonment of an appeal.

**Art. 632. Duty Of Grand Secretary.** When the transcript of the record of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission appeal is received by the Grand Secretary, it shall be his duty to record the date received by stamp or mark on the file opened, and advise the Trial Master, accuser, accused, and their advocates of the date of filing of the transcript by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Grand Secretary shall send the transcript of the record to the Chair of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals and notation of the fact and the date thereof shall be entered on the docket of the cause.

**Art. 633. Duty Of Committee On Grievances And Appeals.** Upon receipt of a transcript of the record in any Masonic Disciplinary Commission appeal, it shall be the duty of the Chair of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to make record of the receipt thereof and acknowledge such receipt

to the Grand Secretary in writing. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to examine and report its recommendations to the Grand Master on each case referred to it. The report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be in writing and duly filed with the Grand Secretary where it will be duly filed and notation of the fact and the date of filing shall be entered on the docket of the cause. The report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be immediately forwarded by the Grand Secretary to the Grand Master for his action.

**Art. 634. Appeals Decided Upon Record.** All appeals to the Grand Master from the decision of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be decided upon the record in the case. No additional or new testimony shall be heard or considered by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals or by the Grand Master.

**Art. 635. Appeal Dismissed Unless Transcript Shows a Notice.** An appeal from a Masonic Disciplinary Commission will be dismissed if the transcript fails to show proper notice of appeal.

**Art. 636. Action By The Grand Master.** Within thirty (30) days after receiving the report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, the Grand Master shall make the final decision on the appeal. The Grand Master has the right to grant or deny the appeal and

a) if he denies the appeal, the findings of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission become final;

b) if he grants the appeal he may

(i) order a new hearing before another Masonic Disciplinary Commission, which shall be convened pursuant to the provisions of this Title. The Grand Master has the authority to appoint the same Trial Master and advocates as in the first hearing, or he has the right to appoint a new Trial Master and new advocates for the accuser and the accused, or

(ii) dismiss the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations. The accused shall thereby be restored to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, and reinstated to membership in his Lodge, if he was a member of a Lodge, and reinstated to membership in the Grand Lodge, if he was a member of the Grand Lodge.

c) Any action taken by the Grand Master under this Article shall be final and shall not be subject to review by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 637. **Status Of Accused After Granting Appeal.** When, on appeal of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, the judgment is indefinite suspension or expulsion, the Grand Master grants the appeal and remands the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations for a new hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, such action by the Grand Master shall in no way affect, alter, or change the Masonic status of the accused as it existed before said action by the Grand Master.

Art. 638. **Grand Secretary To Notify Lodge Of Action Of Grand Master.** When the Grand Master acts upon any appeal to him from a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Grand Secretary shall: a) record the action upon the docket; b) immediately notify the Trial Master, accuser, accused, and their advocates, *if any*, of the action of the Grand Master; c) immediately notify the affected Lodge and any other Lodge or Lodges of which the accused was a member of the action taken by the Grand Master; and d) transmit with each notice a copy of the Order of the Grand Master on the appeal, duly attested by the Grand Secretary.

## CHAPTER 17 - TITLE V

### EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF GRAND LODGE FOR MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Art. 639. **Exclusive Original Jurisdiction.** The Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction and power to:

1. Try officers of the Grand Lodge and Masters of Lodges on allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations growing out of or connected with any official act of any such officer or Master.

2. Discipline members of the Grand Lodge or of a subordinate Lodge for un-Masonic conduct or insubordination committed in its presence during Communications of the Grand Lodge and/or during meetings of the Committees of the Grand Lodge, regardless of the time or place of the Committee meeting.

3. Discipline officers of the Grand Lodge and Masters of Lodges, while holding such offices, for Masonic disciplinary violations whensoever committed by them.

Art. 640. **Masonic Offenses Committed In Other Grand Jurisdictions.** This Grand Lodge does not recognize the right of any Grand or Subordinate Lodge of another jurisdiction to try and punish a Mason who has been duly dimitted and removed therefrom into this jurisdiction and has affiliated with a Lodge herein; but charges of a Masonic offense, committed by a Mason prior to his removal must be certified with proof

thereof to the Grand Secretary for action. In any such case the Grand Lodge will be governed by the procedure for Masonic disciplinary hearings.

**Art. 641. Texas Mason Convicted In Other Grand Jurisdiction.** When a Mason belonging to a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction has been convicted of a Masonic offense and expelled or suspended by a Lodge not under this Grand Jurisdiction, said Mason shall be suspended or expelled by this Grand Jurisdiction upon receipt of proper written communication from the other Grand Jurisdiction provided such conviction is for an offense in violation of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas or a Masonic disciplinary violation under this Title. This provision shall not apply to suspension or expulsion for non-payment of dues. Notice of such action shall be mailed to the suspended or expelled Mason at his last known address by the Grand Secretary.

**Art. 642. Accusations of Masonic Violations Against A Grand Lodge Officer Or Worshipful Master.** When any officer of the Grand Lodge or a Worshipful Master of a Lodge is accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation, the Grand Master shall process the allegations under the provision of Chapter 3, 4, and 5 of this Title. All of the provisions for Masonic disciplinary hearings in this Title shall apply with the following exceptions:

(a) The accused shall be duly notified and cited with the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations by the Grand Secretary by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the registered address of the accused on the roles of the Grand Lodge of Texas;

(b) The Trial Master, advocate for the accuser, and advocate for the accused shall be members of the Grand Lodge of Texas;

(c) All Mediation Committee hearings, if any, shall be held at the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, Texas;

(d) The Grand Master shall select the five (5) members of the Grand Lodge of Texas to serve as Commissioners pursuant to Article 533;

(e) The Commissioners shall select fifty (50) members of the Grand Lodge of Texas to serve on the Masonic Disciplinary Commission panel. Said members shall be selected from various parts of the State of Texas;

(f) All Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearings shall be held in the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, Texas;

(g) All witnesses requested to appear by the accuser or the accused shall be made to the Grand Secretary, who shall issue summonses for the atten-

dance of witnesses and cause the same to be served by the District Deputy Grand Master in whose Masonic district the witness resides.

**Art. 643. Procedure In Hearings For Grand Lodge Officers Or Worshipful Masters.** Except for the requirements set forth in Article 641 above, all Masonic disciplinary actions filed against a Grand Lodge officer or a Worshipful Master shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same procedures for all other Masonic disciplinary proceedings under this Title, to include New Hearings and Appeals.

**Art. 644. Suspension Pending Resolution Of Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** The Grand Master may suspend a Grand Lodge officer or any Officer of a subordinate Lodge who has allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against him from the functions of his office pending a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing. When a Worshipful Master of a Lodge is suspended from office, the Senior Warden shall perform the duties of the Worshipful Master during the time of suspension. (Revised 2005)

**Art. 645. When Worshipful Master Suspended.** When a Worshipful Master is suspended from office by order of the Grand Master, said officer shall cease to exercise any of the duties, rights, or prerogatives of said office until he is thereafter restored, but he shall not thereby be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of membership in his Lodge. However, he shall not be entitled to the rights and privileges of a Past Master, or be or become a member of the Grand Lodge, unless and until he is restored thereto by the Grand Lodge.

**Art. 646. Grand Lodge Officer Relieved Of Privileges and Duties.** When a decision of expulsion, or of suspension, definite or indefinite, is rendered against a Grand Lodge officer, the officer shall be deprived of all Lodge and Grand Lodge privileges.

**Art. 647. Summary Procedure.** In every case where a flagrant offense is committed by any Mason present while this Grand Lodge is at labor, the rules requiring notice and citation may be dispensed with and the Grand Master may order the offending Brother to show cause instantly why he should not be disciplined.

## CHAPTER 18 - TITLE V

### MASONIC VIOLATIONS BY LODGES

**Art. 648. Invasion Of Jurisdiction.** Any Lodge in this jurisdiction which shall invade the jurisdiction of another Lodge and make a Mason of a candidate domiciled in another jurisdiction, without the consent of such Lodge, shall pay to the Lodge whose jurisdiction it has invaded the

amount of the fees received on account thereof and be subject to such other discipline as the Grand Lodge may inflict; provided, that if the territory of Lodges holding concurrent jurisdiction is so invaded, such fee shall be paid to the oldest Lodge, provided in Art. 465.

Art. 649. **Grand Master May Arrest Or Suspend Charter of Lodge.** The Grand Master may immediately suspend or arrest the charter of any Lodge when, after careful investigation or upon receipt of satisfactory proof, it is shown that such Lodge has willfully violated the territorial jurisdiction of another Lodge, or the laws, edicts or resolution of the Grand Lodge, or has been guilty of un-Masonic conduct.

## CHAPTER 19 - TITLE V

### DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER - DUTIES AND POWERS RELATING TO MASONIC DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Art. 650. **Inquiry Into Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** District Deputy Grand Masters shall inquire into all Masonic disciplinary violations committed in their respective districts, and shall report the same to the Grand Master.

Art. 651. **Inquiry Into “Cypher Work.”** It shall be the duty of District Deputy Grand Masters to strictly inquire into the use of any “cypher work” in the possession of the Lodges or members thereof, and report the same to the Grand Master.

Art. 652. **Duty On Discovery Of Error Or Evil.** When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover any error or evil in his district involving or affecting Masonry, he shall endeavor to arrest the progress thereof and he shall report to the Grand Master if such is of a grave nature.

Art. 653. **Financial Affairs Of Demised Lodges.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall collect all the unpaid dues of members of demised Lodges, and all delinquent members may be accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation in the manner prescribed by the Grand Lodge for the infliction of appropriate punishment for non payment of dues. When the assets of such Lodges shall have been collected, he shall pay the debts of such Lodges and remit to the Grand Secretary all money and other property remaining in his hand with a full statement of all moneys received and paid out by him and upon what account.

Art. 654. **Returns Of Lodges And Annual Dues.** It is the special duty of each District Deputy Grand Master to admonish all Lodges in his district which fail to send up their returns and annual dues within the time

required by law, and to aid the Grand Secretary in securing compliance with the law governing such cases. When a Lodge has been suspended for failure to make its returns, or pay its dues by June first of the following year, it shall be the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master; upon receipt of a notice to that effect from the Grand Secretary, to promptly secure the Charter of any such Lodge and to require it to cease its labors until such returns and the payments due thereon are made, as provided in Article 492, or to such time as the Grand Master may direct.

**Art. 655. Amounts Due By Delinquent Lodges And Property Of Suspended Or Demised Lodges.** District Deputy Grand Masters are each authorized, after receiving from the Grand Secretary notice thereof, to collect and pay to the Grand Secretary the amounts due by the delinquent Lodges for his district and also to demand and receive from the last Secretary and Treasurer of any suspended or demised Lodge all the property, including charter, jewels, seal, books and funds of such Lodge and to account therefor to the Grand Lodge. He is also required to include in his annual report a list of the property of all such Lodges and, if any real estate, a description thereof together with a statement of all debts owed by such Lodge.

**Art. 656. Shall Not Be Proxy, Advocate, Or Trial Master In Masonic Disciplinary Commission Hearings.** No District Deputy Grand Master shall serve as ~~be appointed as an~~ Advocate for the accuser or the accused in a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing nor shall he be a proxy for any party in a Masonic disciplinary matter.

## CHAPTER 20 - TITLE V

### REINSTATEMENT AND RESTORATION

**Art. 657. Definitions.** Reinstatement and restoration have generally the same meaning and are often used interchangeably. In these statutes they are given separate and distinct meanings, as follows:

Reinstatement is applied to membership in a Lodge or in the Grand Lodge and carries with it the rights, privileges and honors attaching to such membership. It means re-establishment of membership when such membership has been lost through fault or dereliction. Restoration is applied to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry and means the reinvestiture of those rights and privileges when they have been lost through fault or dereliction. A Mason so restored, if he is not also reinstated, has the status of an unaffiliated Mason.

Art. 658. **Jurisdiction.** The Lodge of which the accused, in a Masonic disciplinary proceeding, was a member at the time of his loss of membership has exclusive jurisdiction over his reinstatement and restoration.

(a) Where a Mason holds a plural membership and that Brother is expelled or suspended for a Masonic disciplinary violation, jurisdiction for reinstatement and/or restoration is vested in the parent Lodge. The parent Lodge, however, by majority vote at a stated meeting of that Lodge, can assign its jurisdiction to any other Lodge where membership was held by that Mason.

(b) The Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction to reinstate to membership therein, except where automatic reinstatement is provide for elsewhere in this Title.

Art. 659. **Reinstatement Or Restoration By Lodge.** Petition And Vote. The Lodge having jurisdiction may, by a favorable ballot of the members of said Lodge present, reinstate or restore, as the case may be, a suspended or expelled Mason. A written petition for such reinstatement or restoration, signed by the petitioner, must be filed with the Secretary and presented to the Lodge reciting facts showing that he has made expiation for his offense and has discharged the terms and conditions of his sentence, including completion of probation, parole, or supervised release; said petition shall be read at the first stated meeting of the Lodge after it is filed. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee on investigation which shall report its findings and recommendations at a subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge whereupon a ballot shall be taken upon said petition. Only members of the Lodge in attendance may vote. In balloting on a suspended or expelled Mason for reinstatement or restoration, other than for non-payment of dues, three black balls shall reject for one year, four blackballs for two years and five or more blackballs for three years. Protests shall be allowed in accordance with Article 660, and the ballot shall be announced accordingly. Notwithstanding the above, any member who is found guilty of, or who enters a plea of guilty, or of no contest to the charge of pedophilia or related charges (such as Indecency with a Child by sexual contact or any other means, Aggravated Sexual Assault with a child by any means and Sexual Assault with a Child by any means) and having been previously expelled from Masonry, shall not be considered for reinstatement or restoration of any Masonic membership and said member shall be expelled from Masonry for life and never again be considered for any Masonic related activity or membership. Any current Member having been charged and found guilty of, or having pleaded no contest to charges of pedophilia (such as Indecency with a Child by sexual contact or any other means, Aggravated Sexual Assault with a child by any means, Sexual Assault with a Child by any means) shall be expelled immediately, for life, from this Grand Jurisdiction. (Adopted, 2003)



Art. 660. **In Cases Of Appeal To Grand Master.** Where there has been an appeal to the Grand Master from a decision rendered by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, any action by the Lodge in reinstating or restoring the member shall not be effective or final until a final decision on the appeal is made by the Grand Master.

Art. 661. **Protest.** Any member of the Lodge in which the petition is filed shall have the right to file with the Worshipful Master his protest against the reinstatement or restoration of any Mason laboring under a sentence of indefinite suspension or expulsion for a Masonic disciplinary violation, other than non-payment of dues, who may petition for such reinstatement or restoration, and such protest shall have the full force and effect of one blackball on the petition. Protests in such cases shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 3, Title IV of these statutes insofar as they may be applicable. Only members of the Lodge in which the petition is filed may protest.

Art. 662. **Where Lodge Having Jurisdiction Is Demised.** Where a member has been suspended or expelled for Masonic disciplinary violations, and the Lodge having jurisdiction over his reinstatement or restoration has subsequently demised, he may petition the Grand Master for restoration of the rights and privileges of Freemasonry as an unaffiliated Mason, and shall file with his petition a certificate of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he may then be domiciled, recommending his restoration. Such recommendation shall be under the seal of the Lodge and shall certify to the number of members of said Lodge who voted on said recommendation and the number of votes cast for and against said recommendation, and the time during which the petitioner has been domiciled within the jurisdiction of the certifying Lodge.

Art. 663. **When Suspended For Definite Time.** When a Mason is suspended for a definite period of time and no appeal therefor is taken to the Grand Master, he will be automatically reinstated in the subordinate Lodge and Grand Lodge, as the case may be, without action of the Lodge or Grand Lodge when the time specified in the judgment shall have expired.

Art. 664. **When Suspended For Definite Time And Appealed To Grand Master.** When, after a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, a Mason is suspended for a definite period of time and appeal is made to the Grand Master, such appeal shall not suspend the findings and decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, and his membership in the Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, shall be automatically reinstated at the expiration of such time found by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission without further action of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge.

**Art. 665. When Suspended For Definite Time: Reversal By Grand Master.** In any appeal from a decision by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission of suspension for a definite period of time, if the Grand Master reverses and dismisses the case, the Brother shall thereupon be automatically reinstated to his membership in his Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, without further action of his Lodge or the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise specifically ordered by the Grand Master.

**Art. 666. Reversal By Grand Master And New Hearing Ordered.** In any appeal, where such matter is reversed and remanded for a new hearing, the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission shall be suspended, and his Masonic status shall remain unchanged as that of a “Mason laboring under disciplinary action” until a final decision is rendered by the new Masonic Disciplinary Commission and/or the Grand Master. If he should be acquitted at a subsequent Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, he shall be automatically reinstated to membership in his Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, as the case may be. Otherwise, his Masonic status shall be governed by the decision rendered at the subsequent Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

**Art. 667. Where Right Of Appeal Lost.** When the right of appeal is lost by lapse of time, the proper procedure for reinstatement or restoration, as the case may be, is by petition therefor to the Lodge having jurisdiction in the case.

**Art. 668. No Appeal From Refusal to Reinstate Or Restore.** An appeal can not be taken to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge for the refusal of a Lodge to reinstate or restore, as the case may be, a suspended or expelled Mason.

**Art. 669. No Reinstatement Or Restoration Where Suspension Or Expulsion In Another Jurisdiction.** This Grand Lodge will not reinstate or restore to good standing a Mason who has been suspended or expelled by a Lodge of another jurisdiction.

## **CHAPTER 21 - TITLE V**

### **REINSTATEMENT AND RESTORATION TO GRAND LODGE**

**Art. 670. Reinstatement To Grand Lodge Membership.** A Past Master, Past Grand or Deputy Grand Master, or Past Grand Warden who has lost his membership in the Grand Lodge as a result of Masonic disciplinary violations may only be restored to membership under the provisions of this Title.

**Art. 671. Suspended For A Definite Time.** When the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is suspension for a definitely stated

period of time, said suspension shall expire by limitation. A Mason so suspended shall, at the expiration of the time defined in the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, become reinstated to membership in the Grand Lodge and to all his rights and privileges, without vote or other action by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 672. **Expulsion Or Indefinite Suspension.** When the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is expulsion or indefinite suspension, the member seeking restoration shall file his petition therefor with the Grand Secretary, which petition shall be referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals by the Grand Master for examination and report thereon.

