

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND JURISPRUDENCE

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren:

Your committee received TEN (10) proposed amendments to the Constitution of Grand Lodge for July 2023.

The **1st proposal** deals with announcing the results of voting and reads as follows: (R.W. Bro. Leonard E. Feldt)

Current Version

60. (b) The vote under this Section for the District Deputy Grand Master shall be counted and announced forthwith.

Proposed Version

60. (b) The vote under this Section for the District Deputy Grand Master shall be counted and announced forthwith by noting the total number of eligible voters, the total number of ballots cast, the total number of spoiled ballots, if any, and the total or final number of ballots cast for each individual on the ballot. This information is to be displayed electronically, if possible, at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, and on the Grand Lodge website. In the alternative to an electronic display of the information detailed above at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, it shall be broadcast to those in attendance at the Annual Communication.

Current Version

62. (b) The vote shall be counted forthwith after the balloting period has ended and, if a second ballot is required, the voting shall take place during such time as determined by the Board of General Purposes.

Proposed Version

62. (b) The vote shall be counted and announced forthwith by noting the total number of eligible voters, the total number of ballots cast, the total number of spoiled ballots, if any, and the total or final number of ballots cast for each individual on the ballot after the balloting period has ended and, if a second ballot is required, the voting shall take place during such time as determined by the Board of General Purposes. The announcement of an initial ballot and any subsequent ballots, if required, shall be displayed electronically, if possible, at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, and on the Grand Lodge website. In the alternative to an electronic display of the announcement at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the information detailed in the announcement shall be broadcast to those in attendance at the Annual Communication.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **2nd proposal** deals with the elimination of the position of Chief Operating Officer, as follows: (Chairman of Constitution and Jurisprudence, R.W. Bro. Brian W. Gilkinson)

Current Version

Names the Chief Operating Officer in Sections 38 (a), 39, 40, 47, 53, 57, 66, 70 (b), (d) and (e), 121, 122, 125, 128, 129 and in the Index to the Constitution.

Proposed Version

Substitute "Grand Secretary" for "Chief Operating Officer" in Sections 38 (a), 39, 40, 47, 53, 57, 66, 70 (b), (d) and (e), 121, 122, 125, 128 and 129 and delete the reference to Chief Operating Officer in the Index to the Constitution.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **3rd proposal** deals with more detail and understanding concerning the role of the Grand Treasurer and role of the power and duties of the Audit and Finance Committee to read as follows: (Grand Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Sydney Schatzker)

Current Version

112. Grand Treasurer

The Grand Treasurer shall:

- (a) keep such books and accounts and in such a manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of General Purposes; and
- (b) serve as an ex officio member of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes.

Proposed Version

112. Grand Treasurer

The Grand Treasurer shall:

- (a) keep such books and accounts and in such a manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of General Purposes; and
- (b) serve as an ex officio member of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes;
- (c) review and analyze the monthly financial statements, recommend adjustments where necessary and monitor variances from the annual budget;

- (d) prepare an annual budget based on an estimate of the receipts and expenditures on account of the General Fund for the ensuing year, with a view to ensuring that the expenditures are essential and that the receipts are sufficient to cover them;
- (e) submit the annual budget to the Audit and Finance Committee for input and review; and
- (f) prepare and maintain a five (5) year financial forecast.

Current Version

136. (a) Audit and Finance

To review the monthly statements of the Grand Secretary;

To review the annual reports of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary and the Auditor;

To consider the investments of the Funds of Grand Lodge as recommended by the Grand Treasurer;

To recommend the amounts to be transferred annually from the General Account for benevolent purposes or appropriations to any foundation or trust which may be established by Grand Lodge for charitable purposes;

To recommend the approval of charitable donations made of behalf of Grand Lodge by the Grand Master;

To review with the Grand Secretary the number of staff required for the Grand Lodge office including a Supervisor of Benevolence and the salaries to be paid;

To arrange for the reimbursement of the approved expenses of the members of the Board of General Purposes attending Grand Lodge;

To prepare an estimate of the receipts and expenditures on account of the General Fund for the ensuing year, with a view to ensuring that the expenditures are essential and that the receipts are sufficient to cover them;

To recommend any changes in financial commitments of the lodges to Grand Lodge; and

To make a periodic survey of the insurance coverage of Grand Lodge.

