

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 SIX (6) proposed amendments to the Constitution of Grand Lodge for July 2025. We encourage all members of Grand Lodge to thoroughly read, consider and gain a full understanding of them, to aid in discussions before the annual communication of their merits or demerits.

The **1st proposal** deals with qualifying the Deputy Grand Master, to include elected officers with Management Committee experience without restriction on the time period of that service, by adding “and in an ex officio or an elected capacity on the Management Committee” as follows: (R.W. Bro. Dennis Saikaley)

Current Version

47. (a) Any brother who has served as an elected member of the Board of General Purposes shall be entitled to have his name published as a candidate for the office of Deputy Grand Master if he signifies his intention in writing to the Grand Secretary on or before the 1st day of April or such other date as determined by the Board of General Purposes prior to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge at which a Deputy Grand Master is to be elected. The announcement of his candidature for that office shall be made at the same time as the nominations for other Grand Lodge offices are published, but such announcement shall not be construed as a nomination for the office of Deputy Grand Master and shall not preclude the candidature of other similarly qualified brethren for the office, up to and including the time of voting for that office.

Proposed Version

47. (a) Any brother who has served as an elected member of the Board of General Purposes, **and in an ex officio or an elected capacity on the Management Committee**, shall be entitled to have his name published as a candidate for the office of Deputy Grand Master if he signifies his intention in writing to the Grand Secretary on or before the 1st day of April or such other date as determined by the Board of General Purposes prior to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge at which a Deputy Grand Master is to be elected. The announcement of his candidature for that office shall be made at the same time as the nominations for other Grand Lodge offices are published, but such announcement shall not be construed as a nomination for the office of Deputy Grand Master and shall not preclude the candidature of other similarly qualified brethren for the office, up to and including the time of voting for that office.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **2nd proposal** deals with Audit and Finance and Library, Museum and Archives by deleting “Standing” from Sections 120 (d) and (e), deleting subsection 134 (k) (v); deleting subsections (a) and (f) from Section 135; and deleting “Standing” from the heading for Section 136 to allow such committees to be chaired by brethren who are not members of the Board to not compromise their independence and objectivity with respect to their audit responsibilities and to provide flexibility for the best candidate to fulfill the duties of such committees as follows:

(Operations Pillar Chairman, R.W. Bro. Jeffrey M. Gatcke)

Current Version

120 (d) Grand Librarian

The Grand Librarian shall act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Librarian would be a member ex officio.

The Grand Librarian shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, in accordance with the provision of Section 42 and is subject to reappointment annually.

(e) Grand Archivist

The Grand Archivist shall act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Archivist would be a member ex officio.

The Grand Archivist shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, in accordance with the provision of Section 42 and is subject to reappointment annually.

134 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 134(j), the composition of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:

- (i) the Grand Master (ex officio);
- (ii) the Deputy Grand Master (ex officio) who shall preside as Chairman of the Committee;
- (iii) the Grand Treasurer (ex officio);
- (iv) the Grand Secretary (ex officio);
- (v) the Chairman of the Committee on Audit and Finance (ex officio);
- (vi) five (5) members from among the Honorary, Elected and Appointed members of the Board of General Purposes; consisting of 3 elected by the above noted members of the Board of General Purposes and 2 appointed by the Grand Master.
- (vii) the term of those individuals elected to the Management Committee shall be three years. One person shall be elected each year to serve a term of three years.
- (viii) the terms of those individuals appointed by the Grand Master shall be for 2 years each, coinciding with the term of the Grand Master that appointed them. There is no limit to the number of times an individual can be appointed by successive Grand Masters.
- (ix) vacancies occurring in the ranks of the appointed members to the Management Committee will be filled through appointment(s) by the Grand Master. Vacancies occurring in the ranks of the elected members

of the Management Committee will remain vacant until next meeting of the Board of General Purposes when voting for Management Committee takes place. Any year that a vacancy has arisen and two (2) people are to be elected, the member with the highest number of votes shall be elected for a 3 year term. The member with the second highest number of votes shall fulfil the remaining term of the vacant position.

