

# **The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons Of Oklahoma**

## **CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICATION**

This is to certify that within are the Constitution and General Laws of The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma as adopted by the One Hundred Seventeenth Annual Assembly held at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on April 29, 2011.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAW REVIEW**

Elwood M. Isaacs, PGHP, PGIM  
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Updated and amended as of April 24, 2015 by Elwood M. Isaacs.

Updated and amended as of April 23, 2016 by Gary A. Davis

Updated and amended as of April 28, 2017 by Gary A. Davis

Updated and amended as of April 27, 2018 by Gary A. Davis

### **Attest:**

Gary A. Davis, Grand Recorder  
April 28, 2018

# THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE 1

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this body shall be "The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma".

**Section 2. Allegiance.** This Grand Council is a member of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International.

**Section 3. Jurisdiction.** Its jurisdiction shall be the territorial limits of the State of Oklahoma.

**Section 4, General Powers.** This Grand Council shall have and exercise supreme power and authority over Cryptic Masonry within the State of Oklahoma. It has, and of right exercises, the sole power of government, superintendence and control over all Councils of Cryptic Masons in this jurisdiction.

**Section 5. Special Powers.** It has the power especially;

**a.** To enact and enforce all laws and general regulations for the government of the Councils under its jurisdiction and, at pleasure, to alter, amend or repeal the same.

**b.** To constitute new Councils by granting dispensations and charters under seal with the right to confer therein the degrees of Masonry denominated Royal Master, Select Master and Super Excellent Master and, for good cause, may arrest, annul, revoke, suspend or amend any pre-existing charter at its pleasure.

**c.** To settle all controversies that may arise between Constituent Councils. It has the final decision and determination on all grievances and matters of controversy that may be brought up by appeal or otherwise.

**d.** To reprimand, suspend or expel from its own body any member for a violation of its Constitution or the General Laws of the Grand Council.

**e.** To assess and collect from the several Councils under its jurisdiction such sums of money annually, as may, from time to time, be approved for its support and maintenance by the Grand Council and its charities.

**f.** To supervise the state and condition of its own finances and to adopt such measures in relation thereto as may be deemed for the good of Cryptic Masonry.

**g.** To establish and preserve a uniform ritual of the several degrees of Cryptic Masonry.

**h.** To consider and review at each Annual Assembly the reports and actions of the Grand Officers and of the several Councils under its jurisdiction, for the preceding Cryptic year.

**i.** To consider and do all whatsoever it may regard as necessary or appertaining to the well-being and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in Oklahoma.

**j.** The enumeration of the foregoing jurisdictions and powers shall in no manner limit the jurisdiction, power or right of this Grand Council to exercise its inherent powers as sovereign, according to ancient custom and usage, over any other matter or thing falling within the sphere of Cryptic Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction.

### ARTICLE 2

**Section 1. Of Whom Composed.** The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma shall be composed of the following officers and members: Grand Illustrious Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Marshal, Grand Steward, Grand Sentinel, Grand Chaplain, and all Past Grand Masters.

The Masters, Deputy Masters and Principal Conductors of the Work of Constituent Councils in this jurisdiction and all Past Illustrious Masters of such Constituent Councils, so long as they remain members of Councils in this jurisdiction, and all Past Illustrious Masters of other Grand Jurisdictions who have affiliated with a Council under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Council and become a member of this Grand Council by majority vote at any Annual Assembly this Grand Council.

**Section 2. Proxies.** Should the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work of any Council be unable to attend any assembly of the Grand Council, any of them may appoint any member of his own Council as his proxy to represent him in the Grand Council. The Certificate of Appointment shall be in writing, and signed by the officer appointing him and attested by the Recorder.

In the event that the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work of a Council, for reason of death or permanent removal, is not available to sign the Certificate of Appointment, the authority to appoint a proxy for that office or offices and to sign the Certificate of Appointment shall devolve upon the highest ranking officer, Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work.

**Section 3. Officers' Titles.** The title of the Grand Illustrious Master is "Most Illustrious". The title of the all other elective Grand Officers shall be "Right Illustrious", and of the appointive Grand Officers shall be "Illustrious", and Illustrious Master and Past Illustrious Master of constituent Councils shall be addressed as "Illustrious". All other officers shall be addressed as "Companion", the title common to all Cryptic Masons. Past Officers shall be addressed as present officers of like rank.

### ARTICLE 3

**Section 1. Annual Assembly.** One Annual Stated Assembly of this Grand Council shall be held and special assemblies may be convened, as provided by its laws.

**Section 2. Quorum.** To authorize the opening of the Grand Council there shall be present the representatives of nine chartered Councils, which number shall at all times constitute a quorum.

**Section 3. Voting.** On all questions before this Grand Council each member present shall have one vote by virtue of membership, but, when voting by paper ballot, a Past Grand Illustrious Master who is then serving his Council as Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work or who is carrying a proxy or proxies as covered in Article 2, Section 2, shall be entitled to a maximum of three votes.

Voting in this Grand Council shall be first by paper ballot and second, by show of hands. The first method shall be used in the selection of officers and elsewhere as provided by law, except that by unanimous consent the second method may be used.

In all other matters the second method shall be used unless nine or more members concur in a request for paper ballot, in which case the first method shall be used; provided that the Grand Master or presiding officer may, on any occasion, order the use of the first method when in his judgment the second method would not properly reflect the will of the Grand Council.

### ARTICLE 4

**Section 1.** The Constitution of this Grand Council shall be construed as paramount to the General Laws and all laws, rules, regulations and edicts heretofore enacted, and decisions of Grand Masters in conflict therewith shall be null and void.

**Section 2.** This Constitution shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption by this Grand Council.

**Section 3. Constitution, How Altered.**

This Constitution may be altered or amended by resolution, in writing, stating distinctly the proposed alterations or amendments, which shall be read and referred to the Jurisprudence Committee for examination, report and recommendation at the next Annual Stated Assembly. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total votes cast shall be necessary for its adoption.

In the event any such proposed alteration or amendment to this Constitution contains any proposition that would have the effect of relinquishing, eliminating or detracting from the Sovereign Powers of this Grand Council; then and, in such event, in addition to the foregoing provisions for adoption, such proposition shall be submitted to the constituent Councils, and should nine or more Councils vote to reject the proposition the same shall be declared lost.

# The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons Of Oklahoma

## GENERAL LAWS

### ARTICLE 1

#### Section 1. Assemblies.

**a. Annual.** The Annual Assembly of this Grand Council shall be held in the month of April, in conjunction with the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, at a time and place voted by the previous Assembly.

**b. The Grand Illustrious Master** may, in case of emergency or for good cause and after consultation with the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, change the time and place of the Annual Assembly; provided, however, that notice of such change shall have been given to each constituent Council and all members of the Grand Council at least thirty days prior to the current scheduled date or the re-scheduled date, whichever is earlier. In no case shall the date be postponed or advanced more than thirty days. If, for any reason, the Annual Assembly shall be postponed more than thirty days after the date fixed by law, the elective line officers shall advance as specified in Article 1, Section 1 (b), of these General Laws. In such case, appropriations made at the previous Annual Assembly shall be continued.

**c. Annual Assembly In Case Of Emergency.** Whenever the existence of a state or national emergency shall render it impossible or impractical to hold the Annual Assembly as prescribed by law, the Grand Illustrious Master, by and with the consent of the other elective Grand Officers, shall order that the Annual Assembly be omitted. This order shall be transmitted in writing to the members of the Grand Council and to the constituent Councils.

During the year or years for which it may be necessary to omit the regular Annual Assembly, the elected Grand Officers and the committees on Jurisprudence and Finance shall have the power and authority to adopt an annual budget, make appropriations to meet current expenses, and to advance all elected Grand Council officers.

**d. Special Assemblies.** The Grand Illustrious Master may call special Assembly whenever, for any cause, he shall deem it necessary and, except on occasions of ceremony only, shall cause notice in writing to be given to all Councils and members of this Grand Council of the time, place and object of such special Assembly. No business shall be transacted except that set forth in the order convening the same.

#### Section 2. Grand Officers.

**a. Elective.** The elective officers of this Grand Council shall be:

- Grand Illustrious Master
- Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Recorder
- Grand Captain of the Guard.

**b. Appointive.** The Grand Illustrious Master, after his election, and before he is installed, shall appoint the following:

- Grand Conductor of the Council
- Grand Marshal
- Grand Steward
- Grand Sentinel
- Grand Chaplain
- District Deputy Grand Illustrious Masters

**c. The individual titles of each officer shall be:**

- Most Illustrious Grand Master
- Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
- Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
- Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
- Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
- Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard

Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council  
Illustrious Grand Marshal  
Illustrious Grand Steward  
Illustrious Grand Sentinel  
Illustrious Grand Chaplain  
District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master

**Section 3. Eligibility.** No companion shall be eligible to be elected to the office of Grand Illustrious Master of this Grand Council unless he shall have been previously elected, installed and served this Grand Council as its Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work or Grand Captain of the Guard. No companion shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Council, except that of Grand Chaplain, who is not a past or present Illustrious Master and a member of this Grand Council. No officer shall hold more than one office in this Grand Council at the same time.

**Section 4. Election.** The elective officers of this Grand Council shall be elected at each Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, and they shall hold their offices one Cryptic year or until their successors are elected and installed. Nominations from the floor, consisting of name of nominee and Council membership only, shall be called for by the Grand Illustrious Master. When more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by secret ballot, and a majority of all votes cast for that purpose shall be required for election. Election by acclamation shall only be by unanimous consent.

All voting, unless otherwise specified by law, shall be by show of hand. In all voting, except where otherwise specially provided, a majority of all votes cast shall control.

**Section 5. Time of Election.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall announce the hour of election at the beginning of the business day on which the election is to be held. The Credentials Committee shall make their final report prior to the election.

**Section 6. Installation.** Officers of this Grand Council shall be installed as soon after the annual election as may be convenient. Elected officers shall be installed in person, but the appointive officers may be installed by proxy. The Grand Illustrious Master or any Past Grand Illustrious Master may act as the installing officer.

