

Masonic Temple Wednesday Evening 14 May, 2025

At a Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M.

New Bern, North Carolina

HELD ON THE ABOVE DATE PRESENT:

Bro. Arthur B. Romans W.M.
Bro. Dominick P Giorgianni S.W.
Bro W. Terry Tripp J.W.
Bro Thomas L. Williams, PM Treas.
Bro. William C. Zerby, PM Sec'y.
Bro Robert W. Webster Chaplain



Bro. Francis L. Anson S.D.
Bro. Joseph S. Kawalski J.D.
Bro. Nicholas C. Coyle Steward
Bro. Christopher A. White Steward
Bro. Mark E. Bledsoe as Tyler
Bro. _____ as Marshall

Lodge opened on the third degree of Masonry in Due Form at 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Lodge #3 was opened in due form by the WM. After the Flag Ceremony the WM recognized all Veterans, Certified Lecturers, Past Masters, Coaches, First Responders, and prior/current District Officers.

SD introduced our guests.

Sick and Shut-ins Bro. David Blonn's Mother-in-Law, back home recovering.
WB James Warren is still, undergoing treatment
WM reported on the deaths of bro James R. Saunders Initiated: 9/21/1960, Passed: 11/09/1960, and Raised: 12/07/1960 and Passed away on 1/17/2025. WB Dale Douglas Davis, who was Initiated: 11/30/1994, Passed: 3/15/1995 Raised 5/10/1995 and passed away on 4/26/2025 and also WB D.K. Lewis Past Master of Cherry Point passed away on 9 May 2025
Those in the western part of the state in our thoughts and prayers
Unspoken needs of our Brothers and Widows

Good News:

- Message from W.B. James Warren : Commends the Officers and Brethren of the lodge on the trestle board. He would like to express how he appreciates the work of the officers and brethren in moving the lodge forward by encouraging and involving all capable and interested members to be involved with the lodge. He also likes to personally thank the brethren for the attention the embers have rendered to him as he is receiving treatment and fighting the good fight.
- Recognize Donation to Lodge from W.B. Fred Whitty in honor of the work both the WM and SW have put into the lodge in the recent years, to John Riesbeck for the donation toward water damage to the fireplace and any other Donations that might have been made.
- Congratulate the Officers on a fine 2nd Degree special recognition to Dominick / Francis / Chris White for their hard work in learning the ritual.
- Thanks went out to WB Joe Fuller for the door knocker donation.
- Congratulations went out to bro Terry Tripp for graduating Wilkerson.

The minutes of the last Stated Communication of Apr 23 and Emergent Communication of Apr 30 were read for information.

Treasurers Report: WB Tom Williams gave the treasurers report.

Gen Account	\$71,793.36
Mngt Account	\$4,616.35

Bills Allowed: \$10.35 to Scottish Rite for postage
\$73.38 to Dominick Giorgianni for printing of parking lot signs
\$39.75 to Christopher White for Emergent Comm meal
\$164.11 to Dominick Giorgianni for printing of pictures
\$230.91 to Oxford for the Trestle Board printing & mailing
\$15.27 to Christopher White for drinks
\$144.09 to Mark Bledsoe for purchase of raffle tickets

Motion by bro Joseph Kawalski 2nd by bro Robert Webster to pay the bills, motion carried.

The Investigation Committee was assigned to the Application for Affiliation of bro Trevor L. Tompkins.

Old Business:

- Reminder to Brethren, please pay your dues for 2025, we currently have 29 brothers owing dues for 2025, As a reminder, later this year, anyone owing dues for 1 year or more will be excluded for Non Payment of Dues in accordance with the Code.
- WM commented on the Endowed Membership, cost is currently only \$1911.00 for one-time payment or can be broken up into 5 annual payments of 477.75
- Contractor has begun work on the exterior of the building (at fireplace)
- WM thanked brethren for attending WB Davis funeral

New Business:

- WM read a List of “Inactive Brethren” asking for brethren to make contact with those on list and invite them to lodge.
- Notice to brethren we will be in Coat and Tie until 1st Stated Communication in June
- Discuss Bro. Bradham Bear Dedication status. Date of June 14 is set for dedication.
- 31st May the Scottish Rite is doing Veterans, 1st Responders & Educators Breakfast at York Rite. St. John’s is partnering with them for Lion and Pillar credit. Time is 7am to 10am.
- Bro Francis Anson discussed the book club which met on Apr 27 @ 2pm
- Review more presented amendments to the code.
- Bro Dominick Giorgianni gave a quarterly financial report.
- WM read more amendments to the code to the lodge. (See attached)

Coaching Report: William Hall 2nd Degree / Aaron Weems 2nd Degree w/ WB Larry Mares

Building Report:

- Any Brothers who are experienced with painting epoxy floor paint or who would like to assist in Painting 2nd Floor Bathrooms / Cleaning Banquet Hall Kitchen

The New Bern Masonic Theater, Historic Preservation Foundation: WM announced an event called “The Best of Broadway” will be held Sept 13th, Cast \$100.00/person

Membership Outreach: Bro Mark Bledsoe gave an update on the coffee & donuts event. The next is scheduled for June 7 @ 9am

Fundraiser Report: Bro. Mark Bledsoe gave an update on raffle

Masonic Education: Bro Mark Bledsoe gave a lesson on the cabletow and it’s significance in our rituals.

- Important Dates:
- 16 May 2025 Scottish Rite Chicken Fundraiser 11-2 @ York Rite Temple.\$10/plate.
 - 17 May Shrine Ceremonial in Kinston
 - 20 May 1st degree at Bayboro Lodge degree@ 730
 - 22 May 3rd degree at Cherry Pt Lodge. Meal@ 6 degree@ 7
 - 23 May Grotto meeting 730pm
 - 24 May 2025 Boy Scouts Place Flags at National Cemetery @ 9am? Tentative
 - 26 May 2025 Memorial Day Service at New Bern National Cemetery begins at 1100.
 - 28 May 2025 Next Stated Communication (Education presented by RW Mike Register)
 - 4 Jun 1st degress @ St. John's Meal@ 6 degree@ 7
 - 14 June 2025 Bro. Bradham Bear Dedication/Lodge Membership Group Picture @ 11am
 - 2 August 2025 District Lecture Service

WM thanked bro Mark Bledsoe for the meal.