Proposed Version

136. (a) Audit and Finance

To review the monthly statements of the Grand Secretary;

To review the annual reports of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary and the Auditor;

To consider, in conjunction with the Grand Treasurer, the investments of the funds of Grand Lodge;

To recommend the amounts to be transferred annually from the General Account for benevolent purposes or appropriations to any foundation or trust which may be established by Grand Lodge for charitable purposes;

To recommend the approval of the charitable donations made on behalf of Grand Lodge by the Grand Master;

To review with the Grand Secretary the number of staff required for the Grand Lodge office including a Supervisor of Benevolence and the salaries to be paid;

To arrange for the reimbursement of the approved expenses of the members of the Board of General Purposes attending Grand Lodge;

To review the preliminary annual budget prepared by the Grand Treasurer and provide input;

To review all contracts over \$10,000.00 and conduct a feasibility study and cost/benefit analysis and provide evaluations, recommendations and final approval or veto before such contracts are signed.

To ensure all Grand Lodge Committee budgets meet the objectives of the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan;

To recommend any changes in financial commitments of the lodges to Grand Lodge; and

To make a periodic survey of the insurance coverage of Grand Lodge.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **4th proposal** deals with increasing the fee for commutation of dues to be commensurate with the annual dues assessment under Section 152 (m) to read as follows: (Grand Secretary, M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling)

Current Version

152. (c) Three hundred and fifty dollars for the commutation of dues to Grand Lodge.

Proposed Version

152. (c) Five hundred and twenty five dollars for the commutation of dues to Grand Lodge.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **5th proposal** deals with amalgamations to read as follows:
(Chairman of Constitution and Jurisprudence, R.W. Bro. Brian W. Gilkinson)

Current Version

161. (a) The report of the joint committee, if favourable, shall recommend the name, number and district of the proposed amalgamated lodge and the time and place for such amalgamation. On the approval of the report of the committee of each lodge, a copy thereof shall be mailed to the last known address of each member of each lodge. Unless 25% or more of the membership as reported on the latest semi-annual return of any of the lodges notify the secretary of their lodge, in writing, of their objection to such amalgamation, within ten days from the date of mailing said notice, the amalgamation shall be carried into effect as soon as the Grand Master shall approve of such amalgamation.

(b) Any warrant not required for the amalgamated lodge shall be delivered up to the Grand Secretary, upon receipt of the approval of the amalgamation by the Grand Master.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 161 (b) the amalgamated lodge may elect to retain the surrendered warrant for historical, ceremonial or display purposes. Should the lodge so elect then a label, supplied by Grand Lodge, shall be affixed to the warrant indicating, that when the lodge no longer requires the warrant, it shall be returned to Grand Lodge in accordance with Section 161 (b).

Proposed Version

Deleting Section 161 (b) and (c); and

Add NEW Section 161 subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) thereof:

161. (a) The report of the joint committee, if favourable, shall recommend the name, number and district of the proposed amalgamated lodge and the time and place for such amalgamation. On the approval of the report of the committee of each lodge, a copy thereof shall be mailed to the last known address of each member of each lodge. Unless 25% or more of the membership as reported on the latest semi-annual return of any of the lodges notify the secretary of their lodge, in writing, of their objection to such amalgamation, within ten days from the date of mailing said notice, the amalgamation shall be carried into effect as soon as the Grand Master shall approve of such amalgamation.

(b) Once the amalgamation has been approved by the Grand Master and carried into effect, a certificate of amalgamation evidencing such approval and, among other things, identifying the amalgamating lodges, the name and number on the Grand Lodge register of the newly amalgamated lodge and the date of the amalgamation shall be issued to the amalgamated lodge. Any amalgamated lodge in existence on the date that this subsection comes into force shall be entitled to receive such a certificate of amalgamation upon written request therefor made to the Grand Secretary. In either case a fee, as may be set by Grand Lodge, will apply.

(c) The amalgamating lodges may choose the name of one of such amalgamating lodges, or a new name, as the name of the amalgamated lodge.

(d) The amalgamated lodge shall retain and be known by the number on the Grand Lodge register of whichever of the amalgamating lodges it chooses.

(e) The warrant bearing that number on the Grand Lodge register and the certificate of amalgamation shall be present when the amalgamated lodge is open, but the certificate of amalgamation need not be affixed to or otherwise displayed with such warrant.

(f) Promptly following the issuance of the certificate of amalgamation, the warrant or warrants of the amalgamating lodges other than the warrant referred to in Section 161 (e) shall be returned to Grand Lodge in care of the Grand Secretary, unless the amalgamated lodge wishes to retain such warrant or warrants for historical, ceremonial or display purposes, in which event a label supplied by the Grand Secretary shall be affixed to such warrant or warrants indicating that such warrant or warrants are to be surrendered to Grand Lodge when they are no longer required for such purposes.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **6th proposal** deals with Certificate of Demission (dues owing) to read as follows:
(R.W. Bro. Peter G. Harbert)

Current Version

194. The lodge may, by resolution of which notice of motion has been given and published in a summons for a regular meeting, accept the application for demission of a member who is in arrears of dues. The Certificate of Demission (dues owing) in accordance with Form 2 shall state the fact and the amount of indebtedness of the brother to the lodge.