**Section 7. Representative to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma.** A representative to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma shall be elected at every third Annual Assembly of this Grand Council for a term of three years.

a. Should a vacancy occur from whatever reason, the Grand Illustrious Master shall appoint a qualified member to fill said vacancy, to serve until the next Annual Assembly, when a member shall be elected to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Section 8. Succession.**

a. In the event of death, permanent removal from the state, permanent disability or refusal to serve as the Grand Illustrious Master, his title, duties and all powers devolve upon the other line officers: first, the Deputy Grand Illustrious Master; second, the Grand Principal of the Work; third, the Grand Captain of the Guard; and, finally, upon the Junior Past Grand Illustrious Master. All the other elected line officers will be advanced and installed, and the lowest of the elective line offices not filled shall remain vacant until the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

b. The appointive line officers shall not be advanced in the event of such succession. In the event that none of the elected line officers are available to serve as Grand Illustrious Master, the Junior Past Grand Illustrious Master, not otherwise an officer of this Grand Council shall assume the office of Grand Illustrious Master and discharge the duties thereof.

c. Should the office of Grand Treasurer or Grand Recorder become vacant, the Grand Illustrious Master shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy until the next Annual Assembly.

**ARTICLE 2  
GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

**Grand Illustrious Master**

**Section 1. General Duties.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall preside over all Assemblies of the Grand

Council. He has, by virtue of his office, general supervision over the constituent Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction. It is his duty to see that the Constitution and General Laws of this Grand Council are strictly and promptly obeyed.

**a. Appointments.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall appoint the appointive Grand Officers as listed in Article 1, Section 2(b) and as provided for by the Constitution and General Laws of this Grand Council. All committees, special and standing which, except by Law, are elective or otherwise provided for.

**b. Grand Representatives.** The Grand Illustrious Master may appoint and commission representatives of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils and may receive accredited representatives from such other Grand Councils near this Grand Council. All such representatives must be Past Illustrious Masters.

**c. Dispensations.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall have the power to issue such dispensations as are permitted by the Constitution and General Laws or by ancient usage of Cryptic Masonry.

(1) During the recess of this Grand Council, the Grand Illustrious Master may grant letters of dispensation for forming a Council of Royal and Select Masters on proper application as provided by the General Laws. He may, for good reasons, grant further time to a Council to make its returns and pay its dues, where it has failed to do so within the statutory time, and may grant such other dispensations as are authorized.

(2) **Appear in Public.** The Grand Illustrious Master may grant a dispensation to a constituent Council to appear in public. No Council shall so appear without such dispensation except at the annual installation of its officers or to attend a Masonic funeral.

(3) **To Fill Vacancies.** When the offices of Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work of a constituent Council become vacant by death, permanent removal, or other cause, in each and every such case the Grand Illustrious Master may issue a dispensation authorizing an election to fill such vacancy or vacancies for the unexpired part of the term of office after notice to members.

**d. Constitute or Institute New Councils.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall, either in person or by proxy by him commissioned for the purpose (each proxy to be either a present or past Illustrious Master), constitute all newly chartered Councils and institute and set to work all Councils under dispensation.

**e. Revoke Charters, Convene or Consolidate Councils.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall be authorized, empowered and given plenary power to revoke charters, convene, consolidate or establish Councils, preside therein, inspect their books, records and work and do all things necessary to insure a strict conformity to the Constitution and General Laws of this Grand Council. He may delegate such authority to his duly authorized representative. The Grand Illustrious Master must report his actions to the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council with a detailed statement of the facts and his reasons therefore.

**f. Suspend Labors or Arrest Charter of Councils.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall have the power, for good cause, to suspend the labors of a Council and, if he deems it necessary, to arrest its charter. Such action shall be reported in each case to this Grand Council at the succeeding Annual Assembly.

**g. Suspend Grand Officers.** The Grand Illustrious Master may, for good cause, after due notice and fair hearing, with the concurrence of a majority of the elected Grand Officers, suspend from office any elected Grand Officer of this Grand Council until the next Annual Assembly. Appointive Grand Officers and Grand Council Committeemen appointed by the Grand Illustrious Master shall serve at his will and pleasure.

**h. Suspend Officers of Council.** The Grand Illustrious Master may, for good cause, after due notice and fair hearing, suspend from office only the Illustrious Master of a constituent Council. The Grand Illustrious Master shall report his action, with the reasons therefore and a detailed statement of the facts, to this Grand Council at its next Annual Assembly. Such suspended officer shall have the right to appeal to this Grand Council, but will nevertheless stand suspended from his office unless otherwise ordered by this Grand Council.

**i. Official Decisions.** The Grand Illustrious Master may render official decisions construing the Constitution and General Laws of this Grand Council which shall be binding until disapproved or modified by this Grand Council or the currently elected Grand Illustrious Master.

**j. Examine Bonds.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall annually examine and approve the bonds of any officer or agent of this Grand Council required by its laws to make bond.

**k. Other Duties.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall perform such other duties as the nature of his office may require, or the ceremonies and rituals the Craft may impose, and to this end he may exercise all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of his office according to the customs and usages of Ancient Craft Masonry except as they may be found to be abridged, modified, or restricted by the Constitution, General Laws and Edicts of this Grand Council.

**l. Annual Report.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall at each Annual Assembly present a written report to this Grand Council of his official acts during the recess of this Grand Council, and actions and such other matters as he may deem necessary for the consideration of this Grand Council, and make such recommendations as he may think proper.

**m. Ample Form.** Only the Grand Illustrious Master has the authority to open and/or close this Grand Council

or any constituent Council in ample form. By written dispensation showing the date and occasion, the Grand Illustrious Master may delegate that authority to a Past Grand Illustrious Master of this Grand Council or to the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, or Grand Captain of the Guard for a one-time use only. Other one-time use dispensations may be granted for each separate occasion.

**n. Proxies.** The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, if unable to attend any Assembly of the Grand Council, may appoint any member of his Council as his proxy to represent him in the Grand Council. The Certificate of Appointment shall be in writing, signed by the officer appointing him and attested by the Recorder.

In the event that the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work of a Council, for reason of death or permanent removal, is not available to sign the Certificate of Appointment, the authority to appoint a proxy for that office or offices and to sign the Certificate of Appointment shall devolve upon the highest ranking officer, Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work.

## **Section 2. Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and the Grand Captain of the Guard**

**Duties.** It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and the Grand Captain of the Guard to support and assist the Grand Illustrious Master in his official duties, to attend all special and annual Assemblies of Grand Council, and to discharge such other duties as may be prescribed in the Constitution, General Laws and Edicts of this Grand Council or as directed by the Grand Illustrious Master. In the event of death, absence or inability of the Grand Illustrious Master to serve, they shall preside in the order of rank as provided in Article 1, Section 8, of their respective stations.

## **Section 3. Grand Treasurer**

**a. Duties.** The Grand Treasurer shall perform the duties which devolve upon him by usage or are required by law, having in charge all funds of the Grand Council, rendering a formal receipt to the Grand Recorder for all money received, accounting for the same annually or at such times as the Grand Illustrious Master or Grand Council shall order.

**b. Accounts.** The Grand Treasurer shall keep all Investment Accounts, such as the General Fund, the Perpetual Membership Fund and such other Investment Accounts as may be required by the Grand Council. All the Investment funds of the Grand Council shall be deposited and kept by the Grand Treasurer in the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma and shall be paid or transferred to the Operating Account held by the Grand Recorder for distribution as authorized by the Grand Council. The Perpetual Membership rosters will be kept and maintained by the Grand Treasurer, and the Dividend and Interest income will be distributed annually by the Grand Treasurer.

**c. Annual Report.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer, at each Annual Assembly, to submit a detailed report in writing to this Grand Council, giving a full and detailed account of all monies received and paid out by him during the preceding year and on what account so paid, accompanied by all warrants paid by him, and to submit satisfactory evidence to the Finance Committee that he has on hand, and in possession, the full amount of the balance shown by said report to be on hand or which should be in his possession. Such report shall be submitted to the Finance Committee for audit and report thereon.

**d. Deliver to Successor.** At the expiration of his term of office the Grand Treasurer shall deliver to his successor all monies, books, papers, and other property belonging to the Grand Council which may be in his hands or under his control as Grand Treasurer.

**e. Bond.** Before entering upon the duties of his office the Grand Treasurer shall annually execute a bond in an amount fixed by the Finance Committee payable to the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, and the accounting for and delivery of all funds and property received by him, such bond to be approved by the Grand Illustrious Master. The premium of such bond shall be paid by the Grand Council.

## **Section 4. Grand Recorder**

**General Duties.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to attend all Assemblies of this Grand Council, to keep a true and correct record of its proceedings proper to be written, to receive all petitions, appeals, resolutions and other documents addressed to or belonging to this Grand Council and present the same to this Grand Council or to the committee having jurisdiction to consider or act upon such matters contained in said papers. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Grand Council and make the necessary reports and returns to the General Grand Council. He shall present to this Grand Council such unfinished or other business as may require its action at each Assembly.

**a. Receive Funds.** The Grand Recorder shall receive all monies due the Grand Council, crediting the proper accounts and promptly pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore.

**b. Operating Account.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to maintain the Grand Council operating account, to deposit all monies received from the Annual Reports of Constituent Councils, pay all bills as authorized by the approved annual budget and to transfer excess funds to the Grand Treasurer for investing in the various Investment Accounts, and to provide the anticipated income and expense information to the Finance Committee for the preparation of the Annual Budget.

**c. Annual Report.** The Grand Recorder shall at each Annual Assembly submit a detailed written report of all funds received and the sources from which received and of all warrants drawn, on what fund, to whom paid, and for what purpose, and submit therewith receipts for the same. He shall also report all other official business acts pertaining to his office together with such statistics and general information concerning constituent Councils. Such report shall be submitted to the Finance Committee for audit and report thereon.

**d. Receive and Examine Returns.** The Grand Recorder shall receive and examine returns of all chartered Councils, have proper corrections made and make settlements with the several Councils before the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council making report thereof to this Grand Council.

**e. Fraternal Correspondence.** The Grand Recorder shall receive and regularly transmit all matters pertaining to Fraternal Correspondence to the chairman of that committee, including one copy of the proceedings of each Grand Council received by him.

**f. Rituals.** The Grand Recorder shall keep a proper record of all rituals and deliver only to proper officers upon payment of such sum as may be set by the Grand Council for each printing, provided that each new Council shall be entitled to nine rituals without charge. Monies received from the sale of rituals shall be deposited in the operating account subject to withdrawal on recommendation of the Finance Committee as new printing becomes necessary.

**g. Property.** The Grand Recorder shall keep all books, jewels, charts, furniture and other property belonging to this Grand Council that may not be placed in the hands of other Grand Officers, and, at the expiration of his term of office, he shall deliver over to his successor all properties and other things in his hands belonging to this Grand Council

**h. Keep Accounts.** The Grand Recorder shall keep a copy of the annual financial statements of each Constituent Council which is included with the Annual Reports.