Art. 673. **Vote By Grand Lodge.** When any such petition has been reported by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, the Grand Lodge shall vote thereon and may grant said petition by a majority vote of the members of the Grand Lodge present and voting thereon; otherwise, it shall stand rejected. If such petition is granted, and the Mason has not been reinstated and restored to a Lodge, the Mason shall be restored to all his Masonic rights as an unaffiliated Mason without Lodge membership, and the Grand Secretary shall issue to him a dimit entitling him to apply for affiliation in any regular Lodge.

Elmer Murphey, III, PM, Chairman  
Civil Law Committee

## RESOLUTION NO. 2

### **Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence\* and Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, at the request of many Lodges, the Civil Law Committee has offered an amendment to Title V, "*Masonic Disciplinary Procedures*", Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, for the consideration of the Grand West at the 2014 Grand Annual Communication. This amendment would place the Masonic disciplinary procedures in the hands of the Lodges through their Worshipful Masters, as was the procedures prior to 2004.

WHEREAS, the Civil Law Committee does not know if such Amendments will be passed by the Grand West at the 2014 Grand Annual Communication, and if the Grand West does not agree to returning the Masonic disciplinary procedures to the control of the Lodges, the Civil Law Committee would offered the following resolution;

WHEREAS, the Civil Law Committee believes Title V as presently exist needs some modifications to make the disciplinary procedures more effective as administrative procedures and to shorten the time required to litigate Masonic disciplinary complaints.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following amendments to Title V, Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas be adopted:

Title V is amended as follows:

1. Add Art. 505a as follows:

*Art. 505a. **Personal or Pecuniary Disputes Between Masons.***

*Lodges shall not take cognizance of differences or controversies between members growing out of purely personal or pecuniary transactions unless the Masonic disciplinary violation involved a Masonic obligation.*

2. Amend Art. 515 to delete sections 515(d) and (e):

~~[(d) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as the advocate for the accuser.]~~

~~(e) Appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as the advocate for the accused.]~~

Renumber following sections.

3. ~~[Art. 522. **Appointment of Advocates for Accuser and Accused.** Any time the Grand Master orders allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as advocate for the accuser and to appoint a qualified Master Mason in good standing in any Lodge in the State of Texas to act as advocate for the accused. The necessary travel expenses of these advocates shall be paid by the Grand Lodge of Texas.]~~

Renumber following sections.

4. ~~[Art. 523. **Duties of Advocate For Accuser.** Once appointed by the Grand Master, the advocate for the accuser shall have the responsibility of representing the accuser at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.~~

~~(a) He shall fully investigate the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused and prepare all evidence necessary to sustain the Masonic disciplinary violations being asserted by the accuser.~~

~~(b) He shall present all evidence on behalf of the accuser and call all witnesses necessary to fully provide the Masonic Disciplinary Commission with facts and evidence to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused.~~

~~(c) He shall obey and follow all laws and procedures set forth in Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.~~

~~(d) He shall obey all orders of the Trial Master. }~~

Renumber following sections.

~~5. [Art. 524. Duties of Advocate For Accused. Once appointed by the Grand Master, the advocate for the accused shall have the responsibility of representing the accused at the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.~~

~~(a) He shall investigate the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused and prepare all evidence necessary to present any defenses or mitigation to such allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations.~~

~~(b) He shall present all evidence on behalf of the accused and call all witnesses necessary to fully provide the Masonic Disciplinary Commission with facts and evidence to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations against the accused.~~

~~(c) He shall see that all legal defenses are presented in behalf of the accused, and that the accused rights are fully protected according to Masonic law.~~

~~(d) He shall obey and follow all laws and procedures set forth in Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.~~

~~(e) He shall obey all orders of the Trial Master. }~~

Renumber following sections.

**6. Art. 533. Selection And Empanelling Of Masonic Disciplinary Commission.** After Masonic disciplinary violations are referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission for hearing as set forth herein above, the Trial Master shall provide for the selection and empanelling of a Masonic Disciplinary Commission in the following manner:

(a) The Trial Master shall contact the ~~[advocates for the]~~ accuser and the accused to arrange for an agreed hearing date. If no hearing date can be agreed upon, the Trial Master shall set a date for the hearing, giving con-

sideration to the length of time necessary for the accuser *and* the accused ~~[and their advocates]~~ to prepare for hearing; the length of time necessary to complete discovery, if any; and time needed to select a Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If no hearing date can be agreed upon, the Trial Master shall give the accuser and the accused ~~and their advocates~~ not less than thirty (30) days advance written notice of the date, time, and place of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

(c) The names of the twenty-four (24) Master Masons selected by the commissioners shall be written and mailed to the Trial Master. The list will be provided by the Trial Master to the accuser *and* the accused ~~[and their advocates]~~. If there are twenty-four (24) on the list, the accuser and the accused shall each have a right to strike three (3) names from the list. If there are less than twenty-four (24) names on the list, the right of challenge shall be proportionately reduced by the Trial Master. The challenges of the accuser and accused shall be returned to the Trial Master within five (5) days after they are received.

7. Art. 551. **Discovery Abuse.** It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for an accuser, an accused or an advocate for either to abuse the discovery process by: (1) seeking, making or resisting discovery or filing unreasonably frivolous, oppressive or harassing discovery requests or (2) filing a response or answer to discovery that is unreasonable frivolous or made for the purposes of attempting to delay a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

A Trial Master who finds that an accuser, an accused or an advocate for the same, if any, is abusing the discovery process shall immediately advise such person in writing of such abuse. If the person persists in abusing the discovery process after a written warning of such, the Trial Master shall file Masonic Disciplinary violations against such person.

8. Art. 576. **Order of Introduction of Evidence.** The ~~advocate for the~~ accuser shall present his witnesses and introduce his evidence. The ~~advocate for the~~ accused shall then present his witnesses and introduce his evidence after which rebuttal evidence may be introduced by ~~both the advocate for the~~ accuser and ~~the advocate for the~~ accused.

9. Art. 581 **Hearsay Evidence.** The admission of hearsay evidence is under the discretion of the Trial Master. Such evidence has to be relevant and material to a contested issue, the introduction of such evidence is admissible only if the Trial Master determines that the hearsay evidence a) has a tendency to make the existence of any fact more probable or less probable than it would be without the hearsay evidence; and b) the probable value of the evidence is not outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence. c) the evidence

is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent individuals in the conduct of their business or major personal financial affairs.

10. Amend heading to Chapter 13 - Title V as Follows:

ARGUMENTS [~~OF ADVOCATES~~ ]

11. Art. 591. **Argument Of Advocates.** After the close of the evidence, arguments may be presented to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission by the [~~advocates for the~~]accuser and the accused, under such regulations and restrictions as to time as the Trial Master shall determine; provided that both[ ~~advocates~~]shall be afforded an equal division of time for arguments.

12. Art. 592. **Order Of Arguments.** The [~~advocate for the~~]accuser shall have the right to present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission first, and then the [~~advocate for the~~]accused shall present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. If he elects to do so, [~~the advocate for~~]the accuser may split his argument, to be given the right to close the arguments. If the ~~advocate for the~~]accuser elects to split his arguments, he shall be required to fully present his argument to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission when he first makes his argument, and his closing argument shall be limited to rebutting arguments of the advocate for the accused.

13.Art. 593. **Limitations Of Arguments.** Arguments of [~~advocates~~] the parties shall be limited to a summarization of the evidence offered at the hearing, reasonable deductions to be made from such evidence, and arguments as to an appropriate punishment to be entered by the Masonic Disciplinary Commission. A Trial Master may, within his discretion, establish reasonable time limits on arguments of advocates.

14. Art. 594. **Arguments [~~If No Advocates~~]***If The Parties Have Advocates.* If the accuser or the accused [~~does not have an advocate~~] *has an advocate* , [~~he~~] *the advocate* shall be given the same right to present arguments as would [~~his advocate~~]*the party he represents*.

15.Art. 596. **Who May Be Present During Consideration And Balloting.** After arguments [~~of advocates,~~] and prior to the Masonic Disciplinary Commission considering any evidence and punishments, the Trial Master shall close the proceedings and remove all persons from the room. The only persons authorized to be present in the Lodge room when the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is convened to consider the evidence and/or punishment are the Masonic Disciplinary Commission members and the Trial Master. All others present, to include the accuser and the accused, and their advocates, shall be ordered from the room. The Tiler shall be ordered to secure the door from the outside. The Trial Master may autho-

alize the secretary to appear before the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, if necessary, to review evidence with the Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

**16. Article 589. The Trial Master Shall Rule On Evidentiary Questions.** The Trial Master shall have the authority to rule on all matters involving the introduction of evidence at a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing.

(a) The Trial Master may, in his discretion, direct the order of proof, exclude cumulative or irrelevant testimony or other evidence, and direct the parties to focus their presentations on issues in which the decision could dispose of all or part of the allegations.

(b) All evidence shall be taken in the presence of the Trial Master and the parties, except where any party is absent, or in default, or has waived the right to be present.

(c) All parties shall be afforded an opportunity to examine such documents or other evidence and to lodge appropriate objections, if any.

(d) The Trial Master is not required to follow strict rules of evidence as required in civil or criminal trials in state and federal courts, but a Trial Master shall follow all rules of evidence set forth in this Title V, Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and he shall make such ruling as to provide the accused and the accuser with the right to a full, fair, and impartial hearing before a Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

(e) In the administration of the rules and procedures set forth herein by the Trial Master, the central principle shall be fairness to all concerned.

*This language replaces Article 591*

Elmer Murphey, III, PM, Chairman  
Civil Law Committee

## **RESOLUTION NO. 3**

**Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence\*, Purposes and Policies, and Civil Law**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Lodge of Texas place an assessment of \$100 per Texas home or Texas Mother Lodge member in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas for each of the years 2015, 2016, and 2017, for the following purposes:



Said funds are to be used for the renovation of the Grand Lodge building and grounds in the following manner:

2015- Initiate phase 1 of the Master Plan for renovation of the Grand Lodge Building as submitted by Architexas in the fall, 2011. One half of their estimated cost: \$5,750,000.

This budget estimate: \$6,000,000 allowing a 10% increase due to inflation.

2016- Initiate phase 2 of the Master Plan and complete renovation.

Their estimated cost \$5,750,000

This estimate: \$6,000,000 allowing a 10% increase due to inflation.

2017- Establish a building and operational endowment in the amount of \$6,000,000

With 80% of the accrued yearly interest to be used for the maintenance and operation of the Grand Lodge and 20% of the accrued yearly interest to rollover in the endowment and that no funds will be taken from the endowment except in a "state of emergency" as determined by a 2/3's vote of members at an annual Grand Lodge convocation.

Robert Northcutt, PM

## **RESOLUTION NO. 4**

### **Referred to Committee Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

WHEREAS, our Masonic ancestors saw fit to construct a building to house the Grand Lodge of Texas and other Masonic entities including one or more Museums and a Library along with a specifically designed auditorium suitable for the Grand Lodge of Texas' Grand Annual Communications; and,

WHEREAS, this building has been used for decades without any substantial improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge has been presented numerous reports on the status of this aging Masonic landmark; and,

WHEREAS, during both the 2013 and 2012 Annual Grand Communications there have been presentations specific to the decay of

the infrastructure, mechanicals and items unable to meet code along with estimates of the cost to restore this grand building to serve the Masons of Texas for several more decades; and,

WHEREAS, the costs, risks and damages continue to escalate each year the Grand Lodge does not take action including a near catastrophic loss due in just the past year

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the Grand Lodge Trustees are specifically informed:

It is the will of this Grand Lodge to continue to have this Grand Lodge building in Waco; and,

It is the will of this Grand Lodge to have the building renovated, restored and/or repaired as need; and,

It is the will of this Grand Lodge the Grand Lodge Trustees be directed by this Grand Lodge membership as our duly elected representatives and leaders to:

Establish a separate building fundraiser (separate from any existing).

Issue a plea sent to each Texas Mason and each Texas Lodge with a request for a donation or donations of not less than \$250.00 per mason, regardless of age, status, endowment or office.

Specifying the funds will be segregated for the sole purpose of implementing the plans presented at the 2012 and 2013 grand communications.

These actions to be completed within 90 days of the end of this Grand Communication; and,

Concurrently a scope of work and a plan be developed with a goal to have work begin no later than July 2015 on the most immediate needs.

A report be created tracking the fundraising and it be provided to and made a part of the Grand Secretary's monthly communication; and,

Establish a funding mechanism soliciting funds from non- Masonic non-government entities and persons for the purpose of restoring this Masonic treasure.

Bruce W. Hammond, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 5

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Finance, and Masonic Jurisprudence**

WHEREAS, an endowed membership is intended to be permanent and any changes to that endowed membership should be met with stringent requirements; and,

WHEREAS, non-transferrable endowments may discourage or delay some members from making contributions to the Endowed Membership Fund due to the mobility of today's society; and,

WHEREAS, some Lodges may limit the number of units required to purchase an endowed membership because it is currently viewed as an irrevocable instrument; and,

WHEREAS, an endowed member who holds endowed memberships at multiple Lodges may desire, for a variety of reasons, to consolidate his endowments; and,

WHEREAS, there may be unforeseen circumstances that are in the best interest of an endowed member and the Endowed Lodge to part ways in order for peace and harmony to prevail; and,

WHEREAS, current procedures exist for members and others to purchase additional endowment units and to transfer endowed memberships in the event that a Lodge demises or consolidates; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 318a, paragraph 6 be amended as follows:

Paragraphs 1-5 no change

6. Endowed memberships are not transferable with Lodge membership, and remain to benefit the Endowed Lodge where such memberships are purchased [~~Endowed memberships purchased by members and endowed memberships purchased in any part in honor or memory of a member, or endowed memberships purchased in any part by a Lodge, organization, individual or group of individuals in the name of a member or former member and, the endowed memberships of deceased members cannot be transferred to any Lodge except as provided for consolidated or demised Lodges.~~] *,except as provided herein:*

*(a) Living Endowed Members*

*(1) An endowed member in good standing may request transfer of his endowed membership provided that he can demonstrate to the current En-*

*dowed Lodge that permission has been granted by the purchaser(s) of the endowed membership approving its transfer to another Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction. If, for any reason, permission cannot be obtained from all of the purchasers of the endowed membership to be transferred the request shall be denied.*

*(2) The current Endowed Lodge may collect and retain a surrender penalty up to 2% of the original purchase price, for each Endowment Fund fiscal year the endowment units were held by that Lodge, to be paid by the endowed member regardless of who actually paid for the endowment units. The Endowed Lodge will then forward the transfer request to the acquiring Lodge.*

*(3) The endowed member must be affiliated with, and meet the endowment minimums of, the acquiring Lodge. The acquiring Lodge may collect a nonrefundable Endowment Transfer Fee as established by the Grand Lodge Trustees directly from the endowed member and forward the transfer request, fee and payment for any additional endowment units to the Grand Secretary.*

*(4) The Grand Secretary will only transfer all the endowment units, of the endowed membership specified, using the original endowment titling. The transfer of the endowment units will be effective as of the fiscal year-end of the Endowed Membership Fund following receipt by the Grand Secretary of the request to transfer the endowed membership.*

*(5) The Grand Secretary will notify both Lodges when the transfer is complete and provide an Endowed Membership Certificate to the acquiring Lodge if a similarly titled endowed membership does not already exist. In the absence of any other membership at the initiating Lodge a withdrawal from membership will be granted.*

*(6) If the transfer is cancelled or denied, the request will be routed back through both Lodges and any surrender penalty collected refunded to the endowed member.*

*(b) Deceased Endowed Members - The endowed memberships of deceased members may not be transferred to any Lodge except as hereinafter provided for Consolidate Lodges or Demised Lodges.*

*(c) Consolidated Lodges no change*

*(d) Demised Lodges no change*

*Paragraphs 7-9 no change*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Grand Secretary will modify Form 77 to allow the purchaser(s) of an endowed membership to indicate

whether it may later be transferred to another Lodge as provided in Article 318a 6(a).

Lytton Springs Lodge #487

## RESOLUTION NO. 6

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Finance, and Investments**

WHEREAS, the intent of the Endowed Membership Fund is to provide long-term financial support for the Endowed Lodges; and,

WHEREAS, the current language relating to the calculation of a disbursement may under certain circumstances result in no payment to the Endowed Lodges even if the value of an endowment unit exceeds \$100; and,

WHEREAS, the Trustees now have no discretionary authority permitting them to approve disbursements to Endowed Lodges and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Endowed Lodges and in keeping with the intent and purpose of Art 318a that the Trustees should have discretionary authority to authorize prudent disbursements from the Endowed Membership Fund to the Endowed Lodges now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Article 318a. **Endowed Membership**. Be amended by the addition of the following paragraph as follows;

4(a) – (c)(2) unchanged

*4(c)(3) Notwithstanding any language contained herein to the contrary, the Trustees after considering the financial needs of Endowed Lodges, the principal value of an endowment unit and potential future investment performance of the Endowed Membership Fund, may in their sole discretion authorize a distribution from the Endowed Membership Fund to the Endowed Lodges of an amount, together with any other distribution from the Fund, not to exceed \$5 per endowment unit per year.*

4 (d) unchanged

5 - 9 unchanged

Thomas W. Ellison, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 7

### **Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence\*, Purposes and Policies, and Investments**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Articles 163b and 318a of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, through its elected Trustees, the Grand Lodge of Texas administers and manages the Endowed Membership Fund (“EMF”) of its subordinate Lodges on behalf of such subordinate lodges;

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas has directed the Committee on Civil Law for the Grand Lodge of Texas to research and review the structure and operation of the EMF;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Civil Law has completed such research and found that it would be in the best interest of the EMF and the subordinate Lodges if the EMF held its investments and conducted its business in its own name as a distinct entity;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Civil Law has reviewed the various available business structures to find the legal entity most suitable to administer and hold the EMF assets;

WHEREAS, a number of Texas based entities rely on the well-developed business law of the State of Delaware as a business organizational structure while maintaining its Texas presence in the operation of its business and investment activities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware trust law provides certain favorable features not available under Texas law, including, but not limited to, the protection of assets from creditors, the Committee on Civil Law has recommended that a State of Delaware trust be established to hold legal title to the EMF assets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, new Article 163e be adopted and added to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, to read as follows:

“Article 163e. **Ownership and Management of the Endowed Membership Fund.** The Endowed Membership Fund is owned by the subordinate Lodges by whom contributions have been made, under the provisions of Article 318a of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The percentage ownership of such a subordinate Lodge is based upon the dollar amount of its contributions to the Endowed Membership Fund.

The Grand Lodge of Texas, in Annual Communication, has authorized and directed the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas, on behalf of its subordinate Lodges, to create one or more trusts, and related entities, to hold legal title to the assets of the Endowed Membership Fund, in order to protect those assets from the claims of future creditors of the Lodges (“EMF Trust.”)