Proposed Version

194. A lodge may, by resolution of which notice of motion has been given and published in the summons for a regular meeting, accept the application for demission of a member who is then in arrears of dues for a period of less than twelve months. If any such application is so accepted, the Certificate of Demission (dues owing) in accordance with prescribed Form 2 shall be issued to the demitted member stating the amount of such arrears as of the date on which it is issued. The issuance of such Certificate of Demission shall not affect the membership of such demitted member in any other lodge of which he is then a member, but shall preclude him thereafter from joining any other lodge without first having paid in full his indebtedness to the lodge which issued the Certificate of Demission (dues owing).

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **7th proposal** deals with the lodge seal, applications, warrants, summons and returns to read as follows: (Chairman of Communications, R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman)

Current Version

302. (a) Every lodge shall have an approved seal, the design of which, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary for approval by the Grand Master.

(b) The lodge seal shall be affixed to all documents issued under the authority of a resolution of the lodge and, more particularly, the following documents:

- (i) semi-annual returns of work;
- (ii) annual returns of officers installed and invested;
- (iii) by-laws;
- (iv) amendments to by-laws;
- (v) certificate of adoption of by-laws;
- (vi) copy of the summons giving notice of motion to consider by-laws or amendments, which copy must accompany the by-laws or amendments thereto when forwarded for confirmation by the Grand Master;
- (vii) application for benevolence;
- (viii) annual return of moneys expended for benevolence;
- (ix) any recommendation for the formation of a new lodge; and
- (x) all dues cards

Proposed Version

302. (a) Every lodge shall have an approved seal, the design of which, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary for approval by the Grand Master.

(b) The lodge seal shall be affixed to all documents issued under the authority of a resolution of a lodge and, more particularly, the following documents:

- (i) by-laws;
- (ii) amendments to by-laws;
- (iii) certificate of adoption of by-laws;
- (iv) copy of the summons giving notice of motion to consider by-laws or amendments, which copy must accompany the by-laws or amendments thereto when forwarded for confirmation by the Grand Master;
- (v) application for benevolence;
- (vi) annual return of moneys expended for benevolence;
- (vii) any recommendations for the formation of a new lodge; and
- (viii) all dues cards

Current Version

316. (b) Upon receipt of the application for initiation the Secretary of the lodge shall send or cause to be sent to the Grand Secretary a duplicate copy of the application. The Grand Secretary shall immediately inform the Secretary of the lodge if the applicant is clear on the Grand Lodge records or has been rejected by a lodge within the last twelve months.

Proposed Version

316. (b) Upon receipt of the application for initiation the Secretary of the lodge shall immediately enter into the Grand Lodge Database/System the information contained therein, to determine the eligibility of the applicant to be initiated.

Current Version

323. (a) If a favourable report of the Committee of Inquiry with respect to an applicant has been submitted to the lodge, and if proper notice of ballot stating particulars of the name, date of birth [year-month-day], occupation and residence of the applicant has been given in the lodge summons, and if the Grand Secretary has provided a report that the applicant is clear on the Grand Lodge records, the ballot may be proceeded with at once. If proper notice has not been given the ballot shall stand over until the next regular meeting of the lodge, of which proper notice shall have been given.

Proposed Version

323. (a) If a favourable report of the Committee of Inquiry with respect to an applicant has been submitted to the lodge, and if proper notice of ballot stating particulars of the name, date of birth [year-month-day], occupation and residence of the applicant has been given in the lodge summons, and if a search of the Grand Lodge Database/System has provided a report that the applicant is clear on the Grand Lodge records, the ballot may be proceed with at once. If proper notice has not been given the ballot shall stand over until the next regular meeting of the lodge, of which proper notice shall have been given.

Current Version

334. (a) In a district or districts where there has not been a Masonic Bureau established, each Secretary of a lodge shall report forthwith to the Secretaries of the other lodges, the names of any applicants rejected, the names of members suspended together with a statement of the cause of suspension, the names of members demitted (with or without dues owing) and the names of members restored. The receipt of the statement shall be reported in open lodge by the Secretary of the lodge.

(b) In addition to the requirements of Section 334(a) the Secretary of each lodge shall report forthwith to the Grand Secretary the names of applicants who have been rejected either by ballot or by an unfavourable report.

Proposed Version

Delete Section 334 in its entirety.

Current Version

321. Where any applicant is rejected, either by the receipt and adoption of an unfavourable report by the lodge, or by an unfavourable ballot, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give immediate notice to the Grand Secretary and to the secretaries of all lodges in the district, except in an area where a Masonic bureau exists, in which case the notice shall be given to the Secretary of the Bureau instead of the secretaries of the lodges.