The meal was served in Lowthorp hall before the meeting.

There being no further business to come before this Lodge, the minutes were read and approved, and this Lodge was closed in due form.

William C. Zerby. PM
Secretary

Amendment Group 1

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Kevan D. Frazier.

This amendment would amend Regulation 34 to permanently create an Insurance Management Committee. It would also establish a new subsection in the Table of Contents of the Code for this Committee.

Chapter 34 – Grand Lodge Committees

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Committee on Insurance

Reg. 34-26 Members

Reg. 34-27 Matters Referred

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Chapter 34 – Grand Lodge Committees

Committee on Insurance

REG. 34-26 MEMBERS. The Committee on Insurance shall consist of five members, appointed by the Grand Master and confirmed by the Grand Lodge, each of whom shall be a member in good standing and well-informed in insurance best practices.

1. Members of this committee shall not bid, participate, or contract insurance services for the Grand Lodge, nor shall their associates, family members, or any other person whereby a conflict of interest may be of disservice to the fraternity.
2. The Grand Master shall name the chairman of the Committee on Insurance.
3. At each annual communication of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master shall appoint one member to serve for five years.
4. A vacancy in the Committee on Insurance occurring when the Grand Lodge is in recess shall be filled by the Grand Master until the next succeeding annual communication of the Grand Lodge when the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term on nomination of the Grand Master-elect and confirmation of the Grand Lodge.
5. A quorum of the Committee on Insurance shall consist of three or more members.

REG. 34-27 MATTERS REFERED Matters which shall be referred to the Committee on Insurance and its duties relative to these and other things are as follows.

1. To review all proposals to establish, amend, or cancel any guidelines or policies related to the Insurance Coverage applicable for all properties of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina or properties of subordinate lodges.
2. To review all questions touching upon insurance matters of the Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges.
3. Any other matters that may be referred to it by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

REG. 34-28 DUTIES AND POWERS. The duties and powers of the Committee on Insurance are as follows.

1. To annually review annually the list of current subordinate lodges to ensure each lodge has insurance coverage.
2. To ensure each subordinate lodge, not under the umbrella coverage of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, has adequate coverage for all requirements specified throughout the Code, including but not limited to coverage for fundraisers and required bonding levels for lodge treasurers and secretaries.
3. To recommend to the Board of General Purposes any additions, revisions, deletions, or amendments to the Grand Lodge Insurance Policy.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 19 to permit the option of allowing electronic voting at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge as many other grand jurisdictions are currently and have been doing for several years.

Chapter 19 – Voting in the Grand Lodge

Reg. 19-1 - Methods of Voting

REG. 19-1 METHODS OF VOTING. The methods of voting in the Grand Lodge shall be: by call of the roll; written paper ballot; electronic ballot; by show of hands; and by standing.

REG. 19-1.1. A written or electronic ballot is required when; (12-1; 12-2).

REG. 12-1 MANNER OF ELECTION. At each annual communication of the Grand Lodge there shall be elected without nomination a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior Grand Warden, a Junior Grand Warden, a Grand Treasurer, and a Grand Secretary by written or electronic ballot. (11-5.2; 11-5.3; Chapter 19).

Amendment Group 3

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Kevan D. Frazier.

This amendment would amend Chapter 39 to add a new Regulation, 39-14, which would allow the formation of a new lodge, Long Leaf Pine Lodge No. 777 as a temporary holding lodge. This will allow displaced brethren, (members of defunct lodges who did not merge with another lodge, brethren who may be unaccounted for due to medical or other unknown reasons) to have a continuing membership until they can find a suitable lodge, or their location can be established allowing membership at a lodge best suited for their current needs.

Chapter 39 – Lodge Under Dispensation

Reg. 39-14, New Amendment

REG. 39-14 TEMPORARY HOLDING LODGE. The Grand Lodge shall institute a temporary holding lodge to be a temporary home lodge for any displaced brother who has lost his previous membership, not of his own free will and accord, but due to his previous lodge becoming defunct, or his becoming unaccounted for due to medical or other unknown reasons. Membership in this grand jurisdiction and as a member of this temporary lodge will continue until he can find a suitable lodge, or his location and health is established. Once the most suitable option is determined, his membership shall be transferred to a lodge best suited for his current location, including any special requirements as may be needed.

Amendment Group 4

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 77-1 and Chapter 44, Article 10, to define dues as the amount required by each subordinate lodge to discharge their necessary duties and obligations plus the per capita approved by the grand lodge. This would eliminate the need to update the lodge by-laws when per capita rates are modified.

Chapter 77 – Dues

Reg. 77-1 - Minimum Dues

Chapter 44 – Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Lodge

Article 10 - Membership Dues

REG. 77-1 MINIMUM DUES. Each lodge shall fix in its by-laws and shall collect such annual dues, inclusive of per capita when applicable, from its membership as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties and obligations. (5-2.2). (*This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2004.*)

ARTICLE 10

SECTION 1. The annual membership dues in this lodge shall be ___ dollars (\$___) plus Grand Lodge per capita tax as specified in Regulation 20-1.1 of The Code which each member shall pay in advance on or before the first day of January.

NOTE: An amendment to Section 1 of this article shall not become effective until January first next following the date it is approved by the chairman of the Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges. (77-2; 77-3). (This article amended, effective July 31, 2000.)