**i. Proceedings.**

(1) The Grand Recorder shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Assembly, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Councils, a numerical list of Councils with the location, date for stated Assemblies, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Council from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Councils near this Grand Council and of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils; a list of Grand Recorders of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the craft; a general index.

(2) The Grand Recorder shall distribute the annual printed proceedings as follows: one copy to the Illustrious Master and one copy to the Recorder of each Council in this Grand Jurisdiction; two copies to the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International and two copies to each Grand Council with which this Grand Council is in fraternal correspondence; one copy to each officer of this Grand Council; one copy to each Past Grand Illustrious Master; one copy to the chairman of each Standing Committee; and one copy to each Masonic Library and Masonic periodical and to any person who, in the judgment of the Grand Recorder, may be a proper recipient thereof. He shall distribute such other printed matter as may be directed by this Grand Council or the Grand Illustrious Master.

**j. Certificates of Membership.** The Grand Recorder shall issue without charge a Certificate of Former Membership to any Companion who was a member in good standing of a Council whose charter is surrendered or revoked and he shall issue a certificate on request and payment of five (5) dollars to the suspended members of such Councils.

**k. Special Duties.** The Grand Recorder shall perform such other duties as may pertain to his office as Grand Recorder, together with such duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by this Grand Council or the Grand Illustrious Master.

**l. Grand Seal.** The Grand Seal of the Grand Council shall be kept and used officially by the Grand Recorder. It shall be impressed upon all official documents issued by this Grand Council. Its present design shall not be changed except by special order of the Grand Council.

**m. Bond.** Before entering upon the duties of his office the Grand Recorder shall annually execute a bond in such sum as fixed by the Finance Committee payable to the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, and the accounting for and delivery of all funds and

property that shall be received by him belonging to this Grand Council; which bond shall be approved by the Grand Illustrious Master. The premium of such bond shall be paid by this Grand Council.

### **Section 5. Illustrious Grand Chaplain**

**Duties.** The Illustrious Grand Chaplain shall, in addition to the customary functions of that office, present at a memorial service a suitable tribute to all Companions within this Grand Council and distinguished members as appropriate of this and other Grand Councils who have died during the previous year.

### **Section 6. Other Grand Officers**

**Duties.** The duties of all other Grand Officers shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations and such as may be assigned to them from time to time by order of this Grand Council or the Grand Illustrious Master. It shall be their duty to attend all Annual and Special Assemblies of this Grand Council.

### **Section 7. Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Representative**

**Duties.** The representative to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma shall attend all meetings of the Foundation; perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Foundation, and make a report thereof to this Grand Council at the Annual Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **Section 1. Committees**

After his election, the Grand Illustrious Master shall appoint the following committees to serve, except as otherwise provided, during his term of office:

- a. Committee on Jurisprudence** shall consist of all Past Grand Illustrious Masters.
- b. Committee on Credentials.** Consisting of three members.
- c. Committee on Finance.** Three members plus the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work as an ex-officio member.
- d. Committee on Investments.** Consisting of three members, one appointed by the Grand Illustrious Master every third year; the other two are appointed by the other Grand Bodies.
- e. Committee on Charters and Dispensations.** Consisting of three members plus the Grand Principal of the Work as the ex-officio member.
- f. Committee on Work and Returns.** Consisting of three members and the Grand Captain of the Guard as ex-officio member.
- g. Committee on Fraternal Correspondence.** Consisting of one member.
- h. Committee on Triennial.** Consists of three Past Grand Illustrious Masters appointed by the Grand Illustrious Master at the first Stated Assembly following the Triennial Assembly and shall serve the Triennial term. They shall serve from one Triennial until the next.
- i. Committee on York Rite Coordination.** This committee shall consist of the Grand Illustrious Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and Grand Captain of the Guard. (Amended 4/22/2016)
- j. Custodians of the Work.** Consisting of three members.
- k. Committee on Membership.** This committee shall consist of the Grand Illustrious Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and Grand Captain of the Guard. (Amended 4/22/2016)
- l. The Grand Illustrious Master shall appoint** all other committees authorized by the Grand Council for the transaction of its business and may appoint special committees as required during his term of office.

### **Section 2. Duties of Committees**

**a. The Committee on Jurisprudence** shall consider and report on all matters covered in the Annual Report of the Grand Illustrious Master (Art. 3, Sec. 1 (a)), and referring specific items in the report to other committees as appropriate. The Committee shall consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Grand Illustrious Master or the Grand Council, including appeals and grievances.

The Committee shall examine all resolutions referred to it for conflicts with the present law and to insure that the language is clear, precise and acceptable Masonic usage. If necessary the Committee will re-write any resolution into proper form, without changing the intent of the resolution, for the Grand Council to consider for adoption or rejection. The Committee shall recommend the correct place of any resolution in the Laws. Any resolution adopted by the Grand Council shall become a part of the General Laws at the close of the Annual Assembly.

Any member of the Grand Council has the right to meet with the Committee on Jurisprudence for the purpose of presenting his views on any matters currently under consideration by the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee shall arrange a time and place for such meeting when requested to do so.

**b. The Committee on Credentials.** Shall examine the credentials of the members of this Grand Council and report a list of the officers, members and representatives present and the correct number of votes to be cast at the annual election of officers.

The Committee shall be prepared to present a partial report at the opening of the Grand Council which shall include a list of distinguished visitors.

**c. The Committee on Finance.** They shall examine the financial statements of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder and report on the same. It shall submit to the Grand Council a budget for its operating expenses; fix the amount of liability bonds to be furnished by the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder; report all matters touching the finances of the Grand Council; make recommendations for the expenditure of funds of the Grand Council. No appropriations shall be made without having been considered and reported upon by this Committee.

**d. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations.** They shall review all returns and reports on the condition of Councils, whether chartered or under dispensation, together with the reports of the Grand Illustrious Master and Grand Recorder thereon, and report its findings and recommendations.

**e. The Committee on Work and Return.** They shall examine the returns made by all constituent Councils and report such errors, omissions or irregularities, if any, as they may discover and may make such recommendations as may be pertinent.

The Committee shall make the necessary calculations and specify to the Grand Council the Constituent Council eligible to receive the Grand Master's Award and make a report to the Grand Illustrious Master on the preceding year's work.

**f. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence.** They shall review the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Jurisdictions and make a report at the next Annual Assembly.

**g. The Committee on Triennial.** They shall advise the Grand Council of matters pertaining to the Triennial and make all arrangements for attendance at Assembly of the General Grand Council. They shall perform such duties as custom and usage require.

**h. The Committee on York Rite Coordination.** They shall research, plan and recommend programs for the advancement of the York Rite in Oklahoma; coordinate promotional material; plan area and statewide festivals; provide a continuing file of personnel and facilities available for degree work; and such other duties as may be delegated to this committee by joint agreement of the Grand High Priest, the Grand Illustrious Master and the Grand Commander. The committee shall hold a minimum of three (3) meetings annually, the first of which shall be held within the three weeks following the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. The first meeting to be held will include the election from its membership of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Recorder. A written report of each meeting shall be furnished to the Grand High Priest, the Grand Illustrious Master and the Grand Commander for their study and implementation.

**i. The Committee on Custodians of the Work.** They shall generally assume such duties as are usually assigned to the office of Grand Lecturer in Masonic Organizations. The Custodians of the Work shall be qualified Companions, who shall have a general supervision of the ritualistic work of the Councils and are charged with the duty to at all times preserve and maintain the immemorial usages and customs. They shall report to the Grand Illustrious Master, every alleged willful neglect of any Illustrious Master or Council to conform to the authorized rituals, with such recommendations as they shall deem necessary. They shall render such assistance and instruction as each Council may require.

The Committee shall conduct at least one local School of Instruction every two years for every constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. The purpose of said school shall be to oversee work in the opening and closing of a Council, full form, reception of visitors, and at least one pre-selected degree of the local Council's option.

The Custodians of the Work shall be allowed as compensation in full for all services performed such sums as may be recommended by the Finance Committee annually and approved by the Grand Illustrious Master before payment.

**j. The Committee on Membership.** The Committee on Membership for the state of Oklahoma shall be responsible for developing and overseeing an ongoing program for the recruitment and retention of members within their respective regions and the entire jurisdiction. (Amended 4/22/2016)

**Section 3. Committee Reports.** The reports of all committees shall be submitted to the Grand Recorder in typewritten or electronic form at least 30 days prior to the annual Assembly.

## ARTICLE 4

### Section 1. District Deputy Grand Master

**Districts.** This Grand Jurisdiction shall be divided into Districts to be chosen by the Grand Illustrious Master elect prior to his installation, and approved by the Grand Council. It is recommended that the Grand Illustrious Master confer with the incoming Grand High Priest and select district alignments that will produce uniformity in the Grand Council and Grand Chapter districts.

**Section 2. Appointments.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall appoint other District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master as necessary. The Grand Illustrious Master may appoint a maximum of two District Deputy Grand Illustrious Masters at large whose duties, responsibility and authority shall be stipulated by the Grand Illustrious Master. The District Deputy Grand Illustrious Masters will be assigned to separate districts.

**Section 3. Duties.** It shall be the duty of the District Deputy Grand Illustrious Masters to visit the Councils in their respective districts at least once a year and inquire into their general condition; to examine the minutes and records and instruct in the proper method of keeping same; to see that all reports are made promptly; to urge a strict conformity to the ritual, Constitution and General Laws of this Grand Council and to report to the Grand Illustrious Master any infractions thereof; to encourage the organization of new Councils; to investigate the condition of inactive or demised Councils and aid in their restoration. They shall make such reports as may be requested by the Grand Illustrious Master and/or Deputy Grand Master, such reports being submitted to both Grand Officers.

**Section 4. Conferral of Super Excellent Master Degree.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Illustrious Master to arrange for the Super Excellent Master Degree to be made available at least once a year to all candidates who have been greeted as a Select Master. The conferral of the degree at a statewide York Rite Festival or at the Grand Council session shall be considered to meet this requirement.

## ARTICLE 5

### Section 1. Grand Representatives

The tenure of office of a Grand Representative from this Grand Council to another Grand Council shall continue until his resignation or death, or his official removal by the Grand Illustrious Master. Any Grand Representative in Oklahoma who shall fail to attend this Grand Council for three consecutive Annual Assemblies may be removed, and the Grand Illustrious Master shall recommend a successor in the usual manner.