Standing Committees of the Board

135. (a) Audit and Finance
(b) Benevolence
(c) Condition of Masonry
(d) Constitution and Jurisprudence
(e) Discipline
(f) Library, Museum and Archives
(g) Management
(h) Masonic Education
(i) Strategic Planning

Powers and Duties of Standing Committees

Proposed Version

- 120 (d) Grand Librarian

The Grand Librarian shall act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the **Committee** on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Librarian would be a member ex officio.

The Grand Librarian shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, in accordance with the provision of Section 42 and is subject to reappointment annually.

- (e) Grand Archivist

The Grand Archivist shall act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the **Committee** on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Archivist would be a member ex officio.

The Grand Archivist shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, in accordance with the provision of Section 42 and is subject to reappointment annually.

- 134 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 134 (j), the composition of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:
(i) the Grand Master (ex officio);
(ii) the Deputy Grand Master (ex officio) who shall preside as Chairman of the Committee;
(iii) the Grand Treasurer (ex officio);
(iv) the Grand Secretary (ex officio);

- (v) **(Deleted)**;
- (vi) five (5) members from among the Honorary, Elected and Appointed members of the Board of General Purposes; consisting of 3 elected by the above noted members of the Board of General Purposes and 2 appointed by the Grand Master.
- (vii) the term of those individuals elected to the Management Committee shall be three years. One person shall be elected each year to serve a term of three years.
- (viii) the terms of those individuals appointed by the Grand Master shall be for 2 years each, coinciding with the term of the Grand Master that appointed them. There is no limit to the number of times an individual can be appointed by successive Grand Masters.
- (ix) vacancies occurring in the ranks of the appointed members to the Management Committee will be filled through appointment(s) by the Grand Master. Vacancies occurring in the ranks of the elected members of the Management Committee will remain vacant until next meeting of the Board of General Purposes when voting for Management Committee takes place. Any year that a vacancy has arisen and two (2) people are to be elected, the member with the highest number of votes shall be elected for a 3 year term. The member with the second highest number of votes shall fulfil the remaining term of the vacant position.

Standing Committees of the Board

135. (a) **(Deleted)**
- (b) Benevolence
 - (c) Condition of Masonry
 - (d) Constitution and Jurisprudence
 - (e) Discipline
 - (f) **(Deleted)**
 - (g) Management
 - (h) Masonic Education
 - (i) Strategic Planning

Powers and Duties of Committees

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **3rd proposal** deals with amending Sections 200-202 to reorder and add clarification to members and lodges regarding the non-payment of dues and amend associated section references in Section 305 (e) and the Index as follows:

(Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Louis M. Domjan)

Current Version

199. Lodge dues are payable in advance. A brother shall be considered in arrears if he is default in payment of them, on the day following the due date of the current Masonic year as stipulated in the by-laws of the lodge.

200. (a) A brother who neglects to pay his dues as required by the by-laws of his lodge for twelve consecutive months shall be suspended.

(b) A lodge, however, may by open vote remit the dues of any brother, provided a notice of motion for remission has been given at the regular meeting immediately prior to that at which the vote is taken and provided such vote is taken prior to the dues becoming twelve months in arrears.

(c) The notice of motion must contain the amount of the dues to be remitted but shall not contain the name of the brother whose dues are being remitted.

(d) At the regular meeting of the lodge at which a brother's dues become twelve months in arrears the Secretary shall read his name and the Master shall forthwith declare him suspended for non-payment of dues. Such shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the lodge, notice of having been suspended for nonpayment of dues shall be immediately sent to such brother, and the Secretary shall notify the District Deputy Grand Master and the Masonic Bureau, if a bureau exists, of such suspension. Where a Masonic bureau does not exist notice shall be given to the Secretaries of all lodges in the district.

201. A brother who neglects to pay his dues shall be dealt with by his lodge for such neglect in accordance with the provisions the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

202. At any time, and not later than ten months, a brother is in arrears of dues, the Secretary of the lodge shall send him notice thereof, including the amount owing , the date it was due, the date he will become twelve months in arrears, and a copy of Sections 199 to 203 of the Constitution. The notice shall be deemed served if mailed via surface delivery service to the last known address of such brother.

202. (a) (b) (c) (Deleted)

Proposed Version

Delete existing Section 201 which is redundant.