~~Alternative Form for Article 10, Section 1~~

~~SECTION 1.~~ ~~The annual membership dues in this lodge shall be ___ dollars (\$___) which each member shall pay in advance on or before the first day of January.~~

~~*NOTE: An amendment to Section 1 of this article shall not become effective until January first next following the date it is approved by the chairman of the Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges. (77-2; 77-3). (This article amended, effective January 1, 2003.)*~~

Amendment Group 5

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 11-1.2 to change the category of the Grand Chaplain to one requiring installation and consistent with Code requirements of subordinate lodges. This position has been installed as early as 1959 but the Code has never been amended to reflect this practice since 1948. Regulation 11-1.3 would permit, at the Grand Master – elect’s discretion, to install the grand lodge officers listed in this category is he so desires.

Chapter 11 – Grand Officers’ Rank, Designation, Title, Qualifications, Term, and Succession of Office

Reg. 11-1.2, 11-1.3 - Officers

REG. 11-1 OFFICERS. The elective and appointive officers of the Grand Lodge, their ranks, designations, and titles shall be as follows:

2. The appointive grand officers who shall be installed either in person or by proxy are as follows: (12-6; 17-1; 17-2; 17-4; 17-6).

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Senior Grand Deacon | Worshipful |
| 2. Junior Grand Deacon | Worshipful |
| 3. Grand Marshal | Worshipful |
| 4. Two Grand Stewards | Worshipful |
| 5. Grand Tyler | Worshipful |
| <u>6. Grand Chaplain</u> | <u>Worshipful</u> |

3. The appointive grand officers who ~~shall not~~ may be installed are as follows: (17-5; 17-7; 17-8; 17-9.1).

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Grand Chaplain | Worshipful |
| 1-2. Grand Historian | Worshipful |
| 2-3. Grand Lecturer | Worshipful |
| 3-4. Grand Orator | Worshipful |
| 4 5. Judge Advocate | Worshipful |

REG. 12-6 INSTALLATION ESSENTIAL. The grand officers shall be installed before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, except ~~the Grand Chaplain,~~ the Grand Historian, the Grand Lecturer, the Grand Orator, the Judge Advocate, and acting or pro tempore officers. Installation is essential and cannot be dispensed with. (~~11-01~~; 11-1.2; 11-10.4; 11-10.5; 57.8).

REG. 17-9. DUTIES OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE. The qualifications, selection, and duties of the Judge Advocate shall be as follows.

1. The Judge Advocate shall be a Past Master in good standing, well-versed in Masonic jurisprudence. He shall be nominated by the Grand Master-~~elect~~ and confirmed by the Grand Lodge. He ~~may~~ ~~shall not~~ be installed and his term of office shall be two years. (11-1.3; 11-8).

Amendment Group 6

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 16-1.30 as Obsolete since this process is made available electronically through the Grand Lodge Membership management program.

Chapter 16 – Duties of the Grand Secretary

Reg. 16-1.30 - Duties of the Grand Secretary

REG. 16-1 DUTIES OF THE GRAND SECRETARY. The duties of the Grand Secretary are as follows.

~~30. To prepare and furnish to each subordinate lodge, before November fifteenth of each year, blank returns in duplicate for annual returns, the subordinate lodge to complete both copies forwarding the original to the Grand Secretary and retaining the copy for its permanent file. (Chapter 47). Obsolete~~

Amendment Group 7

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 29-7.2 to remove the requirement of printing annually the roster of each grade and class of lecturer in the proceedings. The practice of printing the roster in the annual proceedings ceased in 1964 when the Board of Custodians agreed to print the roster in a separate publication, however, the Code was never amended to reflect this change. This separate printed publication was provided annually until 2004. As a cost savings, printing ceased in 2005, but the roster has been made available electronically since that time.

Chapter 29 – Board of Custodians, Masonic Education, Lecture Service

Reg. 29-7 - Class of Lecturers

REG. 29-7 CLASSES OF LECTURERS. The Board of Custodians is authorized, in its discretion:

2. To establish a roster for each grade or class authorized by it, on which shall be posted the names of each brother qualified for the roster of each grade or class. These rosters shall be published annually by the Board of Custodians and made available in an electronic format. ~~printed in the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.~~

Amendment Group 8

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 43-2.4, Regulation 45-2 and Reg. 44-7, Article 8 to update the current practice of bi-monthly or quarterly stated meetings, without the requirement of a dispensation as currently allowed for lodges such as Orphans, Lux Libertas, Sophia, Veritas, Prometheus, Lodge of the Nine Sisters.

Chapter 43 – Subordinate Lodges Powers and Duties

Reg. 43-2.4 - Powers and Duties

Chapter 45 – Communications of a Lodge

Reg. 45-2 - Stated Communications

Reg 44-7 - Uniform By-laws

Article 8 - Stated Communications

REG. 43-2 POWERS AND DUTIES. Some, but not all, of the powers and duties of a lodge are as follows. (~~2-4~~; ~~4-2~~).

4. A lodge shall hold at least one stated communication each calendar month or it may choose in its by-laws to meet bi-monthly or quarterly, except as provided in Regulation 45-2 or by dispensation of the Grand Master (*This section amended, effective January 1, 2004.*)

REG. 45-2 STATED COMMUNICATION. A lodge shall hold at least one stated communication each calendar month, however, it may provide in its by-laws to meet bi-monthly or quarterly, to omit any or all stated communications during either or all of the months of June, July, and August and those falling on legal holidays, or to omit a stated communication by dispensation of the Grand Master. (*This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2003.*)

REG. 44-7 UNIFORM BY-LAWS. The Grand Lodge recommends that each lodge adopt by-laws conforming to the articles hereinafter set forth.

ARTICLE 8

First Alternative Form for Article 8, Section 1

SECTION 1. A stated communication of this lodge shall be held bi-monthly on _____ of ~~each month~~ during the months of _____ at _____ M.

Second Alternative Form for Article 8, Section 1

SECTION 1. A stated communication of this lodge shall be held quarterly on _____ of ~~each month~~ during the months of _____ at _____ M.