## ARTICLE 6

### Section 1. Financial Revenues

Each Council shall pay to the Grand Council fees and dues as follows:

**a.** Each chartered Council shall pay Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to the Grand Council for each member in the database on the 30th day of December, plus any assessment now levied, or hereafter levied by the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, for its use, except as hereinafter provided. (Amended 4/22/16)

**(1)** There shall be an assessment in the amount of, One Dollar (\$1.00) for each name borne on the rolls, except those members who purchased perpetual memberships prior to April 25, 1990, as an annual contribution to the Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation, Inc., which donation is tax deductible to the member, for the use and promotion of our philanthropy.

**(2)** There shall be an assessment in the amount of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per member, for each name borne on the rolls, except those members who purchased perpetual memberships prior to April 9, 2005, as an annual contribution to the DeMolay, which donation is tax deductible to the member, for the use and promotion of the DeMolay.

**b.** For each degree conferred a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) shall accompany quarterly returns to the Grand Secretary. Effective January 1, 2016 (Amended 4/24/15)

**c.** For each dispensation for a new Council a fee of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the petition for a dispensation

**d.** For each charter for a new Council a fee of Twenty-Five dollars (\$25.00), which payment shall be made before the charter is issued.

**e.** Councils shall pay to the Grand Council such dues and assessments as may be levied upon them by the Grand Council, provided that all Councils shall be assessed on the same basis.

**f.** For each dispensation for any other purpose a fee of \$10.00 must accompany the request.

**g.** For each member suspended or expelled, the Grand Council shall charge each Constituent Council a fee of

ten dollars (\$10.00) to reinstate them. This fee shall be paid on the quarterly report following the reinstatement. Effective January 1, 2016 (Amended 4/24/15)

## **Section 2. Disbursements**

**Grand Illustrious Master Allowance.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall be allowed, for the expenses of his office, such maximum sum as may be recommended annually by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Council. Payments against such maximum sum shall be on vouchers submitted quarterly by the Grand Illustrious Master to the Grand Recorder. The expense allowance shall cover automobile mileage at a rate per mile recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Council, hotels, meals, and postage. Travel expense shall be allowed only for travel when representing the Grand Council within Oklahoma or when attending the Southwest Conference. Expenses other than those specified above may be approved and paid by the Grand Recorder, upon written approval of the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

**Section 3. Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder Allowance.** The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder shall receive for their services such sum as may be fixed by the Finance Committee and the Grand Council from year to year. The Grand Recorder's compensation shall be payable monthly on his own warrant.

## **Section 4. Host Expense.**

**a.** The Finance Committee shall at each Annual Assembly appropriate a sum not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) to the host for the expense of the next Annual Assembly. This shall be paid on vouchers to the Grand Recorder, only in the amount up to the appropriation, by which costs exceed income to the Host Council.

**b.** The Grand Council shall reimburse the host for banquet tickets, ladies luncheon and/or tour tickets, and a maximum of two nights lodging for the presiding General Grand Illustrious Master and his lady OR for the official representative and his lady, designated in advance by the General Grand Illustrious Master. (Amended 4/24/15)

However, this reimbursement shall not exceed the sum paid by the Host Council to the provider of such service. No other expense will be allowed unless approved by both the then Grand Illustrious Master and the Jurisprudence Committee.

## **Section 5. Triennial Fund.**

**a.** The Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer shall accumulate the Triennial Fund in an amount equal to eight (8) cents per member on the rolls of the Grand Council as of December 31st of each year in the Triennial Fund. These accumulated figures will be included in the annual budget for the Triennial year. This fund will be used to pay the expenses of the Grand Illustrious Master, Grand Deputy Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, not to exceed fifteen (15) cents per mile, one way, by direct route and twenty (\$20) dollars per diem while in actual attendance at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council.

**b.** Any balance remaining shall be distributed equally among the Past Grand Illustrious Masters and Grand Recorder attending the Triennial Assembly, provided that none shall receive an amount in excess of the largest allowance to a Grand Officer or more than he would receive if computed on the same basis as the Grand Officer's allowance.

**c.** Provided further that if a Grand or Past Grand Officer is eligible to receive an allowance from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, the total amount to be received shall be subject to the maximum as outlined herein. The allowance to the member from each of the respective Grand Bodies shall be determined by agreement of the Triennial Committee Chairmen.

**d.** Any balance remaining in the Triennial fund after the close of the General Grand Council shall be returned to the General Fund of this Grand Council.

**Section 6. Custodians of the Work Expense.** (See Art. 3, Sec. 2.i, last paragraph.)

## ARTICLE 7

### AWARDS

**Section 1. Grand Illustrious Masters Award.** This Award will be made to the Council with the highest score based on the Annual Report at the end of the fiscal year ending December 31st, compiled on the following basis (no report considered unless filed on time):

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Each Companion Greeted   | 2 points  |
| 2. Each Companion Reinstated  | 2 points  |
| 3. Each Companion Affiliated  | 1 point   |
| 4. Each one percent of per capita gain (see note)                                       | 1 point   |
| 5. Filing fully completed Annual Report on time   | 10 points |
| 6. For each Principal officer in attendance at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council | 10 points |

Deductions as Penalties:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Each Companion suspended for non-payment of dues | 3 points  |
| 2. Annual Report not complete in each detail        | 10 points |

(Note): Fractions of less than ½ percent will be ignored in computing per capita gain. Fractions of more than ½ percent will be increased to the next higher number.

The Council winning the award will have possession for one year and can use it in its assemblies. It shall be responsible for its safety and return to the Grand Council at the next Annual Assembly. A council winning the award three consecutive years becomes permanent owner. (The Award is an altar Bible, Square and Compasses, Sword and Trowel. The original Award was presented by M.:I.: Companion Ferrell B. Morrow at Bartlesville April 17, 1958.)

**Section 2. Fifty Year Award.** A Companion who has been a member of the Cryptic Rite for fifty years and is now a member of a Council in this jurisdiction shall be presented a Fifty Year Certificate, Pin and Card. Application shall be made by the constituent Council to the Grand Recorder, who shall certify the record of membership. Presentation shall be made by the Grand Illustrious Master or his designated representative at any time during the fiftieth year of membership

**Section 3. The General Grand Council Meritorious Award.** One Companion, a member of this Jurisdiction, may be selected to receive this Award for outstanding service to Cryptic Masonry. The Committee on Selection of a nominee shall be the Grand Illustrious Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and the Grand Recorder. No Grand Council Officer or Past Grand Illustrious Master of this Grand Council shall be eligible to receive the Award. The General Grand Recorder shall be notified of the nominee at least sixty (60) days before it is to be presented. If possible, the Medal shall be presented at the Grand Chapter-Grand Council Banquet by a representative of the General Grand Council.

**Section 4. Youth Leadership Award.** One Companion, a member of this Jurisdiction, may be selected to receive this Award for Leadership in our Youth Bodies, as approved by the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International. (See 1984 Proceedings of the General Grand Council, Page 44) The committee on selection of a nominee shall be the Grand Illustrious Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and Grand Recorder. In addition to the rules of the General Grand Council, no Companion shall be nominated who is a past or present member of the National/International governing body of any of the Youth Bodies.

**Section 5. CMMRF Award.**

**RECOGNITION FOR THE LARGEST TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: The Bernard F. Mandlebaum Award** recognizes the local Council which is credited for the largest dollar contribution in the preceeding calendar year. Most Puissanr Companion Mandlebaum was Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council of Oklahoma in 1962-1963. He served as General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International from 1984-1987: and

**RECOGNITION FOR THE LARGEST AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION PER MEMBER: The Robert W. Hill Award** recognizes the local Council which is credited for the largest average contribution per member in the preceeding calendar year. Most Illustrious Companion Hill was the first Grand Illustrious Master of Indian Territory, serving in 189501896. He was a member of Oklahoma Council No. 1, Atoka, Indian Territory.

(Amended 4/27/2018)

## ARTICLE 8

### Section 1. General Provisions Pertaining to Grand Council

**Jurisdiction for Discipline. Trials.** Since membership in a Council of Cryptic Masons is dependent on good standing in the Lodge and Chapter, and as Masonic discipline customarily originates and is administered in the Lodge and Chapter, no trial code is set up in the Constitution and General Laws of the Grand Council or constituent Councils of Oklahoma. In event a Council desires to try a companion for any offense, the Trial Code of the M:W: Grand Lodge, A.F.& A.M., of the State of Oklahoma is adequate to protect the Companion's rights and shall be used in such trial:

**Section 2. Past Grand Illustrious Master's Jewel.** The Grand Illustrious Master shall be presented with a Past Grand Illustrious Master's Jewel on retiring from office, which shall be obtained by the Grand Recorder. The jewel shall be engraved "Property of the Grand Council of Oklahoma" and shall be returned to the Grand Council on his death.

**Section 3. Rituals, Work and Degrees.** The Degrees of the Royal Master and Select Master shall be conferred by the constituent Councils of this Grand Council in that order according to the adopted ritual of the Grand Council, provided that when Councils are participating in Festivals, both state and regional only, the Grand Illustrious Master may order or authorized minor changes or omissions from the adopted Ritual, including the communication of the Royal Master degree, in the interest of time, not inconsistent with the objectives of Cryptic Masonry. The Grand Illustrious Master in such instances shall report his actions in his annual report to the Grand Council.

The Custodians of the Work shall maintain an official script for the purpose of communicating the Royal Master degree at festivals. This script shall be the only Communication script authorized for use in this Grand Council.

The Select Master degree shall not be communicated in the Grand Jurisdiction.

The Super Excellent Master degree may be conferred by a Council using the ritual for that degree, either in whole or in part, of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, or of any Grand Council recognized by this Grand Council.

### Section 4. Clothing (Apron).

The apron of a Select Master is white embroidered with purple, with the emblem on the flap which is a broken triangle included in which is a sword and trowel.

### Section 5. Rules and Order of Business in Grand Council.

**a. Order of Business.** At each Annual Grand Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Council, the Order of Business shall be as follows:

1. Preliminary report of the Committee on Credentials.
2. Reception of Distinguished visitors.
3. Reception of Representatives of other Grand jurisdictions.
4. Report of the official Acts during the year by the Grand Illustrious Master.
5. Reports of other Grand Officers.
6. Presentation of Resolutions.
7. Reports of Committees.
8. Other Business.
9. Final Report of Committee on Credentials.
10. Election of Officers.
11. Unfinished Business.
12. New Business.
13. Installation of Officers.

**b. Speeches.** Every Companion who speaks shall rise and address the presiding officer as "Most Illustrious Grand Master" and after securing recognition may proceed with his remarks. If two arise at the same time the presiding officer shall indicate which Companion may speak first.

**c. Speeches Limited.** No Companion shall speak more than twice upon the pending subject unless granted permission by the presiding officer.