The EMF Trust shall be created by the Grand Lodge of Texas Trustees under and in accordance with the trust laws (as they exist from time to time) of Delaware or other states where their laws allow the Grand Lodge of Texas, on behalf of its subordinate Lodges, to keep significant control over the management of the EMF assets. Texas has no comparable laws for this purpose.

Under the EMF Trust and its related entities, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas will retain, on behalf of the subordinate Lodges, all investment power over EMF assets and will retain veto power of trust distributions to subordinate Lodges. The Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas will have the power to change in its sole discretion the corporate trustee of the EMF Trust.

Although the subordinate Lodges will no longer directly own the EMF assets after the EMF Trust is funded, the subordinate Lodges for whom EMF contributions have been made will be the sole beneficiaries of the EMF Trust, and no other person or entity may benefit from the EMF Trust at any time.

Except as required by applicable state law, upon the creation of the EMF Trust, there will be no other change in the administration of the Endowed Membership Fund, as provided by Article 318a of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.”

Elmer Murphey III, PM, Chairman  
Civil Law Committee

## RESOLUTION NO. 8

**Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Civil Law, and Masonic Jurisprudence**

WHEREAS, there have been Constitutional questions about the voting rights of Masters and Wardens at the Annual Communications of The Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, the Constitution does not now authorize Masters and Wardens to vote on the election of Grand Lodge Officers at the Annual Communications of The Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, the Constitution does not now authorize Masters and Wardens to make nominations for Grand Lodge Officers at the Annual Communications of The Grand Lodge of Texas ;

WHEREAS, the Constitution does not now provide that the contested elections of Grand Lodge Officers at the Annual Communications of The Grand Lodge of Texas be conducted by the written ballot of Lodges and Members;

WHEREAS, however, it has been the custom and practice that Masters and Wardens be entitled to vote on all issues before the Annual Communications of The Grand Lodge of Texas and to make nominations for Grand Lodge Officers; and

WHEREAS, however, it has been the custom and practice that the contested elections of Grand Lodge Officers be conducted by the written ballot of Lodges and Members at the Annual Communications of The Grand Lodge of Texas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following amendments to Article II, Article IV and Article VII of the Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas be adopted by The Grand Lodge of Texas at its Grand Annual Communication of 2014, to insure the Master and Wardens have full voting rights at all Grand Annual Communications and to insure that all contested elections of Grand Lodge Officers be conducted by written ballot of Lodges and Members.

## ARTICLE II

### Section 1 –~~[ Members and Representatives]~~ *Membership*

The Grand Lodge of Texas is composed of the following members ~~{and representatives of Lodges}~~:

#### *Grand Lodge Officers - Present and Past*

##### *(a) Grand Lodge Officers:*

The Grand Officers, elective and appointive, in this Constitution provided, during their respective terms of office.



*(b) Past Grand Lodge Officers:*

The Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens of the Grand Lodge of Texas, while members of Lodges of its obedience.

*(c) Past Masters:* The ~~[regular]~~ Past Masters of *regular* Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, while members of Lodges of its obedience.

**~~[REPRESENTATIVES]~~ Masters and Wardens**

(d) The *current Worshipful* Masters and Wardens of all the ~~[chartered]~~ Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, or the proxies of such Lodges who may be elected by such Lodges to represent them in the next succeeding Communication only of the Grand Lodge, and who, during such Communication, and in the absence of the Master and Wardens thereof, shall be entitled to cast the vote of their respective Lodges on all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, provided that each proxy must be a member of the Lodge he represents, and a resident of the State of Texas.

*(e) The membership of the Grand Lodge shall collectively be referred to as the Members*

*Section 2. Lodges*

*(a) All of the regular Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, shall be entitled to cast the vote of their respective Lodges on all questions arising in the Grand Lodges wherein a vote is taken by Lodges & Members, pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas.*

*(b) The proxies of such Lodges who may be elected by such Lodges to represent them in the next succeeding Communication only of the Grand Lodge, and who, during such Communication, and in the absence of the Master and Wardens thereof, shall be entitled to cast the vote of their respective Lodges on all questions arising in the Grand Lodges wherein a vote is taken by Lodges & Members, pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas.*

*(c) The Lodges will be collectively referred to as "Lodges"*

## ARTICLE IV

### OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

Section 1-6 No change

#### Section 7. - **Mode of Election**

(a) The presiding officer shall request the Members to nominate some skillful Brother or Brethren for the office of Grand Master. Should only one name be placed in nomination, the vote shall be taken without *written* ballot. Should more than one Brother be placed in nomination, [~~the members shall prepare their written ballots for Grand Master~~], *the vote shall be taken by written ballot of Lodges & Members pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 1, Constitution of the Grand Lodge*, to be collected by the Grand Deacons (and such others as may be appointed to assist them), who shall examine the same at *or near* the Grand Secretary's desk and announce to the presiding officer *the number of written ballots cast for each nominee*, and *the presiding officer* shall, in either case, proclaim the Brother receiving the majority of all votes cast as the Grand Master of Masons of Texas.

(b) The Grand Master-elect shall nominate some skillful Brother for his Deputy, and the Members may nominate one or more *additional* Brethren [~~in opposition~~], if they desire. If only one nomination is made, the vote shall be taken without *written* ballot, but if more than one Brother is placed in nomination, the *written* ballot shall be taken as in the election of Grand Master.

(c) In like manner shall the election of Grand Wardens, and other elective Grand Officers be conducted, except that the nominations thereof shall be made by Members only.

## ARTICLE V – VI – No Change

## ARTICLE VII

### MANNER OF VOTING IN THE GRAND LODGE

#### Section 1. **Voting by “Lodges and Members” and Otherwise.**

All questions shall be determined by a majority of votes cast as follows:

(a) In fixing the time for the Annual Communication, or whenever the representatives of twenty-five Lodges shall demand it, the vote shall be taken “by Lodges and Members”. In all other cases, where not specially provided otherwise, it shall be taken by a vote of the Members present.

(b) The vote “by Lodges and Members” shall be in the following manner: The Masters, Wardens, ~~or [and proxy]~~ *the proxy* of Lodges, *in the absence of the Master and Wardens*, present and entitled to vote shall vote as one body and shall collectively constitute the ~~[representative body or]~~ the “Lodges”; and the Grand Officers, *Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Worshipful Masters*, present and entitled to vote, shall vote as one body and shall collectively alone constitute the ~~[other body or the]~~ “Members”.

(d) No Change

(c) When the vote is taken “by Lodges and Members” each Lodge represented by *its Master or Wardens or Proxy* is entitled to three votes, to be cast by its representatives collectively; and *Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, or a Past Worshipful Masters*, present ~~[in person is]~~ and entitled to ~~[one]~~ vote shall vote as one body and alone constitute the other body ~~or the~~ of “Members”, and each Member shall be entitled to one vote. ~~In other cases each representative and each member is entitled to one vote.~~

(d) No Change

(e) *In all cases when the vote is not taken by Lodges & Members, pursuant to Article VII, Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas, each Member of The Grand Lodge of Texas present and voting is entitled to one vote. The vote may be taken by show of hands or ballot books or by written ballot as the Grand Master may direct.*

## Section 2. No Member Can Cast More Than Four Votes.

(a) No Member shall have more than one vote unless he is also a representative, ~~[and in no case can one Brother cast more than four votes, and cannot represent other than his own Lodge.]~~

Add paragraph b and c

(b) *If a Member is a Grand Lodge Officer, Past Grand Master, Past Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Warden, or a Past Worshipful Masters, and he is also a Master, Warden or Proxy of a Lodge duly attending an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and he is voting pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 1 (c), he may cast up to three (3) votes for his Lodge and one (1) vote as a Member.*

(c) *In no case can one Brother cast more than four (4) votes, and no Brother can represent other than his own Lodge when voting by Lodges and Members.*

Section 3.- **Presiding Officer Votes in Case of a Tie.** In case of a tie in [a] vote by Members present, the presiding officer shall, in addition to his own vote, ~~[give the casting]~~ *cast the deciding vote.*

Add paragraph-(a)

*(a) In the case of a tie vote in a vote by Lodges and Members, the presiding officer shall not be entitled to cast the deciding vote, unless the vote is tied on more than two consecutive ballots.*

Elmer Murphey, III, PM, Chairman  
Civil Law Committee

## RESOLUTION NO. 9

### Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, Chapter 16 - Title I, **GRAND LODGE PERMANENT COMMITTEES**, Article 118, **Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee**, states,

“The Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee shall work in cooperation with the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School and under its direction, to assist the graduates of said Home and School in securing employment and to become established in the business and social life of the State.”;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas (“MHS”) in Fort Worth was established in 1898 and the home and school of the MHS closed in 2005;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas has provided education and care for over 3,500 students during its 107 year existence;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home Ex-Students Association has a present membership of approximately 900;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home Ex-Students Association has an annual reunion and the former students of all ages attend for the weekend;

WHEREAS, the Masonic fraternity desires to receive periodic updates on the overall well-being of the members of the Masonic Home Ex-Students Association;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 118 is amended to read as follows:

*“The Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee shall work in cooperation with the Board of Directors and staff of the Masonic Home and School of Texas [and under its direction,] to [assist the graduates of said Home and School in securing employment and to become established in the business and social life of the State.] communicate with the former students and graduates of the home and school (each of which closed in 2005) of the Masonic Home and School of Texas through the Masonic Home Ex-Students Association. The said Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee shall provide a report at each Annual Communication.”*

Elmer Murphy, III, PM  
Paul D. Underwood, PM  
Charles B. Cockrell, PM  
James D. Nyfeler, Sr., PM  
John R. Clements, Sr., PM  
Masonic Home and School Board

## RESOLUTION NO. 10

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas, at its organization in 1837 did undertake to provide for the maintenance of the widows of Texas Master Masons and for the education and maintenance of orphans of Texas Master Masons who reside in the State of Texas as its charitable purpose;

WHEREAS, the home and school, heretofore established in 1898 and maintained by The Grand Lodge of Texas, at Fort Worth, Texas, was a means for the attainment of the commendable purposes above set forth;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas has historically admitted widows of Texas Master Masons by paying for their residence, support, and care for life at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, operated by The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas;

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas is a 501(c)(10) fraternal organization, donations to which are not tax deductible;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas was organized as an entity separate and apart from The Grand Lodge of Texas, so as to obtain

recognition of tax exemption of the Masonic Home and School of Texas under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and make donations thereto tax deductible;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas, by and through its Articles of Association and by such Articles of Association, adopted the aforementioned charitable purpose and continued operation of the home and school in Fort Worth;

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas membership voted to close the home and school in Fort Worth, Texas in December 2003, when, at the 2003 Grand Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of Texas, the following Resolution was passed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Home and School cease operation and be closed as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of The Grand Lodge in cooperation with the Directors of the Masonic Home and School be directed to initiate all necessary actions to comply with this directive in a masonic manner to accomplish an orderly, efficient and legal closing of the Home and School, and report their actions at the 2004 Grand Annual Communication.”;

WHEREAS, in accordance with said Resolution, the Trustees of The Grand Lodge in cooperation with the Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas closed its home and school located at 3600 Wichita Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76119 on or about June 5, 2005, following the last day of the school’s 2004-2005 school year;

WHEREAS, despite the closure of the home and school, the Charitable Purpose of the Masonic Home and School of Texas to provide for the support and maintenance of widows of Texas Master Masons and for the education and maintenance of needy children who reside in the State of Texas, said needy children being any child either affiliated or unaffiliated with a Texas Master Mason that qualifies for assistance from the Masonic Home and School of Texas, has remained the same;

WHEREAS, in 2010, The Grand Lodge of Texas membership voted to amend Article X of the Constitution to: (1) remove the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Texas as members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas; and (2) remove the Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden as interim members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas during any Board member vacancies;

WHEREAS, it serves the purposes of The Grand Lodge of Texas and The Masonic Home and School of Texas for The Grand Lodge of Texas and The Masonic Home and School of Texas to ratify and formally reaffirm their status as wholly separate legal entities;

WHEREAS, further revisions to the Constitution and Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas are necessary to properly and legally ratify and reaffirm the closure of the home and school and the legal separation of the Masonic Home and School of Texas from The Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, The Masonic Home and School of Texas shall continue to be recognized by The Grand Lodge of Texas as a means for the attainment of the commendable purposes above set forth, and its future growth and expansion in beneficence and usefulness will ever be the subject of constant care and solicitude of the Master Masons of The Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas, by and through its Board of Directors, does hereby pledge anew its sacred honor to the accomplishment of its noble Charitable Purpose, and will devote to its fully and continued realization the financial resources at its command and all that may be achieved by the earnest thought, generous hearts, and willing hands of our great Fraternity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the following revisions be made to the Constitution and Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas concerning the Masonic Home and School of Texas:

**THE STATUTES  
being the  
CODE OF MASONIC LAWS  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS  
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
AND SUBORDINATE LODGES  
UNDER ITS JURISDICTION**

**CHAPTER 11 – TITLE I**

[Art. 51. (64). ~~**Home and School Funds.**~~ At the end of each calendar month the Grand Secretary shall issue warrants in favor of the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School for all sums of money credited to accounts the funds of which belong to said Home and School. A separate warrant shall be issued against each such account and must show on its face the account on which it is drawn, whether it be on the special per capita tax; or otherwise. (Revised 1989)]

**CHAPTER 16 – TITLE 1**

Art. 126b. **Civil Law.** To the Committee on Civil Law shall be referred all questions of title to property owned or claimed by this Grand Lodge or by any one or more of its Constituent Lodges and, also, all titles, deeds, mortgages, and other documents relating to real estate owned or claimed by this Grand Lodge or by any one or more of its Constituent Lodges; ~~[provided that this Article shall not apply to any property, real or personal, owned or claimed by, or held for the use and benefit of, the Masonic Home and School]~~. It shall also be the duty of this Committee and of its Chairman and several members, upon the request of the Grand Master, to counsel and advise him, upon any civil law legal matter arising in the course of his administration and the advisability of employing legal counsel in regard thereto.

**[CHAPTER 18—TITLE I]****~~MASONIC HOME AND SCHOOL~~**

*For “Resources Pledged To” see Constitution, Art. ), Sec. 1;*

*For “Funds for Support Of see Constitution, Art 2 Sec. 3;*

*For “Board of Directors, Powers, etc.,” see Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 4;*

*For “Administration of Funds” see Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 5*

Art. 145. (179). **Annual Audit and Report.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School shall annually audit or cause to be audited the accounts of its Treasurer, and make an annual report to this Grand Lodge of the condition of said Home and its finances, including a tabulated statement of receipts and disbursements in relation thereto, and balances on hand to the credit of the several accounts.

Art. 146. (180). **Use of Funds.** Except as otherwise provided, any and all funds coming into the hands of the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School from the revenues of this Grand Lodge, and from all other sources, including interest arising from the endowment fund, may be used by said Board of Directors for the maintenance and operation of said Home and School; for the support of widows of Master Masons cared for under arrangements made with the Texas Masonic Retirement Center maintained by the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and for the erection of new buildings, improvements on existing structures, improvements for the purposes of said Home and School and for other necessary expenses.

Art. 147. (181). **Endowment Fund.** All stocks, bonds, and other securities, including loans on real estate or personal property, now in the hands of the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School shall be kept in a separate account and be known as the “Endowment Fund.” All revenue arising from the degree fee of twenty-five dollars assessed by this Grand Lodge for the



use and benefit of said Home and School shall, upon receipt thereof by the Treasurer of said Home and School be promptly credited to the account of said Endowment Fund. Likewise any and all bequests, devises, and donations made specifically to said fund; and all appropriations made by the Board of Directors to said fund out of the current revenues or surplus funds in the hands of its Treasurer, shall be so credited.

**Art. 148. (182). Endowment Fund.** Fifty percent (50%) of the gain over basis only of the Endowment Fund as determined at the end of the preceding calendar quarter, not to exceed an accumulated total of \$500,000.00, may be used for improvements and operations of said Masonic Home and School when authorized by the Board of Directors of said Home and School. Otherwise, no part of the Endowment Fund except interest arising from investments thereof, shall be used for any purpose whatsoever, unless specifically authorized by this Grand Lodge. The Endowment Fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the direct control and supervision of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas. (Revised 2000)

**Art. 149. (183). Withdrawals from General Fund.** No funds shall be withdrawn from the General Fund of the Masonic Home and School of Texas unless previously appropriated for the purpose by the Board of Directors of said Masonic Home and School of Texas, or by a resolution of this Grand Lodge. All withdrawals must bear the signatures of at least two bonded officials designated for the purpose by the Board of Directors.

**Art. 150. (184). Release of Loans.** In all cases where loans are made in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas, and such loans have been secured by liens, mortgages, trust deeds, or other instruments, in favor of said Grand Lodge, and when any of said loans, including interest and other legal charges, have been fully paid, the President of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas is authorized and empowered, and upon request shall execute and deliver to the person entitled to receive it, a release or legal acquittance therefor, in the usual legal form, and in the name of, and as the act of The Grand Lodge of Texas. All such releases or acquittances shall be as effective and as binding upon this Grand Lodge as if specifically authorized by special resolution in each particular case.

**Art. 151. (184a). Mutation of Securities.** In all cases where bonds, securities, notes and other evidences of indebtedness are held in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home and School, whether acquired by gift, devise, or purchase, or in any other manner, and whether belonging to the Endowment Fund or any other fund of said Home, if in the judgment of a majority of the Board of Directors of said Home it is to the best interest of the Home to sell, assign, exchange or compromise same, said Board may authorize its President

and the Treasurer of said Masonic Home and School, or either of them, to sell, assign, exchange, or compromise, compound and settle same for such consideration and on such terms as the said Board may determine, and to execute in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas such instruments as may be reasonably necessary to consummate transactions, all without recourse and without warranty except as against those holding by, through or under The Grand Lodge of Texas. Any corporate stocks or other personal property owned or that may hereafter be acquired in any manner by The Grand Lodge of Texas for the use and benefit of said Home may be sold, assigned, exchanged, or compromised, compounded, and settled in like manner. All such transactions, referred to herein, heretofore, or hereafter so consummated shall be as effective and as binding upon this Grand Lodge as if specifically authorized by special resolution of The Grand Lodge of Texas in each particular case.