Amendment Group 9

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Secretary Jonathan A. Underwood.

This amendment would amend Regulation 45-3.4.H as Obsolete since the requirement for Waiver of Jurisdictions for subordinate lodges no longer exists.

Chapter 45 – Communications of a Lodge

Reg. 45-3.4.H - Emergent Communications

REG. 45-3 EMERGENT COMMUNICATIONS. Emergent communications of a lodge may be held at any time at the pleasure of the Master as provided by law and the usages of the Craft. (45-1.2; 45-3.1; 45-4; 45-5; 59-2.5; 59-9.6).

4. A lodge shall not transact the following business at an emergent communication without dispensation:

H. ~~Grant a waiver of jurisdiction, or (42-9)~~ Obsolete

Amendment Group 10

The following amendment has been submitted by the Committee on Finance.

This amendment would amend Regulation 13-4 by adding additional restrictions on the power of the Grand Master as related to the annual budget adopted by the delegates of the Grand Lodge. It also amends the duties of the Grand Treasurer, expands the Powers and Authority of the Board of General Purposes and the Finance Committee.

Chapter 13

Powers, Duties and Expenses of the Grand Master

Reg. 13-4 Restrictions on Powers

The Grand Master has no authority to:

14. Amend or modify the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication unless and until such budget amendment or modification has been considered by the Committee on Finance, a recommendation is made by the said Committee to amend or modify the budget and thereafter, the budget amendment or modification is adopted by not less than a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of General Purposes.

15. Spend, cause to be spent, authorize, direct, instruct, or order the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary to disburse or expend funds of the Grand Lodge **in excess of \$500.00 or 10%, whichever is greater, above** any budgeted item adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication unless and until such expenditure has been considered by the Committee on Finance, said Committee has, by simple majority vote, recommended such expenditure and thereafter, the expenditure is approved by not less than a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of General Purposes.

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption.

Chapter 15

Duties of the Grand Treasurer

Reg. 15-1 Duties of the Grand Treasurer

The duties of the Grand Treasurer are as follows:

7. To pay warrants drawn on him authorized by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, **not inconsistent with Regulation 13-4.15,** and executed by the Grand Secretary.

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption.

Chapter 28

Board of General Purposes

Reg. 28-3 Powers and Authority

The objects and purposes, powers and authority, and limitations of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:

5. To receive and consider all recommendations referred by the Committee Finance to expend funds **in excess of \$500.00 or 10%, whichever is greater, above** any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication. Approval of any such expenditure shall require an affirmative vote of not less than 2/3 of the members of the Board of General Purposes.

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption.

Chapter 34

Grand Lodge Committees

Committee on Finance

Reg. 34-4 Matters Referred

Matters which shall be referred to the Committee on Finance and its duties relative to these and other things are as follows:

4. Consider all requests by the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary to expend funds of the Grand Lodge **in excess of \$500.00 or 10%, whichever is greater, above** any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication.

Reg. 34-5 Duties and Powers

The duties and powers of the Committee on Finance are as follows:

4. To address all requests by the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary to expend funds **in excess of \$500.00 or 10%, whichever is greater, above** any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication and thereafter to make such recommendation to the Board of General Purposes, as may be appropriate, to approve or to refuse the expenditure of funds **in excess of \$500.00 or 10%, whichever is greater, above** any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge and its Annual Communication.

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption.

Amendment Group 11

The following amendment has been submitted by Youngsville Lodge #377.

This amendment would enable the Commission on Special Activities to grant variances to Lodges with regard to fundraising requirements.

REG. 43-12 FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES.

A subordinate lodge desiring to conduct fund-raising activities may do so provided the following conditions are met.

1. The event is conducted over a period of no more than three consecutive days.
2. The activity is conducted no more than annually. (This Regulation amended, effective January 1, 2016.)
3. The lodge shall first submit an application detailing the planned project and purpose to the Commission on Special Activities and must receive its approval before actively undertaking the project.
4. The lodge keeps careful financial records of the project and a report filed with the Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities within 45 days of its completion.
5. The lodge protects itself against general and special liabilities. (27-1.3.P; 77-1).
6. Either substantially all of the work performed by or on behalf of the Lodge in preparing, delivering, or selling food or goods shall be performed by 128 members of the Lodge or others on a volunteer basis without compensation or substantially all of the food or goods sold must be received by the Lodge as gifts or contributions.
7. A subordinate lodge desiring to conduct any fund-raising activity shall first submit an application detailing the planned project and purpose to the Commission on Special Activities and must receive its approval before actively undertaking the project. (32-4.3). (This section amended, effective September 27, 2016.)
8. A subordinate lodge conducting any project without obtaining prior approval when required or in a manner other than allowed by this regulation or who shall divert funds for other than the stated purpose, shall be required to show cause why its charter should not be arrested.
9. A subordinate lodge conducting any fund-raising activity shall file a financial report on the project within forty-five (45) days after completing the project with the Commission on Special Activities. The Lodge shall report the type of project, the purpose for which it was conducted, funds to be accounted for and distribution of profits. (This section amended, effective July 31, 2000.)
10. A lodge conducting any fund-raising activity shall complete that activity within one hundred twenty (120) days of beginning the project *unless having shown proper justification and given express permission by the Commission on Special Activities.*

11. Lodges conducting any fund-raising activity shall complete any fund-raising project already underway before beginning another project *unless having shown proper justification and given express permission by the Commission on Special Activities.*

12. The Grand Lodge Committee for Subordinate Lodge Special Activities shall have the power to approve charitable fund-raising sporting events and any normally acceptable related contest within such events so long as the fund-raising event and its related contest stay within the realm of amateur activities.

13. The holding or sponsoring by a lodge of lotteries, game of chance, gambling, or any activities which would discredit masonry, for any purposes, is prohibited. (43-7; 86-2.32; 86-2.35). A raffle may be held as follows: A. Raffles shall be conducted with the conformity to North Carolina State Laws except that cash prizes shall not be permitted. B. No raffle shall be conducted without prior written approval by the Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities.