**d. No Interruption of Speeches, Unless.** While a Companion is speaking, no member shall interrupt him unless he is willing to yield for a question. If he wanders from the subject under consideration or is personal or unparliamentary in his remarks, he may be called to order by the Grand Illustrious Master, and he shall not proceed in his remarks without permission.

**e. Violation of Rules.** Any Companion who shall willfully violate the rules of decorum or shall engage in unparliamentary conduct may be ordered from the room by the Grand Illustrious Master and may be barred from the remainder of the Assembly.

**f. Motions, Order of.** When a resolution or proposition is ready for consideration, no motion shall be in order but to adopt, to postpone, to refer to a committee, to amend or to refer to the chapters, which motions shall have precedence in the order herein stated.

**g. Final Disposition.** All questions under consideration must be positively determined at this time or postponed to a specific time.

**h. Motion to Reconsider.** When any question is decided, the same matter shall not be again considered or acted upon during that Assembly unless on a motion to reconsider, which can only be made by a Companion who voted with the majority.

**i. Questions of Order.** All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer without debate or appeal, but he may ask the advice of any member before ruling thereon.

## ARTICLE 9

### Section 1. New Councils

**Dispensation.** The Grand Illustrious Master may, during the recess of the Grand Council, grant letters of dispensation to nine or more Select Master Masons, authorizing them to assemble and open and hold a Council and therein confer the degrees of Cryptic Masonry. Preliminary to granting letters of dispensation for a new Council, a petition shall be presented to the Grand Illustrious Master on a form furnished by the Grand Recorder, which shall be signed by each Companion with his full name, and shall show the name, number and location of the Council, and the Council with which he is affiliated, or from which he is demitted and, if demitted, he shall attach his demit to the petition. Upon the receipt of such petition, the Grand Illustrious Master shall consider and thoroughly investigate the same, and if, in his opinion, the best interests of Cryptic Masonry will be served by granting the prayer of the petitioners, he shall thereupon grant letters of dispensation for such Council upon the payment of the fee of Twenty-Five Dollars.

**Section 2. Expiration.** The authority so granted shall fix the date of expiration which, in no event, shall be later than thirty days preceding the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

**Section 3. Councils U.D.** Councils seeking dispensation shall be instituted, or set to work, by the Grand Illustrious Master or by some Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master, duly authorized to perform that duty as the representative of the Grand Illustrious Master. A special meeting shall be called by the designated Master on the date set by the Grand Illustrious Master at which the Grand Illustrious Master or duly authorized representative shall preside and open the Council. The dispensation shall be read and ordered to be recorded in full in the minutes, and the Council shall be fully instructed in regard to its jurisdiction, powers and duties. Dais Officers of a Council under dispensation shall be appointed by the Grand Illustrious Master.

**Section 4. Duties.** Councils under dispensation shall have authority to receive and act on petitions and confer degrees, but shall not have authority to collect dues or assessments from its members, own real estate, or elect officers; provided, however, that the Illustrious Master may fill vacancies other than that of Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work. The Council may purchase, rent or otherwise acquire furniture, paraphernalia or other necessary equipment. The Master shall, within ten days after the expiration of his authority to work, transmit to the Grand Recorder a transcript of his proceedings and a return of his work. The petition, work, returns and all books of all Councils under dispensation shall be referred to the Committee on Charters and Dispensations, who shall examine them and report thereon.

**Section 5, Petitions & Fees.** A Royal Arch Mason who desires to become a member of a Council U.D. must petition an existing Chartered Council with the knowledge and understanding that he will become a dual member of that Council and the Council U. D. When, and if the Council U. D. is chartered, those who were dual members will be issued a demit from the original existing Chartered Council, provided they are Members in Good Standing, and will become members of the New Chartered Council unless they wish to remain dual members. If they demit, any current dues paid to the original Chartered Council will be prorated and paid to the New Chartered Council and any fees paid to the original Chartered Council, minus any paid per capita and assessments, will be transferred to the new Chartered Council.

**Section 6. Charters.** The petition for a charter for a new Council shall be signed by each petitioner with his name in full and show the name and location of the Council with which he is affiliated and of the Council with which he was last affiliated. This Grand Council may continue a dispensation or grant a charter as the facts may justify. The fee of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) shall be paid to the Grand Recorder before the charter is issued.

**Section 7. New Councils must be constituted.** When a new Council is to be constituted under a charter, the Grand Illustrious Master shall fix the date thereof and shall notify the designated Master, who shall call a meeting for that purpose. Such Assembly is a Special Assembly of the Grand Council, and the ceremonies of constitution shall be according to the form adopted by this Grand Council

When a new Council is to be constituted under a charter, the Grand Illustrious Master shall fix the date thereof and shall notify the designated Illustrious Master, who shall call a meeting for that purpose. Such Assembly is a Special Assembly of the Grand Council, and the ceremonies of constitution shall be according to the form adopted by this Grand Council.

The charter, a copy of the Constitution and General Laws, and nine rituals shall be delivered to the Illustrious Master without expense, other than the fee for the charter.

The Recorder of the newly organized Council shall notify, under seal, the Council which had issued Certificates of Good Standing to the petitioners who signed the application for dispensation or charter, and such procedure shall be sufficient to act as a process of regular election in the newly organized Council.

## ARTICLE IO

### Section 1. Chartered Councils

**Elections, Council Officers and Members.** The officers of a Council shall be the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder and Captain of the Guard who shall be elected at the first Stated Assembly in December of each year.

The officers above named shall be elected by a separate ballot, and a majority shall be necessary to elect. Upon unanimous consent, this regulation may be suspended and those officers elected by acclamation.

Every member in good standing is eligible to any office in the Council except Illustrious Master, who shall have been elected and served as Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work or Captain of the Guard, provided that a Illustrious Master of a Council U.D. and the first Illustrious Master under charter need not to have served as Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work or Captain of the Guard of a Council. All officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and installed

(1) The office of Recorder and Treasurer of a Council may be held by the same companion.

The Illustrious Master shall appoint a Conductor of the Council, Marshal, Steward, Chaplain and Sentinel. All elected and appointed officers shall be installed according to the form of ceremony adopted by this Grand Council before the first stated Assembly in January of the succeeding year. Installation ceremonies may be conducted in public whenever, in the judgment of the Illustrious Master, the interest of Cryptic Masonry will be thereby benefited

**Section 2. Failure to Elect Officers.** In the event that a Council fails to elect its officers at the time prescribed by its bylaws, it shall forthwith lay the matter before the Grand Illustrious Master who, for good cause shown, may grant a dispensation to hold an election as soon thereafter as practicable, after notice to resident members.

**Section 3. Installation.** If an officer duly elected or appointed shall, without reasonable excuse, neglect to attend at the time fixed for installation, his election or appointment may be declared void by a vote of the Council or by the officer who appointed him. Officers may be installed at any Special or Stated Assembly, and no dispensation is required for a public installation.

**Section 4. Duties of the Illustrious Master.** It shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master to preside at all Assemblies of the Council and see that the by-laws of his Council and the Constitution and General Laws and Edicts of the Grand Council are strictly observed; that accurate records are made, and just accounts rendered; that regular quarterly reports are promptly made to the Grand Council; and that the annual dues are promptly paid. He shall appoint a committee to audit annually the books and records of the Council. He shall preside at the Assemblies of his Council. He shall attend all Assemblies of the Grand Council either in person or by proxy.

**Section 5. Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work.** It shall be the duty of the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work to assist the Illustrious Master in the performance of his duties and responsibilities.

In the absence of all three officers of the Council, either at a stated or special Assembly, legally called, the junior Past Illustrious Master present may open the Council and preside over its session.

**Section 6. Treasurer.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive from the Recorder all monies paid into the Council and give his receipt therefore; pay all warrants drawn on him signed by the Illustrious Master and attested by the Recorder; keep a correct account of such receipts and disbursements; and, when required by these laws or by the Council or Illustrious Master, exhibit an accurate statement of same. He shall pay over all funds in his hands to his successor in office or as directed by the Council.

**Section 7. Recorder.** It shall be the duty of the Recorder to make and keep a correct and complete record of the proceedings of the Council; take charge of the seal, books, papers, etc., of the Council; and conduct its correspondence. He shall inform all committees of their appointment and the purpose thereof, and deliver to them such papers as pertain thereto.

He shall collect and receive all monies due the Council and promptly pay the same to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore, and deposit the funds to the credit of the Treasurer in a bank named by the Council. This shall be deemed a compliance with this duty. He shall issue, under the seal of the Council, all written notices and summonses ordered by the Council or the Illustrious Master. He shall make written report to the Council in October of each year of the names of all members delinquent for dues, with amount each is in arrears. The Council or Illustrious Master may require such written report at other times.

He shall upon election of all Companions by affiliation notify the Council of his former membership of his election to membership.

He shall make quarterly reports not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th and October 15th in each year to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, upon blanks to be supplied by the Grand Recorder, and give therein a detailed statement of all the work of the Council for the year beginning January 1st and closing December 31st, which reports shall be signed by the Illustrious Master and the Recorder, and be attested with the seal of the Council and be accompanied by the amount due the Grand Council for degrees conferred and for membership; the January 15th report to have a certificate attached thereto signed by the Auditing Committee of the constituent Council showing their findings as to the financial condition of said Council as shown by the books of the Recorder and Treasurer.

This certificate shall become a part of the report to the Grand Recorder, and failure to have said books audited and certificates signed will subject Council to the same penalty as a failure to make a report to the Grand Recorder. Only those exalted shall be shown in statement of work done.

He shall receive from the Grand Recorder each year a form to be used for the recommendation of a deserving companion for the Cryptic Mason of the Year, General Grand Council Meritorious Award and Youth Leadership Award. This form is to be filled out and returned to the Grand Illustrious Master each year with the Council's recommendation of a proposed recipient of these awards.

He shall order and receive from the Grand Recorder such rituals as may be assigned to or purchased by the Council and keep a list showing the name and office of the Companions to which each is entrusted.

He shall deliver to his successors, or the committee appointed by the Council, all books, papers, records, etc. in his custody, whenever the Council may so direct.

For his faithful performance of these duties the Council may make such annual appropriation as it may deem proper.

**Section 8. Other Officers.** The duties of officers not otherwise defined herein shall be such as are appropriate to their respective stations, or as may be specifically set forth in regulations, or directed by the Illustrious Master or the Council.

**Section 9. Removal from Office.** The appointive officers shall serve at the pleasure of the well-known Master and may be replaced for good cause at any time. The elective officers may be removed from office only by the Grand Illustrious Master and for just cause.