Art. 152. (185). **Sale of Lands.** In case any lands shall be acquired by The Grand Lodge of Texas under any foreclosure proceedings, or sales, or by voluntary conveyances, under or by virtue of any mortgage lien, deed of trust, or other instrument, or by gift, donation, deed, or bequest, the said lands may be sold by the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School for such price, and on such terms as it may determine, and the Grand Master is authorized, empowered and directed to sign, acknowledge and deliver to the purchaser such deed or deeds of the conveyance in the name and as the act of The Grand Lodge of Texas, as may be necessary to convey legal title thereto, and complete the agreement. Each such conveyance shall be as binding upon the said Grand Lodge as if it were specifically authorized in a separate resolution adopted in each such case; provided, such deeds or conveyances shall not be construed to bind in any manner the said Grand Lodge to warrant the title to any of such lands so sold and conveyed, except as to persons claiming by, through or under it.

Art. 153. **Sale of Site Authorized.** The Grand Lodge Trustees (and the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School (the MHS), to the extent legally necessary,) are authorized to develop, lease, sell, transfer and/or convey all, or part of the land (the "Land") on which the MHS is located, and any improvements thereon, and any equipment, inventory, or any other personal property (the "Personalty") located on the Land and which may be owned by the Grand Lodge of Texas, without limitation, including possible long-term use by a tenant and possible transfer of the mineral rights, if determined to be prudent in the opinion of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (New 2005)

Art. 154. (187). **Leases.** The Grand Master, or the President of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School, is empowered to sign any lease contract for any purpose, approved by said Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School, on land or buildings owned by The Grand Lodge of Texas for the use and benefit of said Masonic Home and School.

~~Art. 155. (188). **Donations and Bequests.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is authorized to receive donations, devises or bequests from Lodges, other Masonic bodies, individuals, and from other sources, and to hold the title to such property, real, personal or mixed, in the name of The Grand Lodge of Texas, for the use and benefit of said Masonic Home and School.~~

~~Art. 156. (189). **Erection of Buildings.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is hereby authorized to erect such buildings as may be needed from time to time, and to make such improvements on the property under its control as may be necessary to equip it for the purposes indicated by this Section, and to pay for same out of available current funds under its control.~~

~~Art. 157. **Rules.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School ("MHS") is authorized to make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations, not in conflict with Masonic Law, for the management of the business affairs of the MHS, for the government of the MHS, for referrals to children's services, and for the funding of children's services for qualified applicants thereto. The~~

~~Priority for the applications of needy and qualified children for the funding of children's services shall be as follows:~~

~~(1) All needy and qualified children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas shall receive first consideration for the funding of children's services.~~

~~(2) All needy and qualified great-grandchildren, step-children, nieces and nephews of Master Masons in Texas shall receive consideration for the funding of children's services provided adequate funds are available and their funding of children's services would not be cause to deny the funding of children's services to needy and qualified children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas.~~

~~(3) Any needy and qualified child who is a resident of the State of Texas and who is recommended by a Texas Mason shall receive consideration for the funding of children's services, provided that adequate funds are available and such funding of children's services would not be cause to deny the funding of children's services to a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, step-child, niece or nephew of a Master Mason in Texas.~~

~~Provided further that at no time shall a needy and qualified child or grandchild of a Master Mason be denied funding of children's services unless and except all available funds have been expended for children and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas. Provided further that at no time~~

shall a needy and qualified great-grandchild, step-child, niece or nephew of a Master Mason in Texas be denied funding of children's services unless and except all available funds have been expended for children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-children, nieces or nephews of Master Masons in Texas. All applicants for the funding of children's services shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School in accordance with its authority to make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations as heretofore granted under the provisions of this Article. (Revised 2008)

**Art. 158. Employees: Appointment; Duties; Salaries.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School shall appoint a superintendent and all other employees of said Home and School, define their duties, fix their salaries, and may remove such officer or employees, or any of them, whenever it may deem that the interest of said Home and School may require it.

**Art. 159. Treasurer: Board to Nominate.** At the annual election of officers of this Grand Lodge, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School shall submit, for the approval of this Grand Lodge, the name of the treasurer elected by it for said Home and School, who shall be a Master Mason and a member, in good standing, of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and may be a member of said Board. He shall serve until his successor is elected and qualifies.

**Art. 160. Treasurer: Bond.** Before assuming the duties of his office, the Treasurer of the Masonic Home and School shall give bond for such amount as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors thereof, payable to the order of The Grand Lodge of Texas; conditioned that he will well and truly account to this Grand Lodge for all money, property or other things of value coming into his possession or under his control which may belong to the Grand Lodge of Texas, or to said Home and School. Such bond shall be duly executed by him and a surety company duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas, or by two or more good and sufficient sureties, whose combined assets, above exemptions, must be at least double the amount of said bond. Said bond shall be subject to the approval of the said Board of Directors. Such Treasurer shall be subject to the direction of said Board of Directors, and shall receive such compensation as said Board may determine, not exceeding \$500.00 per annum.

**Art. 161. Widows Supported at Texas Masonic Retirement Center.** The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, having established a home for the care of aged Masons, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is hereby authorized to enter into such arrangements with the Board of Directors of said Texas Masonic Retirement Center for the care

and maintenance of the widows supported by said Home and School, as will best serve the purposes for which both Homes are established.

~~Art. 162. **Students Visit Annual Communication.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School is authorized to bring such portion of the students of the Home and School to any Annual or other Communication of this Grand Lodge which said Board may deem expedient. All expenses of such students shall be paid by this Grand Lodge.]~~

## CHAPTER 19 – TITLE I

### GRAND LODGE REVENUES

*For “Additional Contributions” see Constitution, Arts. IX and X.*

**Art. 163. Fees, Dues and Contributions.** Each subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Secretary fees, dues, and contributions as follows:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. For each duplicate Charter the sum of .....  | \$ 2.50 |
| 2. For each Dispensation for conferring degrees the sum of .....  | 2.00    |
| 3. For each diploma (except to Past Grand Masters) the sum of .....   | 2.00    |
| 4. For each degree conferred in the Grand Lodge the sum of .....  | 30.00   |
| 5. For the use of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, for each Master Mason's Degree conferred, which the Lodge shall collect from each applicant for said degree, in addition to the regular fee charged by the Lodge, and which sum, when collected, shall be remitted by the Lodge to the Grand Secretary with the annual returns, as provided in Article 318, the sum of.....<br>(Revised 2006) | 25.00   |
| 6. For the Grand Lodge General Fund, to be remitted by the Lodge with its annual returns, for each degree conferred as required by Section 2 of Article IX of the Constitution the sum of .....   | 1.00    |
| 7. For the use of the Masonic Home and School of Texas for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be remitted annually with its returns, the sum of \$1.25 required by Section 2 Article IX of the Constitution, plus the sum of \$3.75 for the use of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc., the total sum of .....  | 5.00    |
| 8. For the “Grand Lodge Assistance Fund,” for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be paid annually with its return, the sum of .....  | .25     |
| 9. For the use in financing the Grand Lodge Employees Retirement Fund Program, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be remitted annually with its returns, the sum of .....  | .10     |
| 10. For the Grand Lodge General fund to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of \$.50 required by Section 2 of Article IX plus \$17.15, the total sum of .....  | \$17.65 |
| (Revised 2010)  |         |

- 11. For the Grand Lodge Library and Museum to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of ..... 1.00
- 12. For the use of the George Washington Masonic Memorial for each Entered Apprentice degree conferred, the Lodge shall collect from each applicant for said degree in addition to the regular fees charged by the Lodge, the sum of ..... 5.00
- 13. For the Masonic Youth Foundation, to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of ..... .10  
(Adopted 2003)
- 14. Such other fees, dues and contributions, if any, now or hereafter required by the Constitution or Laws of this Grand Lodge

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of Article 488 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge, the increase would become effective on June 24, 2012 and due with Lodge returns no later than August 15, 2012. (Revised 2010)

The vote on fees, dues and contributions shall be by Lodges and members on written ballot.

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Elmer Murphey III, Chairman, PM  
 John R. Clements, Sr., PM  
 Charles B. Cockrell, PM  
 Paul D. Underwood, PM  
 James D. Nyfeler, Sr., PM  
 Masonic Home and School Board

## RESOLUTION NO. 11

### Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas, at its organization in 1837 did undertake to provide for the maintenance of the widows of Texas Master Masons and for the education and maintenance of orphans of Texas Master Masons who reside in the State of Texas as its charitable purpose;

WHEREAS, the home and school, heretofore established in 1898 and maintained by The Grand Lodge of Texas, at Fort Worth, Texas, was a means for the attainment of the commendable purposes above set forth;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas has historically admitted widows of Texas Master Masons by paying for their residence, support, and care for life at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, operated by The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas;

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas is a 501(c)(10) fraternal organization, donations to which are not tax deductible;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas was organized as an entity separate and apart from The Grand Lodge of Texas, so as to obtain recognition of tax exemption of the Masonic Home and School of Texas under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and make donations thereto tax deductible;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas, by and through its Articles of Association and by such Articles of Association, adopted the aforementioned charitable purpose and continued operation of the home and school in Fort Worth;

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas membership voted to close the home and school in Fort Worth, Texas in December 2003, when, at the 2003 Grand Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of Texas, the following Resolution was passed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Home and School cease operation and be closed as soon as possible.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of The Grand Lodge in cooperation with the Directors of the Masonic Home and School be directed to initiate all necessary actions to comply with this directive in a masonic manner to accomplish an orderly, efficient and legal closing of the Home and School, and report their actions at the 2004 Grand Annual Communication.”;

WHEREAS, in accordance with said Resolution, the Trustees of The Grand Lodge in cooperation with the Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas closed its home and school located at 3600 Wichita Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76119 on or about June 5, 2005, following the last day of the school's 2004-2005 school year;

WHEREAS, despite the closure of the home and school, the Charitable Purpose of the Masonic Home and School of Texas to provide for the support and maintenance of widows of Texas Master Masons and for the education and maintenance of needy children who reside in the State of Texas, said needy children being any child either affiliated or unaffiliated with a Texas Master Mason that qualifies for assistance from the Masonic Home and School of Texas, has remained the same;

WHEREAS, in 2010, The Grand Lodge of Texas membership voted to amend Article X of the Constitution to: (1) remove the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Texas as members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas; and (2) remove the Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden as interim members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas during any Board member vacancies;

WHEREAS, it serves the purposes of The Grand Lodge of Texas and The Masonic Home and School of Texas for The Grand Lodge of Texas and The Masonic Home and School of Texas to ratify and formally reaffirm their status as wholly separate legal entities;

WHEREAS, further revisions to the Constitution and Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas are necessary to properly and legally ratify and reaffirm the closure of the home and school and the legal separation of the Masonic Home and School of Texas from The Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, The Masonic Home and School of Texas shall continue to be recognized by The Grand Lodge of Texas as a means for the attainment of the commendable purposes above set forth, and its future growth and expansion in beneficence and usefulness will ever be the subject of constant care and solicitude of the Master Masons of The Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School of Texas, by and through its Board of Directors, does hereby pledge anew its sacred honor to the accomplishment of its noble Charitable Purpose, and will devote to its fully and continued realization the financial resources at its command and all that may be achieved by the earnest thought, generous hearts, and willing hands of our great Fraternity;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the following revisions be made to the Constitution and Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas concerning the Masonic Home and School of Texas:

## **CONSTITUTION AND ANCIENT CHARGES OF A FREEMASON**

### **ARTICLE IX**

#### **RETURNS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2. – **Annual Contributions.** Each Lodge shall pay annually, and at such time as is or may be provided by law, as a contribution to the Grand Lodge the sum of fifty cents for each member on its rolls, and one dollar for each degree conferred, all of which shall constitute a part of the General Fund *of The Grand Lodge of Texas*, and shall pay annually the further sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents for each *Master Mason* on its roll to maintain the widows *of the deceased Texas Master Masons* and to educate and maintain the [orphan] *needy children of deceased Texas Master Masons and needy children and families in Texas*, under such regulations and by such agencies as are now or may hereafter be provided in this Constitution and Bylaws; provided, that any further or additional sum may be added to the above by law, at such time as it may be deemed advisable, for the use and benefit of the General Fund or for the use and benefit of the [Masonic Orphans Home]*Masonic Home and School of Texas*.

(Amendment adopted December 6, 1922.)

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

## ARTICLE X

### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Section 1. – **Honor and Resources Pledged.** The Grand Lodge of Texas, having from its organization in 1837 to the present time, undertaken to provide for the maintenance of the widows and for the education and maintenance of the orphaned children of the deceased [~~members of our Fraternity~~] *Texas Master Masons* does hereby pledge anew its sacred honor to the accomplishment of this noble design, and will devote to its full and continued realization the financial resources at its command and all that may be achieved by the earnest thought, generous hearts, and willing hands of our great Fraternity.

Section 2. – **Masonic Home and School.** The Masonic Home and School heretofore established and supported by the Grand Lodge, at Fort Worth, is recognized as a means for the attainment of the commendable purposes above set forth, and its future growth and expansion in beneficence and usefulness will ever be the subject of our constant care and solicitude.

Section 3. – **Provisions for Widows and Orphans.** To maintain the widows *of the deceased Texas Master Masons* and to educate and maintain the needy children [~~and grandchildren of Master Masons in Texas~~] *of Texas Master Masons*, [~~and such other children who qualify under the provisions of the Laws of this Grand Lodge~~] *and needy children and families in Texas*; the following funds are hereby dedicated and set apart, to wit:

(a) The annual contributions from each Lodge of one dollar and twenty-five cents for each *Master Mason* on its rolls, in this Constitution provided for said purposes.

(Revised 1990)

#### Section 4 – **Board of Directors.**

(a) The [~~powers and duties~~] *charity* of the Grand Lodge in relation to these benevolent purposes toward the widows and orphans of [~~our deceased Brethren~~] *Texas Master Masons* and such other *needy children and families in Texas* [~~who qualify under the provisions of the Laws of this Grand Lodge~~] are hereby *completely and entirely* delegated to, transferred to and vested in the *Masonic Home and School of Texas, through its* a Board of [~~five~~] Directors. Five members of said Board of Directors shall be elected by the Grand Lodge, from its membership, to serve a term of five years each, one of whom

shall be elected at each Annual Communication at the same time and in the same manner as the Grand Officers are elected, the present members of said Board to serve out their respective terms, and all elections to fill vacancies created by the death or resignation of such elective members on said Board shall be for the unexpired term, only.

(b) Said Board of Directors shall have exclusive control and management of said Masonic Home and School *of Texas* and the investment of the funds belonging thereto. ~~[No member of said Board shall ever borrow, directly or indirectly, any of the funds under its control, or make loans to any member of any committee, whose duties require the auditing of the accounts of said Board.]~~

~~(c) The members of said Board of Directors shall not receive any compensation as such, the honor and distinction of serving the Craft in a capacity so useful and beneficent being deemed a sufficient reward for their services.]~~

**Section 5. – Funds Administered by Grand Lodge and Board of Directors.**

The manner in which said funds shall be administered and expended for the accomplishment of the purposes hereinbefore disclosed, and the particular individuals or class of individuals who may receive the benefit of said funds, are matters entirely within the control of said Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas.

(Amendment adopted December 4, 1947.) (Revised 2010)

Elmer Murphey, III, PM, Chairman  
John R. Clements, Sr., PM  
Charles B. Cockrell, PM  
Paul D. Underwood, PM  
James D. Nyfeler, Sr., PM  
Masonic Home and School Board

## **RESOLUTION NO. 12**

**Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\* and Masonic Jurisprudence**

WHEREAS prior to the 2011 Annual Communication, under Article 393 of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas if a Petitioner for the degrees of Masonry in a subordinate Lodge had a criminal felony conviction he could disclose that conviction on the Petition and the members of that Lodge would

consider that conviction in determining if he should receive the degrees of Masonry;

WHEREAS, at the 2011 Annual Communication Article 393 was amended so that a Petitioner who has a felony conviction “shall be deemed to be unqualified to receive the degrees”;

WHEREAS, after considering the impact of that amendment, the undersigned believes that upon the Petitioner’s disclosure of the felony conviction on the Petition, the members present on the day the ballot on that Petition is taken should determine if he is a man of good character on that day;

WHEREAS, further even after the 2011 change in Article 393, a Mason who is thereafter convicted of a felony could apply for reinstatement, and therefore why should a Petitioner who made a mistake and has paid his debt to society and is a good man when he petitions, not be eligible to petition to become a Mason;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED ,Article 393 should be amended to read in verbatim as follows:

Art. 393. **Qualifications.** A candidate for the degrees of Masonry must be free-born, sound in mind, of good moral character, a full eighteen years of age on or before the day his petition is received by the Lodge, and without maim or defect which will render him incapable of earning his own living or receiving and imparting, Masonically, all that is required by the ritual of the several degrees: provided that as to physical maims and defects Articles 27 and 401 of these Laws shall be applicable, ~~[provided further that if a candidate has been finally convicted of a felony offense, he shall be deemed disqualified to receive the degrees.]~~ After the foregoing requirements have been strictly met, the question of the candidate’s mental, moral, and such physical qualifications as do not come within the restrictions of Art. 401 is one to be decided within the sound discretion of the members of the Lodge petitioned.

W.M. ‘Mike’ Gower, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 13

### Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, there does not seem to be a definitive provision in Grand Lodge Laws pertaining to when the Uniform Receipt Card should be issued to a member of the Lodge when paying his dues, and,

WHEREAS, the cost of postage continues to rise to the point that some Lodges resort to the “honor system” by issuing a dues card with the dues notice, simply requesting a timely return of the Lodge dues, and,

WHEREAS, such procedure is not only contrary to normal accounting practice, but also hinders the possibility of receiving updated address information on the check received as payment of dues, and in essence amounts to the Lodge sponsoring a loan to the member pending his payment of dues in a timely manner,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 313 be amended as follows:

**Art. 313. Uniform Receipt Card.** Lodges shall use no other receipt for dues than the one provided by the Grand Secretary *which shall be issued only after receipt of a member's dues in full unless otherwise exempt by the Grand Lodge or by previous action taken by the Lodge to remit such dues. Such card shall be signed by the Lodge Secretary who shall apply the imprint of the Lodge Seal thereon before issuing same.*

Marvin Murphy, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 14

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Work, and Civil Law**

WHEREAS, society has produced those who have entered churches, theaters, cafeterias, schools and other places with the intent of killing as many people as possible, and

WHEREAS, there are those who have hatred for Masonry, and

WHEREAS, Masons in our Texas Lodges are a perfect target for those so inclined, and

WHEREAS, Brethren in our Texas Lodges should have the option of defending themselves,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Art. 226 of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be changed to read as follows:

Art. 226. Weapons. Weapons, either offensive or defensive, must not be carried into the Lodgeroom, *except Lodges may designate members who have concealed handgun licenses and/or members who are certified peace officers to be armed with handguns in the Lodgeroom.*

Roland G. Havens, PM

## **RESOLUTION NO. 15**

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, the Lodge desires to adopt a new name more representative of the desire of its membership, and

WHEREAS, a motion to change the name of New Salem Lodge No.87 to Alex Tully Masonic Lodge No. 87 was offered at a stated meeting on January 21,2014, and unanimously adopted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that New Salem Lodge No. 87 now known as Alex Tully Masonic Lodge No. 87.