Alternate Proposal for Amended Text

10. A lodge conducting any fund-raising activity shall complete that activity within one hundred twenty (120) days of beginning the project *unless having shown proper justification and given express permission by the Grand Master.*

11. Lodges conducting any fund-raising activity shall complete any fund-raising project already underway before beginning another project *unless having shown proper justification and given express permission by the Grand Master.*

Amendment Group 12

The following amendment has been submitted by West Bend Lodge #434.

This amendment would clarify the disposition of funds from defunct lodges and temple associations.

CHAPTER 5

Revenue

SEC. 5-1 GRAND LODGE.

The Grand Lodge may, by duly enacted law, provide for its support as follows:

1. By assessment upon and collection of annual dues from its subordinate lodges, based upon the membership therein; such assessments shall always be equal, uniform, and on a per capita basis of its several lodges. (4-4; 20-1; 20-1.1; 47-9).
2. By fees for dispensation to form new lodges.
3. By fees for charters to perpetuate lodges. (40-5; 41-7).
4. By fees for degrees and admission to membership. (4-4; 20-1).
5. By fees for dispensations for any purpose. (5-1.8).
6. By fees for certificates, diplomas, and other documents issued under its authority. (5-1.8; 16-1.27).
7. No assessment shall be made upon the membership of its subordinate lodges except for annual dues as hereinbefore provided in Subdivision 1. (20-1).
8. Fees for the services of any of its officers. (5-1.5; 5-1.6).
9. ~~OBSOLETE (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2002.)~~ *Any sum, in the excess of liabilities, realized from the property of defunct subordinate lodges*
10. Income from any property or money given, devised, or belonging to the Grand Lodge.
11. Any and all sums of money or property whatsoever of which the Grand Lodge may become lawfully possessed.

REG. 49-7 PROPERTY OF DEFUNCT LODGE.

Immediately upon the surrender or revocation of the charter of a lodge all moneys, books, records, papers, furniture, jewels, charter, seal, and all other property of every nature and kind, real and personal, belonging to such lodge at the time of its demise, shall become the property of the Grand Lodge to be applied as hereinafter provided.

1. Within thirty days from the date of surrender or revocation of its charter it shall be the duty of the last Master or, in his absence, the Wardens in order of seniority of a defunct lodge to surrender to the Grand Secretary or to a brother authorized by him each and every item of property described in the preceding paragraph, belonging to the lodge.

2. A member of a lodge who shall refuse to make such surrender, or who shall by vote or otherwise make any other disposition of said property and effects other than as herein designated, shall be liable to Masonic discipline for violating the laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge. (56-3).
3. The Grand Master together with the Grand Secretary shall have the power and authority to sell any property of a defunct lodge which shall revert to the Grand Lodge under this Regulation.
4. The Grand Secretary, either in person or through the District Deputy Grand Master or some other brother authorized by him, shall take immediate possession of all property described in Regulation 49-7 including all real estate, furniture, and fixtures and sell the same except the charter, seal, and records of the defunct lodge.
5. The Grand Secretary shall report the sale to the Grand Master and upon confirmation of the sale by the Grand Master. (26-3.12; 41-9.9; 41-12; 49 7.3; 49-7.7).
6. The Grand Secretary may employ some brother to collect the dues of the defunct lodge and may, with the approval of the Grand Master, employ counsel to assist him to wind up the affairs of the defunct lodge.
7. The Grand Master together with the Grand Secretary shall have the authority to execute and deliver a proper quit-claim deed therefor in the name of the Grand Lodge. No such deed shall contain any warranty whatever. (13-2.11; 49-7.4).
8. The assets of a defunct lodge shall be applied to the payment of its just debts under the direction of the Grand Secretary.
9. If anything remains after the just debts of the defunct lodge are paid, ~~the balance shall be transferred to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.~~ *it becomes the sole property of the Grand Lodge.* (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2002.)
10. The endowed membership of a living Master Mason who becomes an unaffiliated Mason as a result of the surrender or revocation of the charter shall be revived and transferred to any subordinate lodge in this grand jurisdiction with which the brother affiliates

REG. 31-5 JOINT ENTERPRISES AND BUILDING CORPORATIONS. (This regulation added, effective January 1, 2014.)

Any joint enterprise or building corporation, whether approved prior to formation as required by Reg 43-8.1.F or commenced without such approval shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge and the Lodge Service Commission.

1. The assets of a defunct joint enterprise or building corporation shall be applied to the payment of its just debts. (Reg 49-7.8)
2. If any assets remain after the just debts of the defunct joint enterprise or building corporation are paid the balance shall ~~be transferred to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc., or another Masonic Charity approved by the Lodge Service Commission~~ *become the sole property of the Grand Lodge*. (Reg 49-7.9)

Amendment Group 13

The following amendment has been submitted by Junaluskee Lodge #145.

This amendment would allow a Lodge to recoup administrative costs associated with the collection of delinquent dues payments.

REG. 77-8 NO OTHER LEVIES OR ASSESSMENTS. A lodge shall not levy or collect an assessment upon its members ~~for any purpose~~, *with the exception that a lodge may levy a five dollar (\$5) assessment, as applicable, for administrative costs incurred from the forwarding of each delinquent dues notice pursuant to Reg. 77-17 Delinquent Members, First Notice and Reg. 77-19 Official Notice of Delinquency and Appointment of Committee of Investigation.* Funds to purchase real estate, to build or repair a lodge hall, to furnish a lodge room, or to pay debts incurred in any such undertakings may be contributed voluntarily or they shall be collected as dues which may be increased to meet expenditures of this kind. (43-3.17; 85-1)

REG. 43-3 LIMITATIONS. Some, but not all, of the limitations of powers and authority of a subordinate lodge are as follows. (4-2; 4-6).