**Section 10. Resignations.** Any officer of the Council other than the Illustrious Master may resign. If any elective officer resigns, dispensation from the Grand Illustrious Master must be obtained to hold an election to replace him.

**Section 11. Who Shall Preside during Absences, Removal and Vacancies.**

In the absence of the Illustrious Master, the Deputy Master shall preside. In the absence of both the Illustrious

Master and the Deputy Master the Principal Conductor of Work shall preside. In the absence of all three, the Junior Past Illustrious Master present shall preside.

In the case of the death or disability of the Illustrious Master, the Deputy Master will assume the prerogatives and duties of the office until the election and installation of an Illustrious Master. When an elective officer permanently changes his place of residence beyond the jurisdiction of his Council, he thereby vacates his office and can exercise its powers no longer. If a vacancy occurs in any office, the Grand Illustrious Master may authorize a new election upon request to that effect by the Council. The presiding officer may fill any vacancy in an appointive office.

**Section 12. Consolidation of Councils.** When two or more Councils desire to consolidate and form one Council under the name and number of one of said Councils, it shall be consummated in the following manner.

All members of both Councils shall be notified of the intent to consolidate and the date of the assembly when such vote shall be taken. The vote and consolidation shall be supervised by the Grand Illustrious Master or his designate.

The Council thus giving up its charter shall deliver the charter, record books, seal, rituals, etc. to the Grand Recorder. The funds, property, robes, etc. shall be delivered to the Recorder of the consolidated Council and become the property of the Council still in existence.

The Illustrious Master of each Council shall, at a stated Assembly, appoint a committee of three members of his Council to meet with a like committee of the other Council, or Councils, involved. Such committees shall be a general committee on consolidation. This committee shall determine the financial status of each Council, its properties personal and real, its debts and obligations, membership and such other data as may be pertinent to consolidation, and report this information to their respective Councils at the next stated Assembly. Should a majority of the members, present and voting, approve said consolidation at this time, final action on the proposition shall be scheduled on the second stated Assembly following. The Recorder shall notify the membership of the proposed action, by mail, at their last known post-office address. The Recorder shall also notify the Grand Illustrious Master and the Grand Recorder of the proposed action and forward each a copy of the general committee report.

At the stated Assembly on which the ballot is scheduled, the Illustrious Master of each of the Councils shall state the questions. It shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting to affirm the consolidation in the Council whose name and number is to be retained. In the Council whose name and number is to be surrendered, should nine or more vote to reject the proposition to consolidate, then the consolidation is rejected.

The assets, liabilities and membership of the Council whose name and number is being surrendered by consolidation shall become the assets, liabilities and membership of the Council whose name and number they assume when the proposition to consolidate shall have been adopted by the Councils involved.

The Grand Illustrious Master or his designated representatives shall be present at the stated Assembly, or Assemblies, at which the proposal to consolidate is to be balloted.

**Section 13. Surrender of Charter.** A Council may voluntarily surrender its charter under the following conditions: The proposal to surrender the charter of a Council shall be presented in writing at a stated Assembly of said Council. If the proposal is approved by a majority of those present and voting, said proposition shall be scheduled for final ballot and action on the second stated Assembly following. All members shall be notified of the proposition, by mail, at their last known post office address by the Recorder. The Grand Illustrious Master and the Grand Recorder shall also be notified of the proposed action, at the same time and in the same manner.

The proposition, on being called for final ballot, shall be declared passed if less than nine members vote to retain the charter; however, if nine, or more, vote to retain the charter, the proposition shall be declared defeated.

The Grand Illustrious Master may, at his discretion, accept surrender of the charter, or move said charter together with such members as so desire to another location. All assets, properties, real or personal, paraphernalia, robes, costumes, equipment, etc., shall become the property of the Grand Council. The Grand Council, however, shall not be liable for or assume any liability or indebtedness of any Council, whether it has surrendered its charter or is an active Council.

**Section 14. Status of Member of Extinct Councils.** When the charter of a Council shall have been surrendered or arrested, the members thereof in good standing shall be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder without charge. A suspended member of such Council may, upon payment of Five Dollars (\$5.00), be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder.

**Section 15. Summons.** The Illustrious Master, of the Council, has the right to summon any member of the Council for any purpose within the scope of business of Cryptic Masonry, and every member is bound to obey such summons, unless unavoidably prevented. While it is left to the wise discretion of the Illustrious Master, or the Council, as to when such an emergency exists, the Illustrious Master or Council must be held to accountability for an arbitrary exercise of his discretion, as well as for any other willful abuse of authority. Ten days shall be construed to be legal notice whenever the word "notice" is used in this code, and the Recorder shall deposit a copy of said notice in the United States Post Office, sealed and addressed to the member's last known address.

**Section 16. Assemblies.** The stated Assembly of a Council shall be at the time and place specified in its by-laws. The Council shall be opened in due form (ritualistic form) for a minimum of four (4) stated Assemblies annually, including the one in December for the annual election, which shall be provided for in the by-laws. Special Assemblies to confer degrees may be called at the pleasure of the Illustrious Master, but no business shall be transacted except as hereinafter provided. A Council may, at a Stated Assembly, consider and transact business jointly with the Chapter and Commandery domiciled at the same location. When a Chapter or Commandery is opened in due form, the Illustrious Master may declare the Council open for business only, following the flag pledge and prayer.

**Section 17. By-Laws.** Each constituent Council of this Grand Council shall adopt by-laws for its government, providing that the same shall conform to the Constitution and General Laws of the this Grand Council. Such Council, in its by-laws, shall fix the time of its stated Assemblies, which shall be opened in due form for a minimum of four (4) Assemblies annually; the fees for the degrees; the annual dues of its members; the time of election of officers; and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary for its government. A Council has the right to alter or amend its by-laws, provided that such alterations or amendments do not conflict with the Constitution and General Laws of this Grand Council

Any alteration to Council By-Laws must be submitted to the Grand Illustrious Master for approval, either before or after adoption by the Council, before such alteration or amendment shall become effective. Constituent Councils shall furnish copies of their By-Laws to the office of the Grand Recorder.

A Council may at Stated Assembly consider and transact business jointly with the Chapter and Commandery domiciled at the same location.

**Section 18. Quarterly and Annual Returns.** Immediately following the last day in each quarter and not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th and October 15th in each quarter the Illustrious Master and Recorder shall prepare and forward to the Grand Recorder on forms furnished by the Grand Recorder, the quarterly reports. On the 15th day of January following the last quarter of the year, the quarterly report shall also be accompanied by the annual returns for the year beginning January 1st and closing December 31st, which reports will be signed by the Illustrious Master and Recorder and be attested with the seal of the Council and be accompanied by the amount due the Grand Council for degrees conferred and for the member per capita and assessments.

**Section 19. Charter and Seal.** Each chartered Council shall be required to have a seal, an impression of which shall be furnished the Grand Recorder for record. All official documents of the Council shall be duly authenticated by its seal.

In case of the loss or destruction of a charter, the Grand Illustrious Master may, upon proper showing, order a duplicate charter to be issued. Every chartered Council shall have a seal, which shall be affixed to all official papers issued by the Council.

**Section 20. Bonds.** A Council may require by its by-laws that the Treasurer and the Recorder shall give surety bonds payable to the Council and in such form as the Council may approve, to be approved by the Illustrious Master.

**Section 21. Quorum.** When constituent Councils, either chartered or under dispensation, are convened in a Stated Assembly they shall be opened and all business transacted in the Select Master Degree, for which purpose five (5) Select Masters, all of whom must be members of said Council, shall constitute a quorum. For the conferral of degrees, any nine (9) regular Select Masters shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, no business can be transacted, but a quorum being present, the vote of a less number shall be valid.

**Section 22. Audit.** At the last Stated Assembly in December of each year the Illustrious Master shall appoint a committee of three for the purpose of auditing or causing to be audited all the books and records of the Treasurer and Recorder and submit a report in writing thereon on or before the first Stated Assembly in January; provided that a professional accountant who is a Select Master may be employed to perform such services.

**Section 23. Penalties for Failure to Make Reports.** Any Council which shall neglect to make payment of such dues or assessments as may be levied against it by resolution of the Grand Council or which shall fail, neglect or refuse to send at least one representative to the Stated Assembly of the Grand Council, or which shall fail, neglect or refuse to file its quarterly or annual report to the Grand Recorder as required under this code shall be deemed to be delinquent and may, by resolution of the Grand Council, be held under suspension, during which the Council may not function as such except under special dispensation of the Grand Illustrious Master.

**Section 24. Order of Business.**

The order of business in constituent Councils shall be as follows:

1. Opening
2. Reading of all unapproved minutes.
3. Disposal of unfinished business.
- 4 Reports of committees, including those referred petitions.
5. Presenting, reading and referring of petitions.
6. Balloting
7. Presenting of accounts and action thereon.
8. Disposal of miscellaneous business.
9. Conferring of Degrees.
10. Closing

Whenever in the judgment of the presiding officer business may be facilitated by changing the above order of business, authority is hereby given to proceed in any regular and orderly manner.

**Section 25. Cryptic Year.** The Cryptic Year of constituent Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December of each calendar year.

## **ARTICLE 11**

**Section 1. Conditions of Membership**

**Jurisdiction.**

- a. The jurisdiction of the constituent Councils in the State of Oklahoma shall be concurrent.
- b. The Grand Illustrious Master, in his discretion, after investigation of the facts as to the accessibility of travel between the points involved and finding no objection from the Council nearest the residence of those desiring to petition for the Cryptic Degrees, may waive jurisdiction over candidates residing in Oklahoma who can more conveniently receive the degrees in a Council out of state. Such waiver, with the facts, must be reported in his annual address.
- c. No constituent Council in this jurisdiction shall receive the petition of an applicant for the degrees who resides in another Grand Jurisdiction without the consent of the Grand Illustrious Master of that jurisdiction and the constituent Council within whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides.

**Section 2. Petition.** Any Royal Arch Mason in good standing who shall have resided within the jurisdiction of Oklahoma for a period of six months or more shall be entitled to petition for the degrees of Cryptic Masonry and shall state whether or not he has been rejected previously by any Council.

A petition may be received from, and the ballot spread upon, a brother who has petitioned a Council, but the degrees of the Council shall not be conferred on such candidate until he shall have received the Royal Arch Degree.

The petition shall be in writing upon a form prescribed by the Grand Council and shall be signed by the petitioner, with his full name, age, residence, occupation, and recommended by two members of the Council receiving the petition.