New Salem Lodge No. 87

## **RESOLUTION NO. 16**

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, the prohibition of publication of names, as set forth in Article 405 (a) of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, may not serve the best interest of Texas Freemasonry, and

WHEREAS, publication (communication) by email or other closed Masonic email groups the names of Petitioners, Candidates, Entered Apprentice Masons, and Fellowcraft masons, could well serve the best interests of Texas Freemasonry, where knowledge would be an encouragement to increased attendance and involvement at conferral of Masonic Degrees and Blue Lodge meetings, and would expand Masonic Brotherhood and fellowship and fraternal conviviality among and between Brother Masons,

WHEREAS, recognizing the “computer high technical age” in which our society now exists, the time has now come for change, and email being a highly prevalent means of effective communication as well as other social media, the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas should allow this technology to be used for the beneficial sharing of important information by and between Lodges, and Masonic Brethren, including communication of such names when appropriate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 405 (a) of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended to read as follows:



Art. 405a. **Publication of Names Prohibited.** The names of Petitioners, Candidates, Entered Apprentice Masons and Fellowcraft Masons shall not be published in a *public* Lodge newsletter or any *public* news media [~~public or private~~] *except, it shall be permissible for a lodge to publish (communicate) to its members by email or closed Masonic email groups the names of petitioners, candidates, Entered Apprentice Masons and Fellowcraft Masons. Emails shall include a disclaimer by that Lodge stating "this communication is intended only for private information of the recipient of same, and the forwarding or other providing of same to anyone other than a member of the Lodge originating this information is strictly prohibited."*

Jeffrey K. Haven, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 17

### Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, in recent years, many structures are not constructed of brick, stone, or other types of masonry and now include metal and other materials, and

WHEREAS, Article 178 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, only allow for the leveling of cornerstone for brick, stone, and other masonry material and specifically delineates the material and description of how a cornerstone must be constructed and to what type of structure it must be adhered to, and

WHEREAS, this time old practice should be modified to allow the Grand Lodge to continue to promote Masonry through more modern ceremonies regarding buildings, monuments, markers, plaques, and other type of dedications the Grand Master would deem proper at the time, and

WHEREAS, a few previous Grand Masters have already officiated over similar Grand Lodge ceremonies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article No. 178 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended to read:

Art. 178 (214). **Laying of Cornerstones, Monuments, Plaques, and Markers.** The Grand Lodge will not officiate in the Consecration, Dedication, or laying the cornerstones, *monuments, plaques, or markers* of any building unless it is of undoubted Masonic, public or sacred character. The laying of such cornerstones, *monuments, plaques, or markers may be either attached to the building in a manner that it is in public view, or in case of monuments, plaques, or markers, be prominently displayed in an area clearly visible to the public* [~~shall be limited to buildings constructed~~]

~~of brick, stone, or concrete; provided, substantial buildings of brick or stone veneer on steel or concrete supporting frame shall qualify. The]~~ *If it is an actual* cornerstone, it should be an actual stone, cubical in form, if practicable, upon the face of which should be carved the words “Leveled (or Laid) by The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.,” with the emblem and the year carved thereon. If desired, and the building is devoted to Masonic purposes, the name of the Grand Master may be carved thereon. The Grand Master’s name shall not be carved on the cornerstone of non-Masonic buildings. The other face of the stone may bear such inscription as may be necessary to describe the name of the institution erecting the building, its board of trustees, or other offices, but, under no circumstances shall the name of the architect, engineer, contractor, or builder, as such, be shown on the stone. Provided that in case such cornerstone shall be for a building devoted to other than Masonic purposes, the Grand Master shall have full power and discretion to determine whether said cornerstone shall be laid with Masonic ceremonies. Inscriptions on cornerstones of Government buildings, required by its regulations, are permissible. Cornerstones shall not be laid after the building is entirely completed. *Similar rules and conditions shall apply in the case of Monuments, Plaques, and Markers, with the exception that they may be constructed of other appropriate material and either permanently affixed to the structure or be mounted in a public area, in a manner befitting the dignity of Masonry.*

J. Weldon Clampitte, PM

## **RESOLUTION NO. 18**

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

WHEREAS, there are resolutions to be filed that will amend Title V, Masonic Disciplinary Procedures;

WHEREAS, the mediation procedures under the provisions of Article 126f, Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas have been very effective and should be mandatory;

WHEREAS, the mediation procedures should be used in regard to Masonic Disciplinary Procedures either controlled by the Texas Lodges or The Grand Lodge of Texas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 126f (3), Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

**Art. 126f. Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation No. 1 and 2.**

Paragraph. 1 and 2 no change

3. Any Lodge in which Masonic Charges are filed shall refer such pending charges within 10 days of receipt of the same through their District Deputy Grand Master, to the Grand Master, who[ ~~may~~] *shall* refer it to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation having jurisdiction over its location for [binding] mediation. The Committee shall proceed to attempt to resolve the charges, if possible, within 30 days of the referral, and report the result to the Grand Master and Worshipful Master of the Lodge in which such charges have been filed. The Committee may not act in a manner calculated to abridge or curtail rights granted or protected by the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, or in matters involving prosecutions for alleged civil/criminal violations, the laws of the State of Texas or any other State, or of the United States of America. Mediation is binding when signed by the parties thereto. A breach of the terms of the mediation agreement shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation that is subject to Masonic discipline pursuant to the provision of Title 5 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Elmer Murphy, III, PM, Chairman  
Civil Law Committee

## **RESOLUTION NO. 19**

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas has historically provided that the elections for Grand Master and other Grand Officers shall be by “written ballot”; and

WHEREAS, the procedure is often time-consuming while the written ballots are collected, sorted and counted; and

WHEREAS, in today’s technological advancements, electronic balloting has been refined and has been found to be both accurate and provides almost instantaneous results in the balloting procedure; and

WHEREAS, the use of electronic balloting is not expensive compared to the savings in time and accuracy provided.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article IV, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended to read as follows:

**Article IV – Officers of the Grand Lodge****Sections 1 – 6 - No Change****Section 7 – Mode of Elections.**

(a)The presiding officer shall request the members to nominate some skillful Brother or Brethren for the office of Grand Master. Should only one name be placed in nomination, the vote shall be taken without ballot. Should more than one Brother be placed in nomination, ~~[the members]~~ *those entitled to vote shall vote by either written or electronic ballot, the method of balloting to be determined by the Grand Master. If the Grand Master determines to have the vote by written ballot, those entitled to vote shall* prepare their written ballots for Grand Master, to be collected by the Grand Deacons (and such others as may be appointed to assist them), who shall examine the same at the Grand Secretary's desk and announce to the presiding office the number of votes cast for each nominee, and he shall, in either case, proclaim the Brother receiving the majority of all votes cast as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas. *If the Grand Master determines to have the vote by electronic ballot, those entitled to vote shall cast their ballot(s) by electronic devices provided the Grand Lodge. The votes cast shall be accumulated by the Grand Secretary who shall, in turn,* announce to the presiding office the majority of votes cast for each nominee, and he shall, in either case, proclaim the Brother receiving the majority of all votes cast as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas.

(b) and (c) No Change

Wendell Paul Miller, PM  
Edwin F. Kirkpatrick, PM  
Lawrence A. Winkle, PM

**RESOLUTION NO. 20****Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, upon the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death in 2011, Holland Lodge No. 1 wished to honor Colonel James Fannin, who served as the Lodge's Senior Deacon and who was executed at the massacre of Goliad on the order of General Santa Ana on Palm Sunday, by displaying his portrait in its Lodge room; and,

WHEREAS, many Lodges wish to honor their worthy brethren who have sacrificed on behalf of the Country, State, Masonry; and,

WHEREAS, Grand Master's Decision 1958-22 states that only "pictures of Past Masters and, of that greatest of all Masons, George Washington, can with propriety, be hung within the Lodge room."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that "Article 224b. **Portraits and Displays** in Lodge rooms" shall be and hereby is added to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas as follows:

*Art. 224b. Portraits and displays in Lodge rooms. Lodges may exhibit in their Lodge rooms portraits or displays honoring Master Masons who are or were at the time of their death in good standing.*

Holland Lodge No. 1

## RESOLUTION NO. 21

**Referred to Committee on Civil Law\* and Masonic Jurisprudence**

**SINCE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS PROPOSED RESOLUTION HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AND REJECTED BY VOTE OF THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 172 OF THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS, THIS RESOLUTION MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED AT THIS GRAND LODGE UNLESS TWO THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE LODGES AND MEMBERS PRESENT SO APPROVE.**

Whereas, Art. 340 requires permission to acquire, Sell or Mortgage Lodge Property, and

Whereas, Most Lodges do not Acquire, Sell or Mortgage Lodge property very often and it is not a normal activity of a lodge, and

Whereas, the Committee on Civil Law changes what they need to make the sale complete and causes unnecessary stress and delay on the Lodges that is attempting to acquire property, and

Whereas, at this time it may take the Lodges over six months to complete a simple transaction when it should only take about 45 days, and

Whereas, the Grand Lodge Law Art. 340 does not set out specific guidelines as to how to accomplish this type of activity in the law book, and

Whereas, Committee on Civil Law has a packet of guidelines that do not explain the steps as to accomplish this activity and it can be changed at the whim of the Civil Law Member that is looking at the paperwork,

Whereas, a similar resolution has been present to this Grand Lodge in 2012 and the required 3 years have not passed this resolution will need to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Lodges and Members present, as stated in Title I Chapter 20 Art. 172,

Therefore, be it resolved that Art. 340 be amended as follows;

**Art. 340 Permission to Acquire, Sell, or Mortgage Lodge Property**

A. (1) No change

(2) When application is made to the Grand Master by any Lodge for consent to acquire property as set out above, it shall be the duty of the lodge to furnish a full detailed description of the property and details of process that the Lodge is using to acquire the property, as may be required by the Grand Master who, upon receipt of such application, ~~[may]~~ shall refer the question to the Committee on Civil Law or any other Committee of the Grand Lodge for examination.

*The Grand Master will then appoint a member of Civil Law to contact the Lodge attempting to acquire or sell property within (5) five days and advise the Lodge as to the proper actions to be taken and paperwork that the Grand Lodge will require.*

*The Lodge will complete the required paperwork and submit the complete package to the Committee on Civil Law for their review. Within (15) fifteen days and no more than (20) twenty days after submission, the Committee on Civil Law will make contact with the lodge's representative before the next stated meeting so the representative can discuss the proposal with the members of the lodge.*

*The Lodge will take the recommendation that the Committee on Civil Law gives them and make amendments to the paperwork for the Committee on Civil Law to review and within (15) fifteen days the Committee on Civil Law will then make final corrections to any and all paperwork for the Lodge to make the proper corrections so the Lodge may close as soon as possible after the second stated meeting.*

*The time frame may be extended with a mutual agreement between the Committee on Civil Law and the lodge that is attempting to acquire or sell the property.*

(3) No Change

B. (1) No Change

(2) No Change

(3) No Change

Cale Clark Stephenson, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 22

### **Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence\* and Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, Article 172 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas states the Committee on Jurisprudence will be responsible to insure that all Resolutions are in the hands of the Grand Secretary by September following the filing of such Resolution and/or Recommendation on or before preceding May 15 or July 15 as the case may be. All such Resolutions and all Grand masters Recommendations are subject to amendment by the Grand Lodge in Annual Communications.

WHEREAS, the current wording and dates need to be modified in order for Lodges to have an extra month in which to discuss such Resolutions because a lot of small Lodges meet once a month and do not have sufficient time to properly go over these Resolutions prior to Grand Lodge Communications, giving Lodges an extra month in which to study said Resolutions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 172 be amended as follows:

**Art. 172. Resolutions: Law Changes; Charter Petitions.** All Resolutions proposing any change in the Laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than ~~[May 15]~~ *April 15* of each year.

(Paragraph 2.) All Grand Masters Recommendations proposing any change in the Laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than ~~[June 15]~~ *May 15* of each year. (balance of paragraph is unchanged)

(Paragraph 3.) The Grand Secretary shall, forthwith thereafter, deliver to each member of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence all Resolutions and Grand Master's Recommendations which have been filed with the Grand Secretary by ~~[May 15]~~ *April 15* or ~~[July 15]~~ *June 15* as the case may be. (balance of paragraph is unchanged)

(Paragraphs 4 & 5 no change.)

(Paragraph 6.) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence will be responsible to ensure that all Resolutions and Recommendations are in the hands of the Grand Secretary by ~~[September 15]~~ *August 15* following the filing of such Resolution and Recommendations on or before the preceding ~~[May 15]~~

*April 15* or ~~[July 15]~~ *June 15* as the case may be. All such Resolutions and all Grand Master's Recommendations are subject to amendment by the Grand Lodge in the Annual Communication. The proposer(s) of such Resolutions and/or the Grand Master furnishing any Recommendations will be notified personally that delivery to the Grand Secretary by ~~[September]~~ *August 15* has been effected.

(Paragraphs 7, 8 & 9 no change.)

(Paragraph 10.) All Resolutions proposing any change in this Grand Lodge or in its Laws shall be submitted in writing and in the manner herein prescribed either by a Lodge of its obedience or by a member of this Grand Lodge or as defined in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution. If submitted by a Lodge, the Secretary of same shall attest to it having been read and approved by a majority of its members present at a regular stated meeting of the Lodge held prior to ~~[May]~~ *April 15* of the year submitted to Grand Lodge.

(balance of paragraph is unchanged)

Submitted by,  
Liberty Hill Lodge No. 432

## **RESOLUTION NO. 23**

### **Referred to Committee on Work**

WHEREAS in 2007 Articles 331 and 332 were revised to allow stated and called meetings to be opened and closed in an Entered Apprenticed or Fellowcrafts Lodge without first opening in the Master's Lodge;

WHEREAS the Monitor of the Lodge only requires the Benediction to be delivered at the close of a Master's Lodge;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that page 7 of the Monitor of the Lodge be revised to require the same Benediction, as in the Master's Lodge, at the close of an Entered Apprenticed or Fellowcrafts Lodge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the esoteric work be revised to require the same ritual from the floor of the Lodge immediately preceding the Benediction, as in the Master's Lodge, at the close of an Entered Apprenticed or Fellowcrafts Lodge.

Lytton Springs Lodge #487



## RESOLUTION NO. 24

### **Referred to Committee on Work\* and Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, during the Grand Lodge Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 2006, a resolution was passed to allow the limited use of code or cipher book, and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Work stresses that **King Solomon and his Followers, Lone Star edition** currently being referred to by the members of this Grand Lodge is not an accurate translation of the Texas esoteric work, and

WHEREAS, the only code or cipher book that is currently available to the members of this Grand Lodge is the one that is entitled **King Solomon and his Followers, Lone Star edition**.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Work provide the Masons of Texas with an accurate code or cipher book to be adopted by this Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication in 2015, or that the esoteric work contained within the book entitled **King Solomon and his Followers, Lone Star edition** be automatically designated as the accepted esoteric work of The Grand Lodge of Texas.

J. Weldon Clampitte, PM

## RESOLUTION NO. 25

### **Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies\*, and Masonic Jurisprudence, and Civil Law**

Title V- Jurisdiction of Disciplinary Procedures of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F.& A.M.

WHEREAS, the redrafting of Title V of the Laws of Grand Lodge of Texas was first brought before the Masons of Texas at the Grand Lodge session held on December 5, 6, & 7, 2002, eventually to result in restructured procedures as finally approved by Grand Lodge at the 2004 Annual Grand Communication.

WHEREAS, in essence, since going into effect at the onset of Grand Lodge Year 2005, the benefits of revising Title V would seem to be questionable, especially pertaining to expeditious handling of disciplinary charges against accused brethren.

WHEREAS, the removal of the Lodges as participants in the disciplinary process has become rather contentious.

WHEREAS, the rather obvious and onerous administrative burden placed upon each Grand Master's many and equally important duties imposed upon him.

WHEREAS, the very nature of the present procedures required the Grand Secretary's office to be a buffer between the Grand Master and the legal process, requiring his office to perform duties that are inconsistent with his defined responsibilities as Grand Secretary. It might also be noted that the legal aspects of the present system unfairly places personnel of the Grand Secretary's office in the unfair position of interpretation.

WHEREAS, actually, the many facets involved in the present Masonic Disciplinary Violations process have become so unwieldy and burdensome that the Grand Master and Grand Secretary have been forced to implement additional administrative procedures to better handle the large number of alleged disciplinary violations being referred to the Grand Master for his disposition.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, for these and other valid reasons that Title V of the Laws of Grand Lodge of Texas as approved.