1. The discussion in a lodge when open of political, sectarian, or other subjects not related to Masonry is prohibited.
2. A certificate or a recommendation shall not be issued by a lodge, or an officer or a member thereof, to a brother which he could use in an itinerant manner to apply for relief to other lodges or members.
3. Alcoholic beverages are forbidden in Lodge rooms, except for ritualistic purposes. The service or consumption of any beverage having a recognized or indicated alcohol content in any Lodge room, ritualistic purposes excepted, shall be deemed an offense against the Body of Masonry. This does not preclude lodges from renting their facilities, except Lodge rooms, to groups where alcoholic beverages are consumed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina, and upon such terms and standards as may be set by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2015.)
4. OBSOLETE (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2022.)
5. A lodge is not a collection agency for private debts. (86-2.41; The Trial Code, Regulation 90-2).
6. A lodge shall not engage in any program of solicitation of petitions, nor shall it permit any of its members to do so. (86-2.22; 86-2.51.E).
7. No lodge shall publish the name of any one who is to be balloted on except as provided in Regulation 68-8.2 nor shall it publish the name of any candidate to receive a degree unless enclosed in a cover or envelope. Postal cards and post cards shall not be used for this purpose. (68-1; 68-11).

8. No lodge shall permit the use of its roster of membership or any part thereof for business or political purposes, nor for any solicitation whatever that is not strictly Masonic.

9. No lodge shall permit the use of its roster of membership or any part thereof for the sale of any book purporting to be Masonic or to relate to Masonry which has not been expressly approved by the Grand Lodge. (29-12; 86-2.45; 86-2.46).

10. No transaction of the Grand Lodge or of a lodge shall be given to any person for publication in a newspaper or otherwise except as authorized by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, or by the lodge or its Master.

11. The organization of any club of an exclusive kind within the membership of a lodge is forbidden. (86-2.26).

12. The holding or sponsoring by a lodge of lotteries, game of chance, gambling, or any activities which would discredit masonry, for any purposes, is prohibited. (43-7; 86-2.32; 86-2.35). A raffle may be held as follows: 1. Raffles shall be conducted with the conformity to North Carolina State Laws except that cash prizes shall not be permitted. 2. No raffle shall be conducted without prior written approval by the Committee (Commission) on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities. (This regulation amended, effective July 31, 2000.)

13. No lodge shall be an escort in any public or private event.

14. No lodge shall give any of the ritualistic work, even monitorial lectures, at an entertainment for its members and their families or for the profane. (86-2.53).

15. OBSOLETE. (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2002.)

16. No lodge shall permit the use of any of any part of its buildings, facilities, or grounds for lotteries, games of chance, gambling, or for any purpose which would discredit Masonry. (86-2.35). (This section amended, effective January 1, 2004.)

17. No lodge shall levy an assessment on its members ~~for any purpose~~, nor shall it require a withdrawal fee , *with the exception that a lodge may levy a five dollar (\$5) assessment, as applicable, for administrative costs incurred from the forwarding of each delinquent dues notice pursuant to Reg. 77-17 Delinquent Members, First Notice and Reg. 77-19 Official Notice of Delinquency and Appointment of Committee of Investigation.* It may increase its annual dues as provided by law. (75-13; 76-12; 77-8).

18. No lodge, nor any officer thereof, as such, shall act or serve as administrator, executor, guardian, trustee or in any fiduciary capacity, except as expressly provided by the law of the Grand Lodge. (2-6.11; Chapter 60).

19. No lodge shall in any manner or at any time inflict a fine on a brother for any purpose whatever. (The Trial Code, Regulation 95-3).

20. No lodge shall provide in its by-laws for the payment of money for any purpose whatever without the express action of the lodge in each case before such payment. (43-10; 60-10).

Amendment Group 14

The following amendment has been submitted by Oak Grove Lodge #750.

This amendment would amend the third alternative form in the uniform Lodge bylaws.

Article 19, Third Alternative Form

SECTION— When voting upon issues requiring the use of the ballot box (Petitions for the Degrees, Applications for Affiliation, Honorary or Life Memberships), if one black cube is found on the examination of the ballot, the Master shall destroy the ballot and require the members to ballot again, cautioning them that white balls elect, and black cubes reject and reminding them to vote for the good of Masonry. If a single black cube is found after the second ballot, the Master shall not immediately announce the result, but shall require the person casting the black cube to communicate his reason for the negative vote to the Master, who shall keep the identity of the person making the objection in strictest confidence. At the next stated meeting, the Master shall reveal the reason given for the negative vote, but not the identity of the member casting the black cube. The Master will then ask the lodge to vote, by a ~~show of hands~~ *written paper ballot*, on the validity of the reason for the black cube. The majority vote shall govern whether the candidate is elected. If the brother casting the black cube does not present his reasons to the Master within one week, the Master shall, at the next stated communication, declare the candidate elected and the lodge shall proceed as if there had been no black cube cast. (The subsection amended, effective January 1, 2009.)

NOTE: This is an optional way a lodge can deal with malicious or injudicious use of the black cube during voting. It is mandatory to follow this procedure when a lodge puts this provision in its by-laws until such time as the provision is removed from that lodge's by-laws.

Amendment Group 15

The following amendment has been submitted by Zion Lodge #81, Lux Libertas #772, Eagle Lodge #19, Kilwinning Lodge #64, and Canon Memorial Lodge #626

This amendment would clarify the process by which Amendments to The Code are prepared and presented.

CHAPTER 10

Amendments to the Constitution

SEC. 10-1 MANNER OF AMENDMENT. Except when a general revision of The Code is ordered by the Grand Lodge, as provided in Section 10-2, or any part of this Constitution or any of the Regulations can be amended, repealed, revised or altered in the following manner:

1. A proposal to alter, amend, revise, or repeal any part of the constitution, or any regulation, article, section, or subdivision, or any part of The Code, must be submitted to the Grand Lodge not later than December 31 for consideration at the following annual communication, and the proposal shall take the course provided in this section. (This regulation amended, effective September 24, 2005.)