**Section 3. Petition must be referred.** No ballot can be had upon a petition for the degrees or application for affiliation until after it has been referred to a committee of three members of the Council and shall be and remain in the hands of such investigating committee at least one lunar month except as hereinafter provided. A petition

rejected may be renewed at the expiration of six months after such rejection. (See Exceptions, Section 6)

**Section 4. Balloting.** The ballot on a petition or application for membership must be secret and unanimous, and all members present when the ballot is taken must vote unless excused by the Illustrious Master. A unanimous ballot shall be necessary for acceptance, but if, on the first ballot, one negative ballot appears, the Illustrious Master shall order a second ballot which shall be taken which shall in all cases be final.

**Section 5. Objections.** Before the conferring of the degrees, any member of the Council or any member of a Council of this Grand Council may make secret objection to the Illustrious Master to the election of such candidate. On such objection being made, the Illustrious Master shall immediately call in the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work to consider the reasons therefore. This hearing shall be in secret. The objector shall present to those three the reasons for his objections, stating fully his facts. If the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work consider such reasons sufficient, the petitioner shall be declared rejected. At the next stated meeting the Illustrious Master shall announce that the petitioner has been rejected and instruct the Recorder to duly note the same. The fees shall be returned to the petitioner, and he shall be eligible to repetition after six months. The name of the objector shall not be revealed by either the officers or the objector.

**Section 6. Exceptions.** When a petitioner shall have resided at least six months in the state and is a member of a duly recognized Council of Select Masters, the Council may, if there be no objection, receive and ballot upon such petitioner at any Stated or Special Assembly without regard to time or reference to an investigating committee.

**Section 7. Failure to Appear.** A candidate fails to present himself within six months after he shall have been notified of his election shall forfeit his fee, provided he does not give good reasons for his failure to appear. The sufficiency of the reasons shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present. Another ballot shall be taken upon his petition. In the event the candidate presents himself and the degrees are not conferred because of no fault of his own, the fee paid shall be returned to the petitioner if he so desires.

**Section 8. Records.** All action taken upon petitions and all degrees conferred or refused shall be duly recorded on the minutes of the Council.

**Section 9. Fees.** No constituent Council shall accept a petition for the degrees for a sum less than (\$30.00) thirty dollars, which may be paid in installments, (\$15.00) fifteen dollars with the petition and (\$15.00) fifteen dollars before the Royal Master Degree is conferred, provided that this shall not be construed to prevent a constituent Council from charging a sum greater than (\$30.00) thirty dollars for the three degrees.

**Section 10. Affiliation.**

**a.** All applications for membership by affiliation shall be on forms provided by the Grand Council, which form shall be signed by the applicant with his full name, together with such information concerning occupation, residence and such other matters as are deemed of importance in judging his qualifications for acceptance, and it shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing or demit from the Council of his former membership; providing that a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Grand Recorder as provided in Article 2, Section 4 of these General Laws shall be accepted in lieu of a Certificate of Good Standing when presented within 120 days of its date.

**b.** No fee shall be charged for affiliation from another Council whether within or without this Grand Jurisdiction.

**Section 11. Rejection.** Whenever the application of a Cryptic Mason for membership shall be rejected, his right as a Cryptic Mason shall not be impaired thereby, and he shall have the right to again apply for membership at his pleasure in the same or in another Council.

**Section 12. Certificates of Good Standing.**

**a.** The procedure adopted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of the State of Oklahoma shall be adopted by this Grand Council in the issuance of Certificates of Good Standing.

**b.** All forms previously approved by this Grand Council pertaining to the issuance of a demit shall be amended by substituting the words "Certificate of Good Standing" for the word "Demit", and such forms shall conform as nearly as possible to that adopted by the M:W: Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma. Demits shall not hereafter be issued by a constituent Council of this jurisdiction. In order that transfer of a member from one Council to another

may be accomplished without delay the "Certificate of Good Standing" shall become a transfer of membership upon notice to the Council of original membership of the election of the member in another Council. Certificates of Good Standing shall expire one hundred twenty (120) days from the day of issuance.

**Section 13. Certain Degrees Gratuitous.** Any Select Master who has been made such in another Grand jurisdiction in fraternal relationship with the Grand Council of Oklahoma which omits conferring the Royal Master Degree may visit an Oklahoma Council, provided he is obligated in the degree or degrees omitted or has them conferred upon him without cost. Any Council is authorized to confer any or all such degrees on such a Select Master as a courtesy and without fee or dues. Any such Select Mason receiving such degrees as a courtesy shall not thereby become a member of such Council and shall not be carried on the rolls

**Section 14. Dues.** The minimum dues for each constituent Council shall be the per capita tax of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma and the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons, International plus any and all assessments of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, plus an additional amount to cover the cost of operating the constituent Council.

All dues shall be payable in advance on the first day of January each year, and the Recorder shall not issue a dues card until the member shall exhibit documentary evidence showing that he is a member in good standing of a Symbolic Lodge and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

Councils may not remit the dues on more than 10% of its total membership.

A Council may also confer at any time "Honorary Membership" on deserving Companions who hold membership in other Councils and whom the Council wishes to honor for some particular reason.

**Section 15. Assessments.** Councils may for specific purposes levy special assessments against companions which may be collected as dues, provided that such assessments shall apply to all companions alike, who shall be notified at least thirty days in advance of the time when such payments shall become due and with the approval of the Grand Illustrious Master.

**Section 16. Dues Cards.** The dues cards shall be uniform in size and format, similar to the dues cards presently issued by the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma. Each card shall bear the printed signature of the Grand Recorder and a facsimile of the seal of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, and the year of issue. Constituent Councils may fill in their Council name, number and location, or may have it printed on the card. Dues cards shall be ordered through the Grand Recorder.

**Section 17. Remit Dues.** Councils shall have the right to remit the dues of deserving companions who, because of misfortune, may be unable to meet the financial obligation of paying dues. When a committee of the Council shall have made an investigation and reported such inability, the Grand Council dues on such companion shall be remitted. A report of members for whom dues are remitted shall be submitted to the Grand Recorder along with the annual report on a form to be provided by his office.

**Section 18. Honorary Members.** Councils shall also have the right to bestow Honorary Membership on deserving companions who, because of advanced age or faithful service, are deemed worthy of such honor after such proposal shall have lain over from one Stated Assembly until the next, but the Council shall pay Grand Council dues on such member.

A Council may confer at any time "Honorary Membership" on deserving companions who hold membership in other Councils and who the Council wishes to honor for some particular reason.

**Section 19. Suspensions, Restorations and Reinstatements.**

a. No member of a constituent Council shall be suspended for non-payment of dues until after due notice has been given to such member of an opportunity to appear at the time it is proposed to act upon the matter and to be heard.

b. If a member is in arrears in dues for a period of six months, he may be summoned to appear at a Stated Assembly to show cause; at which time, whether he appears or not, the Council may act at its discretion without further notice to the member.

c. Membership in a Symbolic Lodge and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, being a prerequisite to membership in a Council, a companion suspended by his Lodge or Chapter shall, on due notice, be suspended by his Council.

d. When a member has been suspended by his Council solely for non-payment of dues, he may be restored to

good standing by paying of the dues owed at the time of his suspension, plus dues for the current year, and without vote of the Council; providing such member shall be in good standing in his Lodge and Chapter, and providing further that such payment is tendered within three (3) years of the date of suspension.

If such payment be tendered at a later date, it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Council to reinstate.

e. Any payment tendered for reinstatement shall be refunded if reinstatement is refused.

f. No dues shall be charged during suspension.

g. The Council may, by majority vote, remit part or all of the dues owed at the time of suspension

h. In order to maintain his standing, a member must be affiliated with and in good standing in a regular Lodge of Master Masons and in a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and suspension or expulsion therein shall carry the same penalty in his Council.

**Section 20. Plural Membership.** Plural membership in this Grand Council shall be permitted under the procedure as adopted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of the State of Oklahoma; and the form of application and certification of good standing shall be adopted similar in wording to our present form of affiliation and certificate of good standing with the words "Plural Membership" to be added thereto. No companion shall be permitted to hold an elective office in two Councils within this Grand Council at one and the same time. A plural member may withdraw his membership in any Council giving written notice to each Council in which he holds plural membership, provided that no charges are pending and that his dues are current in each Council. The Recorder shall report all plural members, as such, and shall notify the other Councils and the Grand Recorder of anything affecting the standing of the plural member.

**Section 21. Perpetual Membership.** Perpetual memberships are authorized in constituent Councils subject to the following terms and conditions.

a. Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a constituent Council may become a perpetual member in that Council pursuant to the provisions of this section.

b. The member desiring a perpetual membership shall apply to the Recorder of his Council for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Council. The Council Recorder shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due to the Grand Recorder. The date of application shall be the date the Grand Recorder certifies he received the application.

The member shall tender with his application a minimum of fifteen (15) times of the annual dues of his Council, excluding that portion of the annual dues which is designated for the per capita tax of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, as prescribed in Article 11, Section 14. At the time of his application, the member must also demonstrate that he holds or has applied for an individual life membership in the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International. If the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, shall have discontinued offering individual life memberships, then the member shall tender with his application a minimum of fifteen (15) times of the annual dues of his Council as prescribed in Article 11, Section 14. (Amended 4/24/15)

c. The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Council Recorder. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Recorder. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the perpetual membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Recorder determines that the minimum fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, the Grand Recorder shall have power to correct the application and the Council Recorder's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the Constituent Council Recorder. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Recorder shall return the application and fee to the constituent Council Recorder for correction and re-submittal. A copy of the completed and accepted perpetual membership application and a certificate of perpetual membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Council by the Grand Recorder. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Recorder to use computerized records.

d. After the perpetual membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for perpetual membership as of the date of the application.

e. After the applicant's perpetual membership has been accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in the Constitution and General Laws. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted perpetual membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Council basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Council dues and Grand Council per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately by the Grand Treasurer from all other Grand Council funds. The funds shall be audited annually as required in the Constitution

and Law.

**f.** A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Council of which he is a perpetual member. An annual dues card shall be issued by the Council Recorder who shall denote perpetual membership thereon.

**g.** The perpetual membership fee shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. The total amount of interest and dividends derived there from shall be paid proportionally, annually to each constituent Council for each perpetual member at the time of per capita billing.

(1) When a perpetual member dies, a new ratio will be arrived at by subtracting the General Grand Council per capita tax, the contribution made to Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, Inc., plus any other special assessment.

**h.** The Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer shall, at the time of the annual interest distribution, defined as interest and dividends, submit a statement to the Council for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessment in effect at the time the Companion joined the plan. The Council shall during his lifetime and thereafter pay to the Grand Council the amount designated by the Grand Recorder's per capita statement.