Clarify suspension is automatic in existing Section 200 (a) and existing Section 200 (d).

Reorder notice requirements under existing Section 200 (d).

Renumbering Section 202 to be Section 200 and move to follow Section 199.

Renumber Section 200 to be Section 201.

Identify Section 202 as deleted.

199. Lodge dues are payable in advance. A brother shall be considered in arrears if he is default in payment of them, on the day following the due date of the current Masonic year as stipulated in the by-laws of the lodge.

200. At any time, and not later than ten months, a brother is in arrears of dues, the Secretary of the lodge shall send him notice thereof, including the amount owing , the date it was due, the date he will become twelve months in arrears, and a copy of Sections 199 to 203 of the Constitution. The notice shall be deemed served if mailed via surface delivery service to the last known address of such brother.

201. (a) A brother who neglects to pay his dues as required by the by-laws of his lodge for twelve consecutive months shall be **automatically** suspended **regardless of whether notice has been served pursuant to Section 200.**

(b) A lodge, however, may by open vote remit the dues of any brother, provided a notice of motion for remission has been given at the regular meeting immediately prior to that at which the vote is taken and provided such vote is taken prior to the dues becoming twelve months in arrears.

(c) The notice of motion must contain the amount of the dues to be remitted but shall not contain the name of the brother whose dues are being remitted.

(d) At the regular meeting of the lodge at which a brother's dues become twelve months in arrears the Secretary shall read his name and the Master shall forthwith declare him **to have been automatically** suspended for non-payment of dues **effective the date the brother was twelve months in arrears.** Such shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the lodge, notice of having been suspended for non-payment of dues shall be immediately sent to such brother, and the Secretary shall **send notice of the suspension to the Secretaries of all lodges in the district,** the **lodge's** District Deputy Grand Master **and** the Masonic Bureau, if a bureau exists.

202. (Deleted)

Current Version

305. (e) Dues and fees set pursuant to Section 305 (d) must be fully compliant with other provisions of this Constitution including, but not limited to, Sections 185, 187 (b), 199, 200 (a), 297 and 378.

Proposed Version

305. (e) Dues and fees set pursuant to Section 305 (d) must be fully compliant with other provisions of this Constitution including, but not limited to, Sections 185, 187 (b), 199, **201** (a), 297 and 378.

Current Version

PART IX - INDEX

Dues

Arrears	199, 256
Commutation to Grand Lodge ..	152(c), 185, 186, 187(b)
Honorary Members	187(a)
Provision for Suspension	200(a), 201-202
Remission	200(b)

Suspensions

Effect	207-211
Loss of Privileges	206

Non-payment of Dues..... 200, 204

Proposed

PART IX – INDEX

Dues

Arrears 199, 256
Commutation to Grand Lodge .. 152(c), 185, 186, 187(b)
Honorary Members 187(a)
Provision for Suspension 200, 201(a), 201(d)
Remission 201(b)

Suspensions

Effect 207-211
Loss of Privileges 206
Non-payment of Dues..... 201, 204

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **4th proposal** deals with amending Section 229 to entitle a Master to Past Rank if he served for not less than twelve months and until the date a lodge amalgamated or voluntarily surrendered its warrant by adding a new Section 229 (b), and renumber and revise existing Section 229 (b) as follows: (Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Louis M. Domjan)

Current Version

229. (a) Where a Master shall have served for not less than eleven months in a year when as a result of an amendment to the by-laws of the lodge or by dispensation of the Grand Master the date of the annual installation is less than twelve months from the date of the preceding annual installation, or by approval of Grand Lodge upon recommendation of the Grand Master, a Master shall be entitled to Past Rank.

(b) A Master of a lodge attains the rank of Past Master ONLY after he has served as Master for a minimum of 12 months (subject to Section 229 (a)), AND a successor has been elected and installed in his stead.

Proposed Version

229. (a) Where a Master shall have served for not less than eleven months in a year when as a result of an amendment to the by-laws of the lodge or by dispensation of the Grand Master the date of the annual installation is less than twelve months from the date of the preceding annual installation, or by approval of Grand Lodge upon recommendation of the Grand Master, a Master shall be entitled to Past Rank.