A. Such proposal shall be in writing, setting forth expressly, or clearly identifying, the matter intended to be affected, and in such form as to express the law as intended, and it must be submitted either as a substitute, alteration, amendment, revision, or repeal of the chapter regulation, article, section, or subdivision of The Code which it is intended to affect, or as an addition thereto.

B. Any member of a subordinate lodge may propose a change or amendment to The Code or Constitution. Such proposal shall first be submitted to his lodge at a stated communication and expressly approved by 2/3 of the members present before it shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge. The Secretary shall attest the lodge's approval under seal of the lodge.

C. Amendments may also be submitted by the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Boards, Commissions, or Committees of The Grand Lodge

D. Such proposal may be numbered or lettered as an additional chapter, regulation, article, section, or subdivision of The Code. (This section amended, effective January 1, 2003.)

E. All proposed amendments to The Code from any person or group of persons identified in regulation 10-1 shall be published on the Grand Lodge website or Grand Lodge database by the Grand Secretary in its original form no later than January 15 for general knowledge of the craft. (See REG. 16-1.12)

F. The Code Commission shall review each proposed code amendment and confer with the originator for any agreed-upon changes. (See REG. 33-2)

G. The final version of the proposed amendments to The Code shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for recommended action at the Annual Communication and published for distribution to the lodges of this jurisdiction no later than March 31. (SEE REG. 16-1.12 , 33-2, 28-3.3)

(Effective October 1, 2025.)

Amendment Group 16

The following amendment has been submitted by the Board of General Purposes

This amendment would correct the specific masonic offense outlined to correspond with Reg. 70-1.2 pertaining to duration of time required between the rejection of a petition and re-petitioning, which was changed to six months on January 1, 2006.

Specific Masonic Offenses

Reg. 86-2.23: To recommend a petition for the degrees of Masonry, knowing that he has been rejected by another lodge, whether in this or any other jurisdiction, within ~~one year~~ *six months* preceding the date of the petition.

Amendment Group 17

The following amendment has been submitted by the Board of General Purposes

This amendment would change the earliest possible date for Grand Lodge Officer Installation from the second Saturday in November to the First Saturday in November.

REG. 12-7 TIME OF INSTALLATION.

The Grand Master-elect and all grand officers required to be installed shall be installed by the Grand Master, a Past Grand Master, or a Past Master at an emergent communication called for that purpose the ~~second~~ *first* Saturday in November or the earliest date possible thereafter either in the Grand Lodge or in a subordinate lodge within the state. [Official Forms 47, 57]. (This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2008)

Amendment Group 18

The following amendment has been submitted by the Board of Custodians

This amendment would establish the position of Deputy Grand Lecturer to serve Areas 1-5 of the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

CHAPTER 17

Duties of Appointive Grand Officers

REG. 17-10 DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY GRAND LECTURER.

The qualifications, selection, and duties of the Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be as follows.

1. The Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be a Certified Lecturer well versed in the law and customs of Masonry.
2. The Board of Custodians, on recommendation by the Grand Lecturer, shall nominate and the Grand Master shall appoint Deputy Grand Lecturers to serve the several masonic areas (currently 5) established from time to time by the Grand Master. He shall not be installed. His term of office shall expire with that of the Grand Master appointing him.
3. He shall assist the Grand Lecturer and supervise and assist District Deputy Grand Lecturers in their visitation, inspection of ritualistic work, advise, instruction, and promotion of the lecture service among the subordinate lodges.
4. He shall direct the exemplification of the Authorized Work when requested to do so by the Grand Master, Grand Lecturer, or by the Board of Custodians, or when he deems it necessary or advisable. (24-1).
5. With the approval of the Board of Custodians he is authorized to call upon Certified Lecturers to assist him, from time to time, in promoting the lecture service. (29-10.3).
6. He shall be subject to such directions as the Board of Custodians, Grand Lecturer, or Grand Master may from time to time promulgate.

Amendment Group 19

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Robert W. Rideout

This amendment would establish the position of Assistant Judge Advocate.

REG. 12-5 ASSISTANTS. The Grand Secretary may appoint an Assistant to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Treasurer may appoint an Assistant to the Grand Treasurer. *The Judge Advocate may appoint an Assistant to the Judge Advocate.* Any such appointment being subject to the approval of the Grand Master, but neither of such Assistants shall become an officer or a member of the Grand Lodge by virtue of such appointment, therefore he shall not be installed. (15-1.13; 16-1.38).

Amendment Group 20

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Robert W. Rideout

This amendment would clarify the duties of the Judge Advocate.

REG. 17-9 DUTIES OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE. The qualifications, selection, and duties of the Judge Advocate shall be as follows.

1. The Judge Advocate shall be a Past Master in good standing, well versed in Masonic jurisprudence. He shall be nominated by the Grand Master and confirmed by the Grand Lodge. He shall not be installed and his term of office shall be two years. (11-1.3; 11-8).
2. The Judge Advocate shall perform such duties as are prescribed by The Trial Code and such other duties as the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may prescribe. *In the disposition of Masonic offenses, he shall have the authority to prosecute, dismiss, or find alternate dispute resolutions to any case, subject to the consent of the Grand Master.* He shall have authority to make such additional rules and forms for the proper and expeditious conduct of trials as may be found necessary which do not conflict with the law of the Grand Lodge, any rule or form made hereunder shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication for its consideration and action. (The Trial Code, Regulation 102-1).
3. To have and use the seal of his office to be affixed to all official documents bearing his signature. (89-16).

Amendment Group 21

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Robert W. Rideout

This amendment would allow defendants failing to appear for a Masonic summons or trial to be represented at their adjudication.