**i.** The obtaining of a perpetual membership in one Council by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Council to which he belongs. Plural perpetual memberships are permitted.

**j.** A perpetual member may affiliate with a constituent Council. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction the entire perpetual membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Council to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire perpetual membership fee shall remain with the Council of which he was a perpetual member.

**k.** Any certificate of good standing issued under the Constitution and General Laws to a perpetual member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member, and the amount of the perpetual membership fee shall be transferred to the constituent Council in Oklahoma with which he affiliates.

**l.** If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing or re-affiliates from out of state, his perpetual membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

**m.** If a Council consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that Council in the perpetual membership fund shall follow the Companion according to the relevant sections of the Constitution and General Laws dealing with consolidations, surrendering and arrest of charters.

(1) When a member holds perpetual memberships in two Councils, and these Councils consolidate, his perpetual membership will be combined in one perpetual membership in the surviving Council. The Grand Treasurer will combine the perpetual membership funds transferred in with the original funds and will treat the account the same as if additional funds had been added. The distribution of the dividend and interest earned will be based on the ratio of the surviving Council and in accordance with paragraph (e).

**n.** A memorial perpetual membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Companion of an Oklahoma Council by following the same procedures as outlined in this section, using the dues, per capita and any assessments in effect on the date of the Companion's death. Interest derived there from shall be in accordance with sub-sections "g" and "h".

**o.** A Companion at any future time may add any amount to his perpetual membership fee through his Council Recorder.

**p.** Applications for perpetual membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Council, and the Grand Recorder shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

**q.** Where perpetual Companions have not been heard from for more than seven years, the Illustrious Master shall direct the Recorder to report the names of such missing Companions to the Grand Council on the monthly report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased perpetual membership, but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid to the Council and Grand Council for that perpetual member as set forth in subsections "g" and "h".

**r.** There shall be no cost to the constituent Council for the administration of this program by the Grand Council.

**Section 22. Membership in Lodge and Chapter.** Membership in any Council in this Grand Jurisdiction is dependent upon and co-existent with membership in a Lodge of Master Masons and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Receipt of a duly authenticated certificate showing the suspension or expulsion of any member of any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall operate to suspend or expel said Select Master in the Council in which his membership is enrolled; provided that receipt of a certificate showing his restoration to such membership shall in the absence of charges in the Council operate to restore him to good standing.

**Section 23. Discipline.** Every Council shall have the right to exercise discipline for any Masonic offense over its own members wherever they may reside.

**Section 24. Preferring Charges.** Whenever a Companion within this Grand Jurisdiction shall desire to prefer charges against another Companion he shall submit a copy of such charges with such specifications and the name of witnesses to the Illustrious Master, whereupon all proceedings shall ensue in accordance with the Law and Usage adopted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma so far as they may be applicable.

**Section 25. Division of Fees.** When the Super Excellent Master Degree is conferred by a Council other than the Council petitioned by the candidates, the Council petitioned shall pay the Council conferring the degree a fee of two dollars per candidate irrespective of the location at which the degree is conferred. No Select Master who was greeted before April, 1966 or his Council shall be required to pay any additional fee for the Super Excellent Master Degree. (When the Council conferring the degree serves a meal to their members and guests, the candidate's own Council shall pay for all meals served to the candidate, in addition to the two dollar fee.) PROVIDED, that when degrees are conferred at a state or district festival the expenses of the festival shall be allocated to the Councils sending candidates in such manner as the Grand Master or district officer shall determine, but the two dollar degree charge and meal charge shall not be assessed against the petitioner's council.

## ARTICLE 12

### CEREMONIES AND FORMS

**Section 1. Ceremonies.** The form for the ceremonies of Installation of Officers of constituent Councils is printed in the ritual. Forms for installing Grand Officers, Instituting, and Constituting new Councils are available either in the ritual or from the Grand Recorder.

**Section 2. Official Forms.** The official form for By-Laws of constituent Councils is included herewith. All other forms of petitions, applications, reports, etc., as approved by the Grand Council, are available from the Grand Recorder.

**Section 3. When General Law is Silent.** Where this General Law is silent upon any question of law or jurisprudence not otherwise specifically covered in the Constitution or Edicts of this Grand Council, the Masonic Law and Usage recognized by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State Oklahoma shall control.

## ARTICLE 13

**Section 1. Amendments.** Amendments may be made to these General Laws at any stated Assembly of this Grand Council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting; provided that all proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing to the office of the Grand Recorder not later than sixty days prior to the date of the Annual Assembly. Resolutions submitted shall be accompanied by a statement of the reasons for the proposed amendments and such facts as may be in support thereof.

**a.** The Grand Recorder shall forward copies of such resolutions to the members of the Jurisprudence Committee, the elective Grand officers of the Grand Council, and to the chairman of any standing committee which may be affected thereby not later than thirty days prior to the date of the Annual Assembly.

Resolutions proposed affecting any standing Committees shall also be submitted to the Chairman of such committees not later than thirty days prior to the statutory date of the Annual Assembly. All such Resolutions when formally presented at the Annual Convocation shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence for report and recommendation.

The Grand Recorder shall forward to the constituent Councils of this Grand Council copies of such Resolutions thirty days prior to the opening date of the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

**b.** By unanimous consent the members present at an Annual Assembly of the Grand Council may suspend the provisions of this section, providing for prior submission of proposed amendments to these General Laws, except that all Resolutions must be presented on the first day of an Annual Assembly.

**c.** A recommendation made in the address or report of a Grand Officer or in a committee report shall not be accepted as an amendment to these General Laws, except by the regular procedure as outlined in Section 2 of this Article.

### Section 2. Repeal of Previous Laws.

These revised General Laws shall supersede the 2006 General Laws, as amended, and shall become effective

and be in force upon adoption at the 2013 Grand Assembly.

## STANDING RESOLUTION

### INVESTMENT POLICIES FOR GRAND YORK RITE BODIES

The Grand Recorder will transfer all excess funds in the operating account to the Grand Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund Investment Account. All funds received by the Grand Recorder which are designated will be transferred to the Grand Treasurer for deposit into the appropriate investment account. The Grand Treasurer will review the investment accounts monthly.

The Investment Advisory Board shall consist of three members. The Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and Grand Commander will each appoint one member to the Investment Advisory Board. At their first meeting, they will select who will serve one, two or three year terms. All following appointments will be for a three year term or to complete a vacated term. Investment Advisory Board members may be reappointed.

The Grand Treasurer shall be responsible for the investments of these Grand Bodies. He shall seek advice from the Investment Advisory Board as to the placement of the funds. The funds can be mixed to enhance return and a standard fund accounting practice be employed to account for each account's value in the investment mix.

The following policy shall be followed:

1. There shall be an interest bearing account known as the General Fund to invest monies for a short term or until needed by the Grand Secretary/Recorder for the operation of the applicable York Rite Body.

2. Investments may include:

- a. Certificates of Deposit;
- b. U.S. Treasury Bonds, Bills and Notes;
- c. Bonds issued by U.S. agencies;
- d. Corporate Bonds;
- e. Preferred Stocks of U.S. Corporations.
- f. Equities of U.S. Corporations.

3. Definitions:

- a. EQUITY INVESTMENTS: Consist of common stock, mutual funds, convertible preferred stock and convertible debentures of a corporation which are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and NASDAQ.
- b. FIXED INCOME INVESTMENTS: Fixed Income Investments are securities which yield a fixed rate of interest over the term of the instrument. Examples are bonds, debentures, corporate and government, and other forms of debt obligations.
- c. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS: Fixed Income Investments which have a maturity of not more than 90 days.
- d. PORTFOLIO. All the investments held by The Grand Chapter, RAM of OK, by The Grand Council, CM of OK and by The Grand Commandery, KT of OK. A portfolio may have several accounts, i.e. General Fund, Perpetual Membership Fund, Membership Development Fund, etc., within each portfolio.

4. Guidelines: The asset allocation target of the total portfolio shall be:

|                                       | Minimum | Target | Maximum |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Equities and ETF's                    | 10%     | 22%    | 60%     |
| Corporate, Municipal and Agency Bonds | 5%      | 25%    | 40%     |
| Mutual Funds                          | 10%     | 23%    | 40%     |
| Preferred/Fix Rate Securities         | 10%     | 25%    | 40%     |
| Cash and Equivalents                  | 0%      | 5%     | 10%     |

a. The equity portfolio shall be invested in companies whose securities have recognized marketability and quality.

b. Investment in any one company shall not exceed 10% of the total market value of the equity portfolio, and investment in any one industry shall not exceed 20% of the total market value of the

equity portfolio. If the asset allocation gets more than 5% away from the targets, the Grand Treasurer should consult with the Investment Committee for readjustments.

c. No short sales, options, margin purchases, limited partnerships, commodities or similar purchases shall be made.

d. Investment in foreign stocks is expressly prohibited except for such stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and NASDAQ.

e. All bonds shall have a rating of BBB- or better, by Standard & Poor's or Moody's equivalent. If a bond issue drops below "BB" by Standard & Poor's or Moody's equivalent, it shall be reviewed.

f. In the calculations of the total endowed funds within each portfolio, the call or par value of all preferred stocks, government and corporate bonds, may be used.

### **By-Laws for use of Constituent Councils Of Oklahoma**

#### **Article I**

**Section 1. NAME.** This Council shall be known as \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Cryptic Masons of \_\_\_\_\_, Oklahoma

**Section 2. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS.** The regular (**stated**) assemblies of this Council shall be held on the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in each month at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock (**M**) in the city of \_\_\_\_\_; providing, that it shall be competent for the majority of the members at any Stated Assembly to dispense with any Stated Assembly for a period not exceeding two months.

**Section 3, OFFICERS.** The elective officers shall be chosen annually at the first Stated Assembly in December and may be installed at this or any subsequent Special or Stated **Assembly (prior to the first stated Assembly in January of the following year.)**

**Section 4. FEES AND DUES.** The fees for the degrees in this Council shall be \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, and payable before the degrees are conferred. The dues in this Council shall be \_\_\_\_\_, per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January of each year.

**Section 5, BONDS.** The treasurer of this Council shall execute a surety bond to the Council in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, and the Recorder shall furnish a similar bond in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

#### **Order of Business**

1. Reading and approving minutes
2. Receiving and referring petitions.
3. Receiving reports of committees.
4. Balloting.
5. Sickness or distress.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Miscellaneous.
8. Conferring degrees.