December 4, 2004 be and is hereby rescinded as of June 23, 2014 in its entirety, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas as effective prior to December 4, 2004 be and is hereby adopted as of June 24, 2014 to become effective December 2014 same to be distributed with all law changes and other Grand Lodge actions taken and approved at the 2014 Annual Communications, as follows:

*Title V*  
*Discipline*  
*Chapter 1- Title V*  
*Jurisdiction of Offenses*

*Art. 494. (527). **Powers, Jurisdiction and duty of Lodge.** Each Lodge has the power,*

*Jurisdiction and duty to try and punish by reprimand, suspension or expulsion any Mason, according to such rules as may be prescribed by this Grand Lodge.*

Art. 495. (528). **Masons Amenable.** *All Masons, including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, dimitted and suspended Masons, are amenable to the Constitution, Laws, Edicts and Regulations of the Grand Lodge in the jurisdiction in which they may sojourn or reside, whether they are members of a Lodge therein or not.*

Art. 496. (529). **Offense Committed in Jurisdiction Other Than That of Membership.**

*Any Mason accused of a Masonic offence may be tried in the Lodge where he holds his membership or by the Lodge within whose jurisdiction the offence may have been committed; provided such accused shall not be subject to trial in both Lodges; and provided further, that the Lodge in which charges shall first be filed shall have priority of jurisdiction. Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts have the status of members of the Lodges holding personal jurisdiction over them for the purposes of this article.*

Art. 497. (530). **Where Lodges Have Concurrent Jurisdiction.** *In a city where there are two or more Lodges having concurrent jurisdiction, the Lodge whose jurisdiction first attached to a case charging a Masonic offense shall retain it to the exclusion of the others.*

Art. 498. (531). **Accused Lodges to Be Notified.** *If the accused is a member of any Lodge or Lodges other than the Lodge or Lodges in which he holds membership of the charges preferred and of the date of the trial.*

Art. 499. (532). **Neglect by Lodge of Duty to Discipline.** *Neglect by any Lodge under this jurisdiction to exercise Masonic discipline and inflict the punishment due for gross un-Masonic conduct on the part of a member, will subject such Lodge to a forfeiture of it's Charter, upon the evidence of such fact being presented to this Grand Lodge. It is the duty of all District Deputy Grand Masters to report to the Grand Master any such neglect by Lodges in their respective districts.*

Article 499a. **Powers of The Grand Master.** *The Grand Master, when the Grand Lodge is not in session, shall have full power and authority to order filing of charges in time and notwithstanding time limits or procedural requirements otherwise applicable to appeals, and generally to supervise and direct procedure in all trials, appeals, and other disciplinary actions whenever and as he deems it proper to do so. When charges and specifications are filed by or on order of the Grand Master, Article 512,513,514 and 516 shall not apply except that the Master shall set time for trial and provide for a Trial Commission and Trail Master as provided for in Article 514. When trial is had on charges and specifications file by or on order of the Grand Master, neither the time limit for notice of appeal provided for in Article 601 nor the time limit for filing the appeal provided for in Article 603 shall apply.*

**Art. 500. (503) *Interference by Lodges in Church Controversies Prohibited.*** No Lodge shall exercise jurisdiction of offenses arising under the disciplinary provisions of a church of turpitude. Lodges must be careful not to interfere with or infringe upon the rights and privileges of religious bodies.

**Art. 501. (534). *Personal or Pecuniary Differences Between Members.*** Lodges shall not take cognizance of differences or controversies between members, growing out of purely personal or pecuniary transactions, unless the violation of Masonic obligation or law is involved.

**Art. 502. (535). *Exclusive Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge.*** The officers of this Grand Lodge and the Masters of the Lodges, are not subject to trial by a Subordinate Lodge on any charge growing out of connected with any official act of any such officer. The Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction over such matters. No such officer shall be subject to trial by a Subordinate Lodge during his term of office on any charge of un-Masonic conduct, but may be tried after said term of office has expired, on any such charge where this Grand Lodge has not exercised jurisdiction thereof.

**Art. 503. (536). *No Time Limitation on Preferring Charges.*** This Grand Lodge recognizes no positive rule or limitation against preferring charges for un-Masonic conduct or offenses, and any such rule or limitation is null; but the lapse of time after an offense is known is a matter to be considered on the trial, according to circumstances.

**Art. 504. (537). *Trail of Suspended Masons.*** A suspended mason may be tried for a grave offenses committed after suspension. He is not to be restored to membership for the purpose of trial, but the new charges are to be served on him, and he is to be notified to appear before a Trail Commission for trail. He shall have the benefit of a proxy to represent him before the trial Commission. The same procedure shall be followed as provided for in other Masonic trials.

## **CHAPTER 2- TITLE V**

### **MASONIC OFFENSES**

**Art. 505. (538). *Violations of Obligations and Laws.*** Every violation of a Masonic obligation, every violation of the Constitution, Laws, Resolutions or Edicts of this Grand Lodge, or usages and customs of Masonry, and every violation of the laws of the United States, a State, or of a municipality, involving moral turpitude, is a Masonic offense.

**Art. 506. *Certain other Offenses.*** It shall also be a Masonic offense for a Lodge, a committee or any combination of Masons, or an individual Mason:

1. *To traduce, slander, libel or falsely accuse any person.*
2. *To make false charges, or utter any word or statement, either orally, in writing or otherwise, or to commit any act or engage in any activities or conduct calculated to bring reproach upon this Grand Lodge or any of its officers, institutions, agencies or subordinate Lodges or officers thereof; or which is calculated to bring discredit or disgrace on Masonry; or which is reasonably calculated to reflect unfavorably on the good name of Masonry.*
3. *To use the words "Masonic," or "Masonry," or the faith and credit of Masonry, to display Masonic emblem, for a secular, business or political purpose; or being a candidate for office, to mention in his announcements or political advertisement or literature, or to otherwise publish the fact of his Masonic connection; or to permit knowingly the printing of any advertisements in a Masonic book, journal or other periodical in which advertisement the words "Masonic," "Masons," "for Mason only," for Masons and their families," or any other term, sign or symbol of Masonry are used, or to solicit business for any company or firm making use of such words, terms, signs or symbols for any such purpose; provided, however, that such regulations shall not apply to:*
  - (a) *The manufacture and sales of Masonic supplies, paraphernalia and equipment;*
  - (b) *Advertisements, publications, sale or distribution, of Masonic books, journals or other such periodicals;*
  - (c) *Masonic Temple Associations, Cemetery Associations or companies which set aside a section for the exclusive use of Masons and their families;*
  - (d) *Employment and relief bureaus operating wholly under the management and control of Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, without profit, for the benefit of Masons and their families;*
  - (e) *The display of Masonic symbols upon tombstones, monuments or vaults erected in cemeteries or mausoleums or the cornerstones of buildings laid with Masonic ceremonies.*
  - (f) *The statement by a candidate for office in a political announcement or advertisement of the fact that he is a Mason, if such announcement or advertisement also list his church and civil club affiliations. He shall not be permitted to list offices held or the names of his Lodge or the names of other Masonic Bodies. Neither shall he be permitted to display any Masonic emblem or in any other manner to solicit directly or indirectly, the vote or votes of any person or persons based on any Masonic affiliations or connection.*

*(g) Travel tours arranged and conducted under the supervision of the Grand Master as provided for in Grand Master's Recommendation No.6, approved at the 1972 Annual Grand Communication of this Grand Lodge.*

*(h) To use the Square and Compasses emblem on commonly accepted items of jewelry, such as lapel pins, tie tacs, tie chains, tie bars, rings and belt buckles and on articles of clothing such as caps, ties, shirts, and jackets-regardless of manufacture or source of supply. To prevent improper use, Texas Masons are required to remove Square and Compasses emblems from autos or clothing prior to changing ownership or discarding.*

*4. To publish or print, or to participate in the publishing or printing, or to advertise, or subscribe for, solicit advertisement or subscriptions for, otherwise knowingly aid any publication not authorized under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas and approved by the Grand Master, which publication uses the "Masonry," "Masons," or any derivative of such word, in the title, slogan, catch word or advertisements of such publication, or any insignia, emblems, hieroglyphs, or Masonic picturization as part of the format of such publications or which purports to be for or in the interest of Masons or Masonry, except as permitted under the immediately preceding subparagraph.*

*5. To indulge in the intemperate use of intoxicating liquor, gambling or profane swearing.*

*6. To manufacture, give, barter, sell exchange or transport intoxicating liquor unlawfully.*

*7. To consume, possess, have in possession, or sell intoxicating liquor in any portion of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, or of any building occupied or used by any Lodge, provided, however, that this prohibition does not apply to small quantities of any such beverages or liquors required by existing rituals of such organization in the conferring of its degrees or orders, or in the ceremonies in observance of special occasions required by existing regulations of such organizations; and further, this prohibition shall not apply to space properly leased for commercial purpose. Constituent Lodges may meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served. Constituent Lodges of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas may meet in buildings where other appendant Masonic organizations may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service is not in progress while the Lodge is open there; and further, be enacted, that Constituent Lodges may let, lease, or rent portions of their building to other appendant Masonic organizations who may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service does not occur in the Lodge room of the building.*

*8. To willfully abandon his family.*

9. *To give circulation, either orally or in writing, to any statement reasonably calculated to bring Masonry, its history, traditions, institutions, ritualistic work, ceremonies, officers or membership into disrepute.*

10. *To criticize Masonry, either publicly or privately.*

11. *To refuse willfully to pay a just debt to a Lodge if financially able to do so.*

12. *To affiliate with a Lodge under an assumed name with intent to deceive the Lodge or its members.*

13. *To cohabit with lewd women.*

14. *Knowingly to permit an expelled Mason to visit Lodge.*

15. *Knowingly to permit any of the degrees of Masonry to be conferred on a candidate who has been previously rejected and who has not disclosed such fact or rejection to the Lodge.*

16. *To conceal from, or fail to reveal to, a Lodge to which he has applied for any of the degrees of Masonry, the fact that he has been previously rejected by it or any other Lodge.*

17. *To represent in his petition for the degrees that he has never petitioned any other Lodge for the degrees, when such representation is false.*

18. *To inquire into, or in any way investigate, either directly or indirectly, the ballot upon any petition for affiliation, or for either of the three degrees, or on any question decided by a secret ballot.*

19. *To give a rejected applicant the names of members of members present at his rejection with a view to ascertaining who cast a blackball.*

20. *To disclose to any person how he voted on any applicant for affiliation or for the degrees, or on any questions decided by a secret ballot.*

21. *To canvass publicly for or against the admission of candidate into Masonry.*

22. *To inform a candidate by whom he was black-balled.*

23. *To inform any person, not a member of the Lodge taking such action, of the rejection of a candidate.*

24. *To use a cipher work relating to the esoteric work of any of the three degree, or to have and retain in his possession such cipher within this Grand Jurisdiction, or sell, give, barter or exchange, any code book or other publication, the use of which is prohibited by the laws of the Grand Lodge, or to be employed in the business of anyone doing so.*

25. *To receive or accept a fee or gift, either directly or indirectly, for the prosecution or the defense of a Brother Mason in any Masonic trial.*

26. *To discuss privately with any member of the Trail Commission the facts of any case pending before said Commission, or attempt in any way to influence the action of the Commission or any member thereof for or against the Brother on trial.*

27. *Being a suspended or expelled Mason, knowingly to wear, display or use a Masonic badge, button, label or emblem during the time of his suspension*

28. *To belong to the Communist Party, or any Communist front organization knowing it to be such; and belonging to, or adhering to the principles of the Communist party, or any related or subversive organization, disqualifies any applicant from being made a member or admitted to any Masonic Lodge.*

29. *To participate in, approve or aid in the formation of any organization predicated membership on Masonic membership, or in the formation of any local chapters or groups, by whatever name called, of any organization predicated membership on Masonic membership, or to join any such organization which does not subscribe to the principles of Freemasonry. This prohibition shall not apply to those organizations listed in Article 225 of these Laws. This Grand Lodge always has had an retained the right to withdraw at its pleasure, approval of any organization heretofore approved by it or listed in Article 225, or any local unit or subordinate body of any such, and this Grand Lodge continues to reserve that right as to all such heretofore approved by it. It shall be a Masonic offense for any Texas Mason to be, remain, or continue as, a member of any organization predicated its membership on Masonic membership or affiliation unless such organization.*

30. *Willfully to disobey a summons to a Masonic trial, as a witness, member of the Trial Commission, or otherwise.*

31. *To give false testimony in a Masonic trial, willfully or knowingly.*

32. *Willfully to fail or refuse to appear at the appointed time and place, after due notice, to receive a reprimand which has been duly inflicted upon him by a Trial Commission.*



33. *Having been duly summoned as a witness, to refuse to answer the questions propounded to him, or to give his testimony.*

34. *To circularize by letter or other form of publication other Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction proposing or advocating any amendments, repeal or enactments of laws in or by this Grand Lodge, without first securing a dispensation for such purpose from the Grand Master.*

35. *To directly or indirectly solicit or procure the vote of a Mason or campaign for the election of a Mason or to otherwise electioneer for any Mason, in any location where Masons assemble, including, without limitation, in a Lodge, a Lodge room, the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge building, or any other such location or facility.*

36. *Willfully, or without an excuse found by the Lodge to be satisfactory, to neglect or refuse to present himself and be examined as to his proficiency in the Master's Degree within ninety (90) days after being raised.*

37. *It shall be a Masonic offense if at any time any Mason who applies for the position of, or in fact performs as, an advisor to a youth organization approved for Masonic sponsorship, does not complete execute and deliver to the youth organization and its Chief Executive Officer in Texas, the sponsoring body and to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas at the time of application, or in any event, before performing as such an advisor, a completed Form No. 79, in which, in summary, the applicant states that he has no arrests or convictions, misdemeanor or felony, nor any form of child abuse or child molestation or child exploitation.*

38. *To contribute to the delinquency, dependency or abuse of a child, or having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person and fails to report the same in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Family Code.*

*NOTE: For purposes of definition as applies to the above Masonic offense, "child" means an individual under 17 years of age. "Delinquency" includes, without limitation, doing any act that tends to debase or injure the morals, health, or welfare of a child; drinking intoxicating liquor; using narcotics; going into or remaining in any bawdy house, assignation house, disorderly house, or road house, hotel, public dance hall where prostitutes, gamblers, or thieves are permitted to enter and ply their trade; going into a place where intoxicating liquors or narcotics are kept, drunk, used or sold; \* or associating with thieves and immoral persons, causing a child to leave home or to leave the custody of his parents, guardian, or persons standing in lieu of his parent or guardian without first receiving their consent or against their will; and doing any other act that would constitute delinquent conduct or cause him to become delinquent by committing the act. "Abuse" includes*

*without limitation, mental or emotional injury to a child that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning; causing or permitting the child to be in a situation in which the child sustains a mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning; physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child; failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent an action by another person that results in physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child; sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or sexual conduct, as those terms are defined by the Texas Penal Code, incest, sexual assault or sodomy inflicted on, shown to, or intentionally practiced in the presence of a child whose presence is only to arouse or gratify the sexual desires of any person; and failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent any such abuse herein and defined. Conviction in a court of Law shall not be a prerequisite to Masonic charges or trials hereunder.*

*\* A Masonic offense is not committed by the mere fact that a child is taken into a hotel, restaurant or private home that serves intoxicating liquors, if the child by such action is not caused to become a delinquent.*

*39. To make use of any stenographic or electronic record of a Masonic Trial except as provided in these laws. The foregoing enumeration of offenses shall not be exclusive, nor shall it be considered or deemed to have the effect of repealing any other law of this Grand Lodge, now existing or hereafter to be enacted, specifying or defining any other Masonic offense.*

Roy Dean Foster, PM

## GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

### **Referred to Committee on Civil Law\*, Purposes and Policies, and Masonic Jurisprudence**

When we squarely face the challenges of maintaining and growing a strong fraternity of Texas Masons, we see one overriding need: the ability to begin and maintain effective Masonic programs through continuity at the Grand Lodge. We all have seen the efforts to increase membership, strengthen local Lodges and perform community service which at the beginning, look to be promising, but then wither because of lack of continuing commitment and support.

I sincerely believe there is a way to meet this overriding need, which is through strategic planning by the Grand Lodge and its Trustees, as carried on with care, focus and the force of Grand Lodge Law. In short, once a strategic plan is made and approved by the Grand Lodge in Grand Annual Communication, it should be carried out by the Grand Lodge officers and Committees and all subordinate Lodges and all Texas Masons, unless and until changed by the "Grand West" at a later Grand Annual Communication.

As a result, I recommend that the following resolution for the establishment of a Strategic Plan Committee be adopted, which would add new Article 126 l of the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M., as follows:

#### **Resolutions for Establishment of Strategic Plan Committee**

WHEREAS, Texas Masons need to maintain the strength and unity of our fraternity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, due to the variety and complexity of various Masonic activities of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M., it has become increasingly important to focus the limited resources of the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, a long- term planning process embodied in the Grand Lodge Law is considered a positive way to strengthen and unify Texas Masonry;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that a new Article 126l. of the Laws of the Grand Lodge be added as follows, effective January 1, 2015:

**Art. 126 l. Strategic Plan Committee.** The Strategic Plan Committee (the "Committee") shall be a permanent Committee composed of five (5) members, all of whom shall be Texas Masters Masons in good standing,

and each member of the Committee shall be a past Chairman of one the following Grand Lodge Permanent Committees: Committee on Civil Law, Committee on Finance, Committee on Fraternal Relations, Committee on Investments, Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, Committee on Masonic Education and Service, Committee on Membership, and Committee on Purposes and Policies.

Two (2) of the Committee members shall be elected by the Grand Lodge at its Grand Annual Communication. The other three (3) Committee members shall be appointed by the majority vote of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge and announced to the Grand Lodge at its Grand Annual Communication. However, the initial five (5) members of the Committee shall draw straws for the initial term of one (1) year, two (2) years, three (3) years, four (4) years, and Five (5) years.

The successors of those members of the Committee initially appointed by the Trustees shall be at all times appointed by the Trustees, and the successors of those initially elected by the Grand Lodge shall at all times elected by the Grand Lodge, and each successor member (elected or appointed) shall serve a five (5) year term. Each member of the Committee shall attend no less than 75% of the meetings (in person, conference calls, electronic or otherwise) of the Committee. If a member fails to attend at least 75% of the meetings that occur during any 12- month period, then his membership on the Committee shall immediately end and his position becomes vacant. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Committee annually at the first meeting of the Committee to occur after each Grand Annual Communication.

In the event of a vacancy, the unexpired term of a Committee member appointed by the Trustees or elected by the Grand Lodge at its Grand Annual Communication shall be filled as follows:

The member shall be appointed by a majority of the Grand Lodge Trustees for the part of the unexpired term beginning with the date the vacancy occurred and ending when the Grand Lodge next elects a successor member of the Committee at a Grand Annual Communication. Then, at that Grand Annual Communication, (A) if the member of the Committee who is no longer serving and therefore resulted in the vacancy, was initially appointed by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge Trustees, the Grand Lodge Trustees shall elect by majority vote, a successor (who maybe the member serving as an interim member of the Committee) and announce his election at that Grand Annual Communication for (as applicable) the remaining unexpired term of the vacancy (if any), or for a full term, or (B) if the member of the Committee who is no longer serving and therefore resulted in the vacancy, was initially elected by the Grand Lodge in Grand Annual Communication, his successor shall be elected for (as applicable) the remaining unexpired term of the vacancy (if any) or for a full term.

The purpose of the Committee is to develop a 3 to 5 year strategic plan ("Strategic Plan") for the Grand Lodge of Texas for consideration and approval by the Grand Lodge at its next Grand Annual Communication and then to revise and maintain the Strategic Plan, with any amendments and modifications to the Strategic Plan only being effective upon a vote of the Grand Lodge at a Grand Annual Communication. After the initial Strategic Plan is approved, the Committee shall review the Strategic Plan at least annually (or more often as the Committee determines), and shall submit any recommended amendments or modifications for approval by the Grand Lodge at the Grand Annual Communication.