REG. 83-1 DEFINITION. A summons is the most forcible writ known to Masonry. So long as he is a member of the Fraternity, an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft, or a Master Mason, he must obey this writ, whether he be a nonaffiliated, a member of the lodge issuing the summons, or otherwise.

1. Disobedience thereof would constitute one of the gravest of Masonic offenses if it be shown the summons had been received.
2. The willful failure to obey a Masonic summons lawfully issued and served is an act of insubordination for which charges should be preferred. *Defendants failing to appear for a summons or trial may be represented at their adjudication.* If the accused is found guilty, he should be expelled.

Amendment Group 22

The following amendment has been submitted by Eagle Lodge #19.

This amendment would regulate when per capita dues assessments would become effective following adoption

CHAPTER 20

Per Capita Tax and Initiation Fee

REG. 20-1 ESTABLISHED. Each lodge, including lodges under dispensation, shall pay annually to the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Grand Lodge, the sums hereinafter specified.

1. The sum of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) and for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December thirty-first. A lodge shall be exempt from the payment of the annual assessment to the Grand Lodge for any member who has received the Fifty-Year Service Award and any member of a lodge whose dues have been remitted under Reg. 77-14.2. (5-1.1; 20-1; 81-1; 81-7). (This regulation amended effective September 30, 2023.)

2. All increases to the per capita dues assessment will take effect on January 1 of the year following their adoption at the Grand Lodge's Annual Communication.

~~2.~~ 3. The sum of twenty-one dollars for each Entered Apprentice initiated by or for the lodge, whether initiated therein or by another lodge for it as a courtesy, ten dollars (\$10.00) of which is for charity, one dollar (\$1.00) to the Grand Lodge Building Endowment, and ten dollars (\$10.00) is an initiation fee to be applied to the general fund. (5-1.4; 5-1.7; 5-5; 20-1).

~~3.~~ 4. The sum of the Grand Lodge per capita at the time of restoration as specified in Regulation 20.1.1 for each member restored after exclusion for NPD by the lodge. (This subsection amended effective January 1, 2009.)

~~4.~~ 5. All sums due to the Grand Lodge shall be due and payable at the same time the annual return of a lodge is due to be filed, as set forth in Regulation 47- 6, and the failure to comply with this regulation shall be deemed sufficient cause to apply the assessments and penalties, in the manner and to the extent provided in Regulation 47-7. (59-12; Chapter 5).

~~5.~~ 6. The sum of \$1.00 in addition to the sum set forth above for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December 31st of each year to be forwarded to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. A lodge shall be exempt from the payment of the annual assessment to the Grand Lodge for any member who has received either the Fifty-Year or Sixty-Year Service Award, Endowed Membership, or any member of a lodge whose dues have been remitted under Reg. 77- 14.2. (5-1.1; 20-1; 81-1; 81-7). (This subsection amended effective January 1, 2020.)

What is a Cable Tow? (Show Prop)

Masonry as far back as we can go in the history of initiation, we find the cable-tow, or something like it, used very much as it is used in a Masonic Lodge today. But what is a Cable Tow?

In the 1st degree we talk about XX torn out and XX in the sands of the xx a cable tows length from shore... Well that doesn't seem so far with this lodge Cable Tow.

There is a historical document that was written in leather in 2000 BC that can be found in the Berlin museum. That talks about how a skilled craft called Harpebonaptae or Cable Stretchers carried out their work in ancient times

The Cable Stretchers were skilled architects that were often called upon to lay out building foundation lines using long ropes with equally spaced marks along the length of the rope. They used mathematical calculations from a geometric ratio of 3: 4: 5 to create right angles or 90° well as astronomy to form perfect squares for each building. These ropes could be a mile or more in length. But using the ratio of 3: 4: 5 also known as the 47th Problem of Euclid they were able to create the perfect right angle.

In those days, the cornerstone of a building was usually at the Northeast corner of the building. To work out the perfect Northeast corner of the building, the Rope Stretchers observed the stars and the sun and used this to lay out the North and South lines. At that time, it was believed that the North Star was fixed in the sky.

After they had laid out a North and South line, the 47th problem of Euclid was used to establish the true East and West lines so they could find a perfect right angle to the North and South line that

had been established by observing the stars for the foundation of buildings. This is the Operative use of a Cable Tow.

But there is an additional theory of the meaning of the Cable Tow from the book of Kings in the Old Testament

The meaning, so far as we can make it out, seems to have been some kind of pledge - a vow in which a man pledged his life.

In 1 Kings 20:32, the Syrian king Ben-Hadad's having been defeated by King Ahab, his servants, seeking mercy from King Ahab, wore sackcloth and put ropes around their heads as a sign of absolute surrender and supplication, hoping to win Ahab's favor.

The ropes around their necks were a representation of their desperate plea for their king's life, as if they were presenting themselves as captives, ready to be dealt with as Ahab wished. They, as it were, put their lives at Ahab's disposal, who, if he pleased, might hang them at once

Ahab, flattered by their humility, spares Ben-Hadad's life, and Ben-hadad agreed to give back to Israel territory that Syria had previously seized.

How does this relate in Masonry?

The cable-tow is the sign of the pledge of the life of a man.

As in his oath he agrees to forfeit his life if his vow is violated, so, positively, he pledges his life to the service of the Craft.

He agrees to go to the aid of a Brother, using all his power in his behalf, "if within the length of his cable-tow," which means, if within the reach of his power.

The cable-tow is, indeed, one of the greatest symbols of the mystic tie which Masonry spins and weaves between men, making them Brothers and helpers one of another.

But remember that a cable-tow has two ends. If it binds a Mason to the Fraternity, by the same fact it binds the Fraternity to each man in it.

This is the other side of the obligation - that the Fraternity is under vows to its members to guide, instruct and train them for the effective service of the Craft and of humanity.

For each Mason the cable-tow reaches as far as his moral principles go and his material conditions will allow. Of that distance each must be his own judge, and indeed each does pass judgment upon himself accordingly, by his own acts in aid of others.