(b) **Where a Master shall have served for not less than twelve months and until the date a lodge amalgamated or voluntarily surrendered its warrant, he shall be entitled to Past Rank effective the date of such amalgamation or voluntary surrender of warrant.**

(c) A Master of a lodge attains the rank of Past Master ONLY after he has served as Master for a minimum of 12 months (subject to Section 229 (a)), AND a successor has been elected and installed in his stead (subject to Section 229 (b)).

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **5th proposal** deals with amending Section 318 to identify the assembly of the Committee of Inquiry by adding “assemble in person with the applicant, with all three members of the committee present, and shall” as follows:

(Communications Pillar Chairman, R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte)

Current Version

318. Each application, having been read in open lodge, shall be referred to a committee of inquiry of 3 or more Master Masons from the lodge receiving the application, appointed by the Master, none of whom shall have proposed or seconded the application. The committee shall inquire into the character and qualifications of the applicant and shall report in writing thereon to the lodge at its next regular meeting held after the lapse of not less than four weeks, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Proposed Version

318. Each application, having been read in open lodge, shall be referred to a committee of inquiry of **three** or more Master Masons from the lodge receiving the application, appointed by the Master, none of whom shall have proposed or seconded the application. The committee shall **assemble in person with the applicant, with all members of the committee present, and shall** inquire into the character and qualifications of the applicant and shall report in writing thereon to the lodge at its next regular meeting held after the lapse of not less than four weeks, or as soon as possible thereafter.

YOUR Committee finds this proposal: REGULAR

The **6th proposal** deals with rewriting Form 6 and Form 7 to formally state the requirement that an applicant must be a man and identify as such gender, including on all governmental identification, and other edits for consistency as follows:

(R.W. Bro. Michael J. MacDonald)

Current Version

FORM 6
Section 307
APPLICATION FOR INITIATION

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____ on the register of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

I, (full name) _____, of the _____ of _____, in the county of _____ and Province of Ontario, born [year–month–day] _____, occupation _____, being of mature age do declare,

- (a) that, unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry;
- (b) that I am prompted by a favourable opinion conceived of the institution, and a desire for knowledge; and
- (c) that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the Order.

I further declare,

- (a) that I now reside at _____
- (b) that my phone number is _____
- (c) that my electronic contact information is _____
- (d) that during the year immediately preceding the date of this application, I have resided at the following addresses: _____

_____;
- (e) that I have not been rejected by this or any other lodge, except as follows:

Date of Rejection	Name and No. of Lodge	Location of Lodge
_____	_____	_____

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20 _____.

(Signature in full)

Recommended by: _____

In consideration of your receiving this application for membership, I consent to investigations being made from any source relating to my qualifications for membership in the Masonic Order.

I also release the Lodge, each of its members, and the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and each of its members, from all claims which I may have arising from the investigations of my qualifications, or my rejection, if such should occur.

I acknowledge and agree that all information relating to my application, investigation,

acceptance or rejection, shall remain confidential between me and the Masonic Order.

I further agree and consent to the transmission of my name, address, date of birth, occupation and other personal information set out on this form by e-mail or any other electronic means.

I further acknowledge and agree that this application and notice of rejection thereof, if such should occur, may be retained by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario in a central data base.

(signature)

Proposed Version

FORM 6
Section 307
APPLICATION FOR INITIATION

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____ on the register of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

I, (full name) _____, of the _____ of _____, in the county of _____ and **the** Province of Ontario, born [year-month-day] _____, occupation _____, being **a man and of the full age of twenty-one years** do declare,

- (a) that, unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry;
- (b) that I am prompted by a favourable opinion conceived of the institution, and a desire for knowledge; and
- (c) that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the Order.

I further declare,

- (a) that I now reside at _____
- (b) that my phone number is _____
- (c) that my electronic contact information is _____

- (d) that, during the year immediately preceding the date of this application, I have resided at the following addresses: _____

_____;

- (e) **that I am a man, and I identify as such gender, including on all governmental identification;** and

- (f) that I have not been rejected by this or any other lodge, except as follows:

Date of Rejection

Name and No.
of Lodge

Location of
Lodge

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20 _____.