Each and every Texas Mason in good standing shall fully cooperate with the Committee in the initial drafting of a Strategic Plan and thereafter in the drafting of any amendments or modifications thereto.

The Strategic Plan (and as amended thereafter) upon approval by the Grand Lodge at its Grand Annual Communication, shall be binding on the Grand Lodge of Texas Trustees, Committees, representatives, agents and employees, and on each and every Texas Mason."

Jerry L. Martin  
Grand Master

## **GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION NO. 2**

**Referred to Committee on Civil Law\*, Purposes and Policies,  
and Masonic Jurisprudence**

**CONCERNING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND REPORTS ON PETI-  
TIONER'S FOR THE DEGREES.**

WHEREAS, petitioners who have been finally convicted of a felony offense are disqualified to receive the degrees by Art. 393 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas;

WHEREAS, at the 2012 Grand Annual Communication a resolution was proposed to amend the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas to provide that the criminal history of petitioners for the degrees be obtained by the lodge petitioned as an element of the investigation of the petitioner required by Arts. 407-412;

WHEREAS, such resolution was laid upon the table (tabled) pending further study by the Civil Law Committee;

WHEREAS, the Civil Law Committee has made diligent inquiry into the laws of the United States and of this state concerning criminal background reports, the purposes for which they may lawfully be obtained, the manner in which the information they contain may lawfully be disseminated, used, and disposed of, and the legal rights of those who are the subject of criminal background reports;

WHEREAS, the laws of the United States and the regulations adopted under such laws by the Federal Trade Commission, the agency to which Congress delegated the power to enforce them, impose rights, duties and liabilities upon those who provide criminal background reports and upon all those obtain such reports;

WHEREAS, those laws and regulations provide for the recovery of actual damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees, court costs and for administrative penalties for violations of those laws and regulations and authorize the federal courts to hear all cases brought by those who are damaged by claimed violations;

WHEREAS,, the successful defense of even a single federal case brought under the laws and regulations applicable to criminal background checks would require the Grand Lodge of Texas to spend an unacceptable amount of its financial resources and, if such a defense were unsuccessful, could place in jeopardy the financial solvency of the Grand Lodge of Texas and of any constituent lodge which is a party;

WHEREAS, the centralization of the criminal background reporting process in the office of the Grand Secretary, and the prohibition of criminal background reports being obtained by the constituent Lodges of this Grand Lodge, or by any member of such lodges, is essential for compliance with the applicable laws and regulations and to the uniformity of the process by which accuracy and fairness to the petitioner is most likely to be assured;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I recommend the following additions and amendments to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas:

***Art. 403a.Criminal Background Report.*** *No criminal background report covering a petitioner for the degrees, a Mason from a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand*

*Lodge seeking affiliation with a Lodge, or any member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, shall be obtained by a Lodge or any member of a Lodge except as provided in this article.*

*At the time a petitioner for the degrees files a petition with the Secretary of the Lodge, the Secretary shall provide the petitioner with written notice*

*that he must obtain a criminal background report covering the petitioner's criminal history if any. The notice shall contain instructions for obtaining the criminal background report and shall inform the petitioner that an electronic or written version of the report shall be provided to the Grand Secretary for determining the petitioner's eligibility to receive the degrees.*

*All criminal background reports permitted under this article shall be obtained solely from a vendor authorized by the Grand Lodge Trustees.*

*As soon as is practicable after his petition is filed with the Secretary of the Lodge, the petitioner for the degrees shall make application to the vendor approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees for a criminal background report and shall pay the vendor the applicable fees and charges required for such report. No cost for a criminal background report shall be a charge on the Lodge or the Grand Lodge of Texas.*

*The vendor shall provide an original or duplicate original of the criminal background report covering the petitioner's criminal background to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall promptly examine the criminal background report and shall notify the Secretary of the Lodge only whether he is satisfied from the report that the petitioner is not disqualified to receive the degrees.*

*Neither the criminal background report nor any portion of such report shall be provided or made available to the Lodge or the Secretary of the Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall receive, handle, retain and destroy all criminal background reports obtained pursuant to this article in accordance with applicable law.*

**Art. 412. Committee: Duties and Report.** The investigation by the committee shall include: the moral character and reputation of the petitioner, facts relating to jurisdiction, physical qualifications, and all other matters the Lodge is called upon to pass in balloting on petitioner. *The committee may inquire of the petitioner concerning his criminal history but may not obtain a criminal background report on the petitioner's criminal history, if any, nor require the petitioner to obtain such a report for the use of the committee in connection with its investigation of the petitioner.* A face-to-face interview between each Investigation Committee member and the petitioner is required on all petitions for the Mysteries and Advancement, except on approval by the Worshipful Master.

Before a ballot can be taken a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge; each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28. If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon.

**Art. 413. Ballot.** When the report of the investigating committee has been made, *and the Grand Secretary has informed the Secretary that he is satisfied that the candidate is not disqualified from receiving the degrees pursuant to Article 403a*, and one lunar month has elapsed since the presentation of said petition, the ballot shall be taken. If found clear, the petitioner may be initiated as soon as. As to all petitions requiring ballot by the Lodge, the petitioner shall be notified in writing within fifteen days of such ballot, signed by the Worshipful Master and attested to by the Secretary of the Lodge, as to either his election or his rejection by the Lodge.

**Art. 386. Committee of Inquiry.** A petition for affiliation or advancement may be referred to a committee or voted upon at a stated meeting where the petition is read. The petition will be referred to committee if any member of the Lodge makes a verbal request for such action. If no request is made and all requirements are met, a vote will be held at the time of original reading. This vote may be held by voting box or show of hands at the discretion of the Lodge. If referred to committee, the committee shall consist of three members who will make inquiry and report thereon, which report shall be made at a subsequent stated meeting; but no ballot shall be taken thereon in less than one month from date of presentation of petition to committee. *The committee may inquire of the petitioner concerning his criminal history but may not obtain a criminal background report on the petitioner's criminal history, if any, nor require the petitioner to obtain such a report for the use of the committee in connection with its investigation of the petitioner.*

**Art. 505. Certain Other Masonic Disciplinary Violations.** It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for a Lodge, a committee or any combination of Masons, or an individual Mason to:

Paragraphs 1-37 unchanged

*38. Obtain, possess use or disseminate or to encourage or employ a non-Mason to obtain, possess, use or disseminate a criminal background report on any petitioner for the degrees, petitioner for affiliation or member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, or to require such petitioner or member to obtain such a report, except as provided in Art.403a. This section shall not apply to military, law enforcement or other governmental employees or to nongovernmental employees in the lawful performance of the duties of their employment.*

Further. I recommend if the foregoing is approved at the 2014 Annual Communication that it not be effective until July 1, 2015 to allow timely implementation.

Jerry L. Martin  
Grand Master



## GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

### Referred to Committee on Work\* and Purposes and Policies

### Concerning Uniform Table Lodge Procedure

WHEREAS, Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1 (approved at the 2013 Annual Communication) directed the 2014 Grand Master to appoint a Committee to prepare a Uniform Table Lodge Procedure;

WHEREAS, the Committee was appointed and has prepared a Uniform Table Lodge Procedure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I recommend the following additions to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas:

*Art. TBD, Uniform Table Lodge Procedure. A Master Mason's Lodge shall be opened in proper form in a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas. Upon such Master Mason's Lodge being called to refreshment, a Table Lodge can be held using the Table Lodge Procedure that shall be published in the appropriate place in the Monitor of the Lodge. Grand Lodge Law shall govern all the actions of those participating in a Table Lodge. The Table Lodge shall only be held in the Lodge building' unless special dispensation is granted from the Grand Master to allow it to meet elsewhere. Once the Table Lodge is completed, such Master Mason's Lodge shall be called from refreshment to labor and closed in proper form.*

As it necessary that you know the Table Lodge Procedure that shall be published in the Monitor of the Lodge before you vote on this matter, it is as follows.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1, as approved by the Grand Lodge of Texas at the 2013 Annual Grand Communication, "recommended that a Committee to be appointed to prepare a uniform Table Lodge procedure for approval of this Grand Lodge at its 2014 Annual Grand Communication".

We, that committee, propose the following recommendations in response to the requirements of Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1. It should be noted that given the many varied references to Table Lodges in Masonic history, the Committee agreed that it would be almost impossible to follow all of those examples as we developed a modern Table Lodge procedure. Therefore we deemed it necessary to propose a rather generic procedure that could be used in all parts of our State. What is good for East Texas may not be appropriate for West Texas and so forth.

In confirming to the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Texas, we recommend that prior to opening a Table Lodge, a Master's Mason Lodge be opened in proper form and then called off to Refreshment. At this point our procedure for a Table Lodge could be used. Once the Table Lodge is completed, the Master's Lodge should be called from Refreshment to Labor and closed in proper form.

This means that a Table Lodge must occur in the same building as the Master's Lodge and could not move to another location without a special dispensation from the Grand Master. This also means that Grand Lodge Law governs all the actions of those participating in a Table Lodge.

The Committee proposes the following Table Lodge procedure for the use of the Masonic Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

### **Uniform Table Lodge Procedure**

#### **Opening of a Table Lodge**

The Officers required are WM, SW, JW, SD, JD, and Chaplain. (\*) Indicates a gavel strike

WM: \* Brother Senior Deacon, call the Brethren to the table.

SD: Brethren, you are requested to man your Columns for the purpose of opening a Table Lodge.

WM: (*Once all Brethren are at their chairs*) \* \* Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are all present Masons?

SW: Worshipful Master, all in the column of the North are Masons.

JW: Worshipful Master, all in the column of the South are Masons.

WM: And I answer for all in the East. Brother Senior Warden, How do we know them to be Freemasons?

SW: By their actions.

WM: What guides their actions?

SW: Their obligations.

WM: Brother JW, why are we here assembled?

JW: For refreshment and instruction, for which all Table Lodges are convened.

WM: Brother Senior Warden, are you a Mason?

SW: All my Brethren know me as such.

WM: Why do we meet together?

SW: To erect Temples to Virtue and dig Dungeons for Vice.

WM: How are the temples erected?

SW: By the blessing of God.

WM: To whom are they dedicated?

SW: To the Holy Saints John.

WM: How long must we work?

SW: From midday to midnight.

WM: What is the hour?

SW: Almost Midday, Worshipful Master.

WM: In consideration of the hour inform the Brethren that this Table Lodge will be now opened and direct them to govern themselves accordingly. No breach of Peace and Harmony will be tolerated.

SW \* Brethren in my Column, this Table Lodge will be now opened and you are directed to govern yourselves accordingly. No breach of Peace and Harmony will be tolerated.

JW \* Brethren in my Column, this Table Lodge will be now opened and you are directed to govern yourselves accordingly. No breach of Peace and Harmony will be tolerated.

WM: (*stands*) "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down the skirts of his garment. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for ever more."

(*sits*) Bro. Senior Warden, whence came you?

SW: From a just and perfect St John's Lodge.

WM: What tidings do you bring with you?

SW: Those of warm welcome to all the brethren assembled here.

WM: Bro. Junior Warden, on what foundation do we meet?

JW: On that of Brotherhood, Worshipful Master.

WM: Who has made us conscious thereof?

JW: The Grand Architect of the Universe.

WM: Bro. Senior Warden, why have we given Him that name?

SW: Because He taught us to behold the world and life as a yet to be completed building.

WM: Brethren, let us be mindful of that precept. \* \* \* (*Calls the entire Table Lodge up*)

Brethren, since no Masonic undertaking should ever begin without first requesting Divine Guidance, our Chaplain will lead us in prayer.

CHP: Grand Architect of the Universe, be with us during this time of fellowship and friendship that we may be guided by Your wisdom. (*If food is present*) Bless the food which we are about to eat, that it may nourish our bodies as your spirit nourishes our souls. Amen.

WM: I now open this Table Lodge according to our well-known custom, giving a Battery of 3 times 3, taking your time from the East.

\* \* \*   \* \* \*   \* \* \*

WM: My Brethren, our works, which have for some time been suspended, are again in full vigor. Let each remember that he bears the honorable rank, style and title of Brother and Companion because he has broken bread, honestly and justly earned, with his Brothers and Fellows; and let us remember that each has been selected through the witness of his silence, the faith of his integrity, and the loyalty of his friendship. Let us approach our labors with the gratitude for the material and spiritual sustenance which each of our Brothers have been privileged to receive as their Masonic birthright. I declare this Table Lodge open. (*seats Lodge*) \*

(Optional - This or a similar Charge may be given at this time but none is required)

Charge to Brethren at Opening:

Brethren, in this solemn hour, I charge each of you to rededicate yourself as a Freemason to the noble and glorious purpose of bringing light to dispel darkness, to the service of Him in whom you put your trust and to keep the precepts set forth in that Great Light of Masonry, the Rule and Guide of your faith. Remember to practice that most excellent gift of charity and to make constant and proper use of the Square of Virtue, the Level of Equality, and the Plumb of Rectitude.

Craftsmen in the quarries, I summon you to greater loyalty to your Lodge and your Fraternity and to maintain integrity in all your dealings with your fellow men.

Guard against vain innovations, my brethren. Preserve the Landmarks. Maintain the reputation of our Fraternity. Aid the needy and remember your brother's welfare. Be circumspect always in speech. Assist and support him who is falling. And finally whisper good counsel in the ear of him who needs encouragement.

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At this time it is appropriate to have a meal served at which a series of toast may be offered and or a Masonic Education program presented.

Once all of the above activities are completed the Worshipful Master will then proceed to close the Table Lodge.

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### **Closing of a Table Lodge**

WM: \* \* (*Wardens rise*) Brothers Senior and Junior Warden, are the Brethren in order?

SW: They are, Worshipful Master.

JW: They are, Worshipful Master.

WM: Brother JW, what is the hour?

JW: Midnight, Worshipful Master.

WM: Brother SW, In consideration of the hour inform all our Brethren that we are about to close this Table Lodge, ending our work in the usual manner - but impress on them the necessity to continue to erect Temples to virtue and to dig dungeons for vices.

SW: \* \*\* (*All rise*) Brethren, I inform you, by order of the Worshipful Master, that we are about to close this Table Lodge, ending our work in the usual manner – but I impress upon you the necessity to continue to erect Temples to Virtue and to dig dungeons for vices from midday to midnight.

JW: Brethren, you have heard the Senior Warden. Take due notice thereof and let none of us be guilty of violating the trust of the Worshipful Master.

WM: Brother JW, how must Freemasons meet, act, and part?

JW: According to the principles of the Level, the Plumb Rule and the Square.

WM: Brother SW, which principles are they?

SW: They are:

to Meet in harmony,

to act in accordance with the Highest Law, and

to part in square relationship.

WM: Brethren, then let us forever meet, act, and part in that manner, so the building may proceed, and the Grand Architect of the Universe shall illuminate us with His Perfect Light!

WM: Brethren, join me in giving public Grand Honors

All: (*3x3 claps.*)

WM: Brethren, let us pray.

CHP: Grand Architect of the Universe, we are thankful to Thee for this opportunity of carrying on Thy Work on Earth; we are grateful to Thee for the one who brought us so inspiring a message; and now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons; may Brotherly Love prevail, and every moral and social virtue unite and cement us. Amen.

All: So Mote it Be.

WM: This Table Lodge is now closed in Peace and Harmony. \*

Jerry L. Martin  
Grand Master

## GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

### **Referred to Committee on Civil Law\* and Purposes and Policies**

WHEREAS, there are so many Lodge real estate transactions occurring in this Grand Lodge, I recommend that the following revisions to the applicable Grand Lodge laws be adopted to improve the laws that apply to Lodge real estate transactions:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

Art. 250. (288). **Approval by Grand Master.** If the proposition to consolidate is agreed to by the Lodge petitioned, the Secretary thereof shall forthwith forward to the Grand Master certified copies of the ~~proceedings~~ *minutes* of each of such Lodges relative to the proposed consolidation. If the Grand Master shall approve of such proposed consolidation, the Lodges desiring the same shall from and after such approval be deemed and held to be one Lodge existing under the charter and governed by the bylaws of the Lodge petitioned; the members of the petitioning Lodge shall thereupon become members of the Lodge petitioned; the books and records of the former shall be delivered to the latter Lodge for safe keeping and preservation thereof. The charter and seal of the petitioning Lodge shall be forthwith transmitted to the Grand Secretary. All unfinished work or business pending in the petitioning Lodge shall be taken up and completed in the petitioned Lodge, and all the property, money and effects of the petitioning Lodge shall pass to and become the property of the petitioned Lodge; provided, however, that the officers and bylaws of the Lodge petitioned shall not be affected by such consolidation.

*Art. 250a. **Transfer of Property.** If the proposition to consolidate is approved by the Grand Master, all property (including both personal property and real property or any interest therein) shall thereupon become the property of the Lodge petitioned. In the event that it shall be necessary that real property or any interest therein be transferred, conveyed or assigned from the petitioning Lodge to the Lodge petitioned, such transfer, conveyance or assignment of real or personal property or any interest therein shall be written and in form and sufficient detail and description appropriate for a purchase, gift, bequest, or devise as considered by Art. 340.*

**Art. 340. Permission to Acquire, Sell or Mortgage Lodge Personal Property or Real Estate.**

A. (1) No Lodge shall acquire *any real property or any interest therein* by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise ~~any real property or interest~~

~~therein~~ without first obtaining the written consent of this Grand Lodge, or if during its vacation, the consent of the Grand Master; provided, that in granting such consent same shall be done by the Grand Master by endorsing his *written* consent on the deed or other instrument capable of being recorded in the ~~Deed~~ *public* records. Neither the Grand Lodge nor the Grand Master shall incur or assume any liability by reason of such consent. The provisions of this Article shall apply to all Lodges on equal terms, whether acting directly or indirectly. ~~(Revised, 1991)~~

(2) When *written* application is made to the Grand Master by any Lodge for consent to acquire, *receive or accept title to real property or any interest therein* as set out above, it shall be the duty of the Lodge to furnish a full detailed description of the ~~property~~ *subject real property or any interest therein* as may be required by the Grand Master who, upon receipt of such application, ~~may shall~~ refer the question to the Committee on Civil Law ~~or any other Committee of the Grand Lodge~~ for examination report and recommendation thereon either to him or Grand Lodge as he may direct. ~~(Revised, 1991)~~ *The Committee on Civil Law may make such inquiries for information, or request for documents or documentation, as may assist such Committee in its examination, report and recommendation. In all such applications to acquire, receive or accept title to any real property or any interest therein by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise, a letter of support or other recommendation from the District Deputy Grand Master appointed for the benefit of the Lodge filing such application shall be included with such application.*

(3) Any Lodge which shall acquire *real property or any interest therein* without first obtaining consent as required herein shall be guilty of a Masonic disciplinary violation and subject to the arrest and forfeiture of its Charter or such other penalty as Grand Lodge shall inflict. ~~(Revised, 1991)~~

B. (1) No Lodge shall sell any of its real property *or any interest therein*, or create any indebtedness and secure *such indebtedness* by lien or mortgage on any of its property; ~~(whether real or personal property or any interest therein~~ or create any indebtedness of any kind or character, secured or unsecured, except for the current operating expenses of the Lodge, without first obtaining the *written* consent of ~~this~~ Grand Lodge, or if during its vacation, the consent of the Grand Master; provided that in granting such consent on the mortgage, lien or other written instrument in such manner that neither ~~the~~ Grand Lodge nor the Grand Master shall incur or assume any liability by reason of such consent. The provisions of this Article shall apply to all Lodges on equal terms, whether acting directly or indirectly. ~~(Revised, 1991)~~

(2) Permission may be granted a Lodge under dispensation to purchase property for Lodge purposes for cash; but *shall not* to borrow any money or create or assume any debt, ~~(secured or unsecured)~~ *whether by lien, mortgage or otherwise*, in connection with such purchase.