Proposed Version

321. Where the applicant is rejected, either by the receipt and adoption of an unfavourable report by the lodge, or by an unfavourable ballot, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to immediately make such report by updating the Grand Lodge Database/System with such report.

Current Version

237. The Master shall cause to be sent to the District Deputy Grand Master and to the Grand Secretary, immediately after the installation and investiture of the officers, on a form to be supplied by the Grand Secretary, a certified list of the officers elected and appointed.

Proposed Version

237. It shall be the duty of the Secretary, under the direction of the Master to update and maintain the Grand Lodge Database/System in a timely manner and as prescribed by the Constitution including as it relates to:

- (a) semi-annual returns to be submitted in accordance with Section 300; and
- (b) the elected and appointed officers of the lodge, immediately after their installation and investiture and upon any change in any such officer.

Current Version

300. Each lodge shall mail or otherwise deliver to the Grand Secretary its returns and payments to Grand Lodge semi-annually on or before the 8th day of January and the 8th day of July in each year.

Proposed Version

300. Each lodge shall update the Grand Lodge Database/System pursuant to Section 237, and shall mail or otherwise deliver to the Grand Secretary its payments to Grand Lodge semi-annually on or before the 8th day of January and the 8th day of July in each year.

Current Version

301. A lodge which fails to make its returns and/or to make its payments before the expiry of the periods specified in Section 300, may be summoned by the Grand Master to show cause:

- (a) why it should not be suspended; and
- (b) where such failure continues for six months, why its warrant should not be withdrawn or revoked.

Proposed Version

301. A lodge which fails to update the Grand Lodge Database/System and/or make its payments before the expiry of the periods specified in Section 300, may be summoned by the Grand Master to show cause:

(a) why it should not be suspended; and

(b) where such failure continues for six months, why its warrant should not be withdrawn or revoked.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **8th proposal** deals with warrants to read as follows:

(Chairman of Communications, R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman)

Current Version

275. The warrant must be present in the lodge room when the lodge is open.

Proposed Version

275. (a) The warrant must be present in the lodge room when the lodge is open.

(b) Upon being notified of the death of a member who is in good standing at the time of his death, the Master may order that the warrant of the lodge be draped with a black cloth at the next regular meeting of the lodge. At the meeting where the warrant is draped, the Masonic record of the member may be read, and a moment of silence may be observed at the discretion of the Master.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **9th proposal** deals with the summons to read as follows:

(Chairman of Communications, R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman)

Current Version

239. The Master shall cause the Secretary to send a copy of every summons to the members of the lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of the district in which the lodge is situated, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master.

Proposed Version

239. The Master shall cause the Secretary to send a copy of every summons to the members of the lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of the district in which the lodge is situated, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master, which shall be delivered in accordance with Section 270 of the Book of Constitution.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **10th proposal** deals with additional information for Form 6 and Form 7 to read as follows: (Chairman of Constitution and Jurisprudence, R.W. Bro. Brian W. Gilkinson)

Proposed Version

Form 6 - Section 307

Deleting the phrase "free by birth" from the applicant's initial declaration on page 1 of the form; and

Adding a new clause (b) and (c) to the applicant's further declaration on page 1, to read, "(b) that my phone number is:" and (c) that my electronic contact information is"; and

Redesignating the existing clause (b) to clause (d) and the existing clause (c) to clause (e); and

Inserting the following paragraph on page 2 of the form, immediately following the confidentiality of information paragraph, to read:

"I further acknowledge and agree that information relating to my Masonic membership status and contact information, i.e., addresses, telephone numbers and electronic contact information, may be shared with another Masonic body of which I am a member only as authorized by my revocable direction and consent given to the lodge and that Masonic body."

Proposed Version

Form 7 - Section 358

Adding an area, immediately following that providing for the provision of the applicant's residence address information, to commence with the words, "My phone number is:" and followed by "My electronic contact information is:"

Inserting, the following paragraph on page 2 of the form, immediately following the confidentiality of information paragraph, to read:

"I further acknowledge and agree that information relating to my Masonic membership status and contact information, i.e., addresses, telephone numbers and electronic contact information, may be shared with another Masonic body of which I am a member only as authorized by my revocable direction and consent given to the lodge and that Masonic body."

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

Your committee wishes to make clear that in finding a proposal to be regular, it is not commenting on the merits of it, but is indicating that the proposal does not conflict either with other provisions of the Constitution which were not proposed to be concurrently amended, or the ancient usages and customs of the Craft, and is therefore open for the consideration of the membership.

Respectfully submitted.
BRIAN W. GILKINSON, Chairman
MURRAY L. COULTER
MICHAEL J. MACDONALD
H. ALEXANDER ZIMMERMAN
ALL PAST GRAND MASTERS