(Signature in full)

We recommend this applicant and hereby declare that we verified a valid unexpired identification document issued by the federal or a provincial government of Canada, or the federal or a state government of the U.S.A., containing a photographic likeness of the applicant and stating the applicant's gender, and his name and date of birth as stated in his application.

Recommended by: _____

In consideration of your receiving this application for membership, I consent to investigations being made from any source relating to my qualifications for membership in the Masonic Order.

I also release the Lodge, each of its members, and the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and each of its members, from all claims which I may have arising from the investigations of my qualifications, or my rejection, if such should occur.

I acknowledge and agree that all information relating to my application, investigation, acceptance or rejection, shall remain confidential between me and the Masonic Order.

I further agree and consent to the transmission of my name, address, date of birth, occupation and other personal information set out on this form by e-mail or any other electronic means.

I further acknowledge and agree that this application and notice of rejection thereof, if such should occur, may be retained by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario in a central data base.

(Signature in full)

Current Version

FORM 7

Section 358

APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge

No. ____ on the register of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

I, _____, of the _____ of _____, in the county of _____ and Province of Ontario, occupation _____, born [year–month–day] _____ being a _____ Mason, and desirous of becoming a member of _____ Lodge No. _____, do declare as follows:

I am not in debt to any lodge for dues or otherwise.

I was initiated, passed and raised in _____ Lodge No. _____ at _____, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____ and am in good Masonic standing. I am (or was last) a member of _____ Lodge No. _____.

My Grand Lodge Certificate number is: _____.

I have resided, during the year immediately preceding the date of this application, at the following addresses: _____

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ A.D. 20 _____.

Signature in full _____

Recommended by: _____

Affiliation fee must accompany the form.

In consideration of your receiving this Application for Affiliation, I consent to investigation being made from any source relating to my qualifications for membership in the Masonic Lodge to which this application is directed.

I also release the lodge, each of its members, and the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and each of its members, from all claims which I may have arising from the investigation of my qualifications, or my rejection, if such should occur.

I acknowledge and agree that all information relating to my application, investigation, acceptance or rejection, shall remain confidential between me and the Masonic Order.

I further agree and consent to the transmission of my name, address, date of birth, occupation and other personal information set out on this form by e-mail or any other electronic means.

I further acknowledge and agree that this application and notice of rejection thereof, if such should occur, may be retained by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the

Province of Ontario in a central data base.

(signature)

Proposed Version

FORM 7
Section 358

APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. ____ on the register of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

I, _____, of the _____ of _____, in the county of _____ and the Province of Ontario, occupation _____, born [year–month–day] _____ being a _____ Mason, and desirous of becoming a member of _____ Lodge No. _____, do declare as follows:

I am not in debt to any lodge for dues or otherwise.

I was initiated, passed and raised in _____ Lodge No. ____ at _____, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____ and am in good Masonic standing. I am (or was last) a member of _____ Lodge No. _____.

I now reside at _____.
My preferred phone number is _____.
My electronic contact information is _____.
I am a man, and I identify as such gender, including on all governmental identification.
I am of the full age of twenty-one years.

My Grand Lodge Certificate number is: _____.

I have resided, during the year immediately preceding the date of this application, at the following addresses: _____

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ A.D. 20 _____.

Signature in full _____

We recommend this applicant and hereby declare that we verified a valid unexpired identification document issued by the federal or a provincial government of Canada, or the federal or a state government of the U.S.A., containing a photographic likeness of the applicant and stating the applicant's gender, and his name and date of birth as stated in his application.

Recommended by: _____

Affiliation fee must accompany the form.

In consideration of your receiving this Application for Affiliation, I consent to investigation being made from any source relating to my qualifications for membership in the Masonic Lodge to which this application is directed.

I also release the lodge, each of its members, and the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and each of its members, from all claims which I may have arising from the investigation of my qualifications, or my rejection, if such should occur.

I acknowledge and agree that all information relating to my application, investigation, acceptance or rejection, shall remain confidential between me and the Masonic Order.

I further agree and consent to the transmission of my name, address, date of birth, occupation and other personal information set out on this form by e-mail or any other electronic means.

I further acknowledge and agree that this application and notice of rejection thereof, if such should occur, may be retained by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario in a central data base.

(Signature in full)

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