(3) Title to real estate or *personal property* should be taken and held in the name of the Lodge. See Article 28 of these Laws. (~~Revised 1991~~)

*C. The Committee on Civil Law may, from time to time, prepare and forward to the regular lodges and other under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas such guidance, suggested forms, and other documentation and information as may be useful in the preparation of an application to acquire or dispose of real or personal property or any interest therein by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise, as considered by this Article.*

**Art. 652. Financial Affairs Of Demised Lodges.** ~~Each District Deputy Grand Master~~ Upon the event of a Lodge being “Demised” as defined in Art.257.B the District Deputy Grand Master (or such other or person who may be so appointed by the Grand Master), shall collect all the unpaid dues of members of demised Lodges, and all delinquent members may be accused of a Masonic disciplinary violation in the manner prescribed by the Grand Lodge for the infliction of appropriate punishment for nonpayment of dues. When the assets of such Lodges shall have been collected, he shall pay the debts of such Lodges and remit to the Grand Secretary all *surplus* moneys and other property remaining in his hand, with a full statement of all mon-  
eys received and paid out by him and upon what account.

*Art. 652a. Transfer of Real Property of Demised Lodge. In the event that it shall be necessary that real property or any interest therein be conveyed or assigned from a demised Lodge, such conveyance or assignment of real property or any interest therein shall be conveyed, or assigned or transferred in writing to the Grand Lodge in a form and sufficient detail and description appropriate for a purchase, gift, bequest, or devise as considered by Art. 340.*

*Art. 652b. Transfer of Personal Property of Demised Lodge. In the event that it shall be necessary that personal property or any interest therein be conveyed or assigned by a demised Lodge, such conveyance or assignment of personal property or any interest therein shall be conveyed, assigned or transferred in writing to the Grand Lodge in a form and sufficient detail and description appropriate as considered by Art. 255.*

Jerry L. Martin  
Grand Master

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# **STATEMENTS OF AVAILABILITY**

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**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**



**TOMMY FRANK CHAPMAN**

**NEDERLAND LODGE NO. 1368**

Raised – May 10, 1983  
Endowed Member  
Past Master – 1991  
Golden Trowel – 2002

**PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP**

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

Esoteric “A” Certificate (Expires 2013 = 20 Total Years)  
District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District No. 26-A – 1995  
Special Deputy to Grand Master – 2013  
Grand Master Conference Chairman – 2003  
Area Coordinator – 2006  
Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Benin, Africa – 2006-Present  
Petitions #2 Committee – 1992  
Youth Activities Committee – 2005-2011, 2013-Present  
Youth Activities Committee – Chairman – 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014  
Youth Activities Committee – Vice-Chairman - 2009  
Special Assignments Committee – 2009, 2010  
Special Assignments Committee – Vice-Chairman – 2010

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL**

Jefferson County Sheriff Department – May 1, 1985-Present  
Jefferson County Sheriff’s Academy  
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and  
Education:

Master Peace Officer Certificate  
Master Jailer Certificate  
Attended Lamar University, Beaumont, TX  
Attended McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA

**FAMILY**

Wife, Kathy – 1985-Present  
1 Daughter  
1 Son

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**



**RANDAL KERRY SMALLWOOD**

**OAKWOOD LODGE NO. 1444**

Raised April 11, 1989

**PLANTERS LODGE NO. 147**

Endowed Member  
Worshipful Master 2006-2007  
Secretary 2008-present  
Golden Trowel Award 2011

**PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Bedias Lodge No.651  
Tranquility No. 2000

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

William M. Beck Award -2013  
Grand Senior Deacon-2013  
Grand Junior Deacon- 2011  
District Deputy Grand Master- Masonic District No. 29 B -2010  
State Coordinator-2013 (Walter W. Rogers)  
Special Assignments Committee Chairman-2013  
Esoteric A Certificate 1990, 2006-present  
District Instructor Masonic District No. 29 B- 2009, 2011- present

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**EDUCATION**

Garland County Community College, Basketball scholarship

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

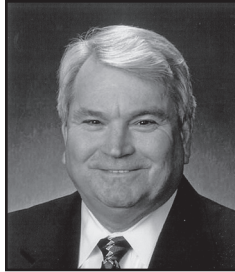
1976-1980 Missile Maintenance Technician

**BUSINESS/ PROFESSIONAL**

16 Years as an Inspector/Investigator for Texas Department of  
Housing and Community  
Affairs, Manufactured Housing Division.



**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND TREASURER**



**THOMAS W. ELLISON**

**COSMOPOLITAN LODGE NO. 872**

Raised- 1966  
Endowed Member

**PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS**

Milam Lodge No. 2- Endowed Member, Past Master  
Point Isabel Lodge No. 33- Charter & Endowed Member  
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000- Endowed Member

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

District Deputy Grand Master Masonic District 20-2003  
Committee on Finance- Vice Chairman- 2003-2005  
Committee on Investments, Chairman- 2011-2014

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**BUSINESS/ PROFESSIONAL**

Chairman of The Board, Commercial Bank of Texas NA, 1990-  
Current  
President, Tarrant Bank of Fort Worth, -1989-1990  
President, First National/First City Bank of Grand Prairie, 1976-  
1989  
Charter President, First National / First City Bank of Colleyville,  
1972-1976  
Mgr. Master Charge Dept. First Security National Bank of  
Beaumont, 1969-1972  
Mgr. General Accounting, US Steel Corp., 1966-1969  
Director, Southwest States Bankcard Association, 1970-1972  
American Bankers Association:  
Member, ABA Community Bankers Council  
Member, ABA Fraud & Security Committee  
Co-Chairman (Texas), Membership Committee

Director, Texas Bankers Association 2010-2013  
Former Instructor: American Institute of Banking, Principles of  
Bank Operation, Bank Mgmt.

**CIVIC:**

Elective Offices:  
Director, Angelina & Nacogdoches Counties Water Improvement  
Dist No. 1 1991-2014  
Council Member, City of Grand Prairie 1983-1988 Mayor Pro Tem  
1988-1989  
Commissioner, Home Rule Charter Commission, City of Colleyville,  
1975

**CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS:**

Rotary, 1973-Present- Paul Harris Fellow:  
President Elect, Farmersville Rotary, 2014-2015  
Director, Stephen F. Austin State University Foundation, 2013  
Director, SFA University Real Estate Foundation -2013  
Director, Nacogdoches Economic Development Foundation, 2000-  
2014  
Director, Nacogdoches Industrial Foundation, 1990-2014- Chairman  
2010-2014  
Director, Greater Southwest Hospital, 1976-1978  
Director, Grand Prairie Memorial Hospital, 1978-1983  
District Chairman, Mountain Lake District Circle 10 BSA, Wood  
Badge 33

**EDUCATION:**

Texas A&M University, BBA Finance  
ABA National Commercial Lending School  
Former Instructor: Dallas County Community College, North Lake,  
Small Business Mgmt.

**MILITARY SERVICE:**

Instructor, US Army Reserve School, Beaumont, TX 1970-1972  
4th Infantry Div, Fort Lewis, Washington, 1966  
36 Infantry Div, Texas, N.G., 1965, 1969-1970

**FAMILY:**

Married to Wife Patty 51 years  
2 Sons  
2 Granddaughters

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND TREASURER**



**CHRIS ANDREW MOYSEOS**

**TEXANA LODGE NO. 123**

Past Master - 2009-2011

Endowed Member 2010

**PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS**

Austin Lodge No. 12 - Chaplain 2012-2013

Justice & Liberty Lodge No. 5923 (United Grand Lodge of England)

Raised - March 7, 2000

Worshipful Master 2007-2008

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**EDUCATION**

Trinity Independent High School, London, England - Graduated 1986

University of Greenwich, London, England - Graduated 1989

Cass Business School (City University), London, England - Graduated 2001

The Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania) CIMA Executive Program 2014/15

**QUALIFICATIONS**

B.A. (Honors) Economics - 1989

Masters of Business Administration (Finance) - 2001

Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) - exp. 2015

License: Series 7 - General Securities Representative Examination - 2008

License: Series 66 - Uniform Combined State Law Examination - 2008

License: Series 31 - Managed Futures Funds Examination - 2012

License: Texas Department of Insurance - 2008

**Registrations (Self Regulating Organizations/Associations):**

FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority)

NASDAQ Stock Market

NYSE MKT LLC

New York Stock Exchange

National Futures Association

Investment Management Consultants Association

**State Broker Registrations:**

Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, Washington,

Colorado, Idaho, Virginia, California, Indiana

**BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL**

2011 - Present: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Austin -  
Portfolio Manager, Financial Advisor, Financial Planning Specialist

2009 - Western Equity Group, Austin - Financial Advisor

2008 - Merrill Lynch, Austin - Financial Advisor

2001 - Squaring the Circle, Management Consultants-

Senior Consultant in: Corporate Finance, Balance

Sheets Restructuring, Real Estate Finance, Credit Analysis,

Fundamental and Technical Analysis, Anti-Money Laundering

Laws and Procedures, Fraud Investigations/ Financial Forensics,

Risk Management, Alternative Risk Transfer and Reinsurance,

Repurchase Agreements, SWAPS, Geopolitical and Socioeconomic  
Forecasting and Analysis, Conflict Resolution and Negotiation

Skills Training

1998 - The Chubb Corporation - Senior Surety Underwriter at

Lloyds of London

1994 - HSBC - Corporate Account Manager/ Senior Credit Analyst

1989 - Bank of Cyprus - Senior Credit Analyst

**COMMUNITY/ CIVIC ACTIVITY**

Veterans Affairs - Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System,

Austin - Registered Volunteer

Lions Club - Downtown Austin, Director 2012/13, 2014/15

The Austin Club - Member

Mathews Elementary School, Austin - Campus Advisory Committee  
Member

St. Stephen's Church, Austin - Volunteer

Freeman of the City of London - Awarded in 2004

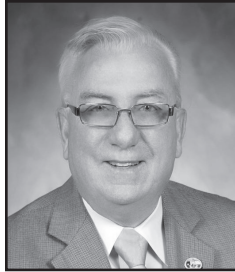
**MILITARY**

British Army - 10th Parachute Battalion

**FAMILY**

Wife, Angele & Son, Andrew

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND TREASURER**



**CHARLES A. MURCHISON**

**GALENA PARK LODGE NO. 1290**

Raised - February 5, 1969  
Treasurer - 2006-2009  
Endowed Member  
Past Master - 1980  
Golden Trowel - 1998  
Life Member - 1983

**PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP**

Murchison Lodge No. 80 – Member  
Bedias Lodge No. 651 - Current Master  
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 – Endowed Member & Current Musician

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

District Deputy Grand Master – 1999  
Grand Senior Stewart - 2010  
Grand Marshal - 2013  
Grand Representative to Mississippi  
Take Time to Read Committee - Member 2012-2014  
Special Assignments Committee - Member 2013  
Audit Committee - Chairman 2013, Vice Chairman 2012, Member 2011

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**EDUCATION**

Educated in Galena Park Independent School District  
Millwright Apprenticeship 1966 - 1969

**BUSINESS/PROFESSION**

Armco Steel 1966-1994 - Maintenance Manager (Retired)

Northwestern Steel & Wire 1994-1999 - Maintenance Manager

Birmingham Steel (Cartersville Ga.) 2000-2003 - Maintenance  
Manager

Darryl & Co. 2004-2013 - Warehouse Manager and Purchasing  
Agent

**FAMILY**

Wife Judy of 49 years

Children Sheryl and Darryl

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND TREASURER**



**KEYE E. PERRY**

**PARSONS LODGE NO. 222**

Raised - January 23, 1996  
Past Master 1999  
Endowed Member 1999  
Golden Trowel - 2012

**PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS**

Texas Lodge of Research - Member  
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 - Charter Member

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**EDUCATION**

BA – International Relations, 1969, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA  
MA – National Security Management with Area Specialties in South Asia and the Middle East, 1977, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA  
MProfAcctg – Accounting and Taxation, 1994, University of Texas, Austin, TX  
MBA – Information Management, University of Texas, Austin, TX

**BUSINESS/ PROFESSIONAL**

Certified Public Accountant: 1997-present  
Certified Government Financial Manager: 1997-2000  
Owner: Keye Perry, CPA, PC: 1998-present

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, 1969 – 1990**

Specialty qualifications: Senior Pilot, Senior Intelligence Officer,  
Senior Information Management Officer, Logistics Readiness Officer

Twelve years as Budget Center Manager and Cost Center Manager  
in five assignments

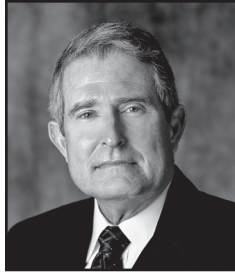
Squadron Commander and Chief, International Standardization  
Division, HQ USAF

Defense Language Institute – Distinguished Graduate, Farsi: 1976-  
77

Air War College – Outstanding Graduate: 1987



**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND TREASURER**



**JOHN DAVID SMITH**

**COLORADO LODGE NO. 96**

Raised - December 30, 1996

Endowed Member

150th Celebration Chairman

Current Master 2014 and Past Master 2003

Golden Trowel

**PLURAL & ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS**

Mina Lodge No. 1456 -Endowed Member

Texana Lodge No. 123- Endowed Member, Past Master 2013

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District No.50 - 2007

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**EDUCATION**

Collegiate - 1968 - 1972

Murray State College - 1970

Panhandle State University - 1972

B.S. - Math/Physics

**ADDITIONAL**

Injection Molding of Thermoplastics - New York University

Tooling Design for Injection Molding - New York University

Advanced Tooling Design for Injection Molding - New York  
University

Professional Management - Louis A. Allen Associates, Inc.

How to Manage Quality Control - Virginia State University

Managing Work Relationships - Ridge Associates, Inc.

Strategy of Experimentation - DuPont Corp.

L.E.T. (Leadership Effectiveness Training) - W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

**BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL -1973 - present**

Texas Instruments, Inc - Process Control Engineer & Supervisor

Schlumberger, Inc - Research & Development Engineer, Engineering Manager

Rochester Corporation, Inc – Q/C Manager, Engineering Manager, Operations Manager Mark Products, Inc - Engineering Manager, Sales Manager

Diemolding Corporation - Engineering Manager

Western Geophysical, Inc - Research & Development Engineering Manager

W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc - Product Specialist, Product Manager, Field Sales Engineer (present)

**FAMILY**

Wife - Hope (40-Years)

Children - James & Jaclyn

Grandchildren - Mackenzie, Sterling, Reed, Merrit, & David

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR GRAND TREASURER**



**RONALD C. WISE**

**SILENT BROTHERHOOD LODGE #146, Coushatta LA**  
Raised 9/6/1988

**PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS**

Roy Stanley Lodge #1367 – Endowed Member  
Acting Master 2009-2010  
Worshipful Master 2010-2011  
Treasurer 2013-present  
Metropolitan Lodge #1182 – Endowed Member  
Secretary 2012-present  
Alexander C. Garrett Lodge #1216 – Endowed Member  
Tranquility Lodge #2000  
Texas Lodge of Research

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District No.14C – 2012  
Committee on Finance 2013-present  
District 14 Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Assoc. – President 2013-  
2014  
Dallas Masonic Service Bureau – Treasurer 2012-present

**PERSONAL PROFILE**

**BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL**

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. - Division of Liquidation, Fort  
Worth TX – Forensic  
Bank Examiner and Fraud Investigator 1989-1996  
AT&T Corporation, Dallas TX - 3<sup>rd</sup> level Finance Manager, 1996-  
2011

**COMMUNITY/CIVIC ACTIVITY**

Krewe of Apollo Mardi Gras Assoc. – 1990-2010 - a non-profit benefiting Longview, Shreveport, Texarkana residents with medical expenses.

Lakewood Social Club – Treasurer 1994-present

Literacy Instruction For Texas –Volunteer math tutor G.E.D. Program -2009-2012

Rainbow Dad for Roy Stanley Assembly #127 – 2009-2011

**HONORARY**

Holy Stone Council #274, Allied Masonic Degrees

**EDUCATION**

Northwestern State University, Natchitoches LA - B.S. Finance 1989

**FAMILY**

Wife Juana Elsa (Ochoa) Wise,

Stepson Lenny Narroquin

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FOR COMMITTEE ON WORK**



**G. DUANE ANTHONY**

**MADISON LODGE NO. 126**

Raised - June 23, 1993  
Endowed Member - 1994  
Past Master - 1995-96  
LIFE Instructor  
Funeral Master  
Take Time To Read Lodge Coordinator

**PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Brookshire Lodge No. 1066 - Life Member - 2009  
Tolerance Lodge No. 1165 - Life Member - 2008  
Bridge City Lodge No. 1345 - Life Member – 2006  
Golden Trowel Award – 2009  
Junior Steward – 2013-2014  
ALL Instructor  
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 – Member – Endowed 2010

**GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

Esoteric A-Certificate 1996 - present  
District Instructor 2004 - 2009  
District Deputy Grand Master - 2003  
Grand Junior Deacon – 2006  
Conference Coordinator 2008 - present  
Grand Master's Planning Teams - 2008, 2009 & 2010  
Grand Lodge By-Laws Committee 2008–2010, Chairman - 2009  
Hurricane Disaster Relief Committee Chairman 2008 & 2009  
Committee on Work – 2009 –Present, Secretary – 2013, Chairman - 2014  
Grand Representative - Grand Lodge of Louisiana

