

2023 Proposed Amendments

to

The Code of Constitutions and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons of North Carolina

DRAFT

THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE
COMMITTEE ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE IN JUNE 2023 FOLLOWING INPUT
FROM THE LODGES

Amendment Group 1

Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment modernizes the publication and distribution of the Annual Proceedings resulting in significant financial savings while making them more easily available.

The Code Commission found this amendment to be in order. 8 March 2023

REG. 23-3 DISTRIBUTION. ~~The printed published Annual Proceedings shall~~ may be bound in paper ~~and~~ or in cloth in such quantity of each as the Grand Secretary may deem necessary, or as the Grand Lodge directs. The Annual Proceedings shall be made available electronically to the officers, members, and lodges of this jurisdiction, or any other repository deemed appropriate. ~~and distributed as follows:~~

~~One paper bound copy to each subordinate lodge, (43-4).~~

~~One cloth bound copy to each Grand Lodge Officer and each Past Grand Master,~~

~~One paper bound copy to each member of mandatory boards, commissions, and committees,~~

~~One paper bound copy to each District Deputy Grand Master, One paper bound copy to each District Deputy Grand Lecturer,~~

~~One paper bound copy to each Grand Lodge of the United States of America, of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and~~

~~One paper bound copy to each of such other Grand Lodges of foreign countries as may be in fraternal correspondence with this Grand Lodge.~~

~~The Grand Secretary may in his discretion vary the foregoing assignments to the several Grand Lodges mentioned herein.~~

Amendment Group 2

Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment clarifies the modern duties of the lodge secretary by making full use of widely-used electronic tools and codifying common practice.

The Code Commission found this amendment to be in order. 8 March 2023

REG. 47-2 GRAND SECRETARY PROVIDES FORMS NOTIFICATION. On or before the fifteenth day of December in each year, the Grand Secretary shall notify each Secretary that the annual return period will open on January 1. ~~forward to the Secretary of each lodge sufficient copies of blank forms for its annual return to the Grand Lodge.~~ Returns are required from lodges under dispensation as well as from chartered lodges. [16-1.30].

REG. 47-3 WHO PREPARES. Immediately after the first day of January each year the brothers who were Master and Secretary, or acting as such, at the close of the preceding fiscal year shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, ~~two copies of the form for the annual return of the lodge for the preceding fiscal year.~~

REG. 47-4 INFORMATION ENTERED. The information to be entered on the annual return of a lodge shall be initiations, passings, raisings, endowed memberships, admissions, restorations, demissions, deaths, exclusions for nonpayment of dues, expulsions, and suspensions giving names in full with the respective dates. Additional information may be called for by the Grand Secretary on forms. The annual return shall be prepared and submitted electronically, or as otherwise directed by the Grand Secretary. ~~on a typewriter or computer printer in the manner called for on the form.~~ (88-2).

REG. 47-5 SIGNATURE AND FILING. ~~Both copies of the~~ The annual return shall be electronically signed by the then Master and Secretary, respectively, and under seal of the lodge. ~~The original or electronic facsimile~~ annual return shall be electronically filed with the Grand Secretary, and ~~the a~~ copy shall be filed in the permanent records of the lodge.

REG. 47-6 TIME OF FILING. It shall be the special duty of the Master and the Secretary of each lodge to see that the annual return of their lodge for each fiscal year is filed with the Grand Secretary ~~in time to be received by him, in the ordinary course of United States mail~~ by the ~~succeeding~~ fifteenth day of February. (20-1.4).

REG. 47-7 DELINQUENCY. The fact that the annual return of a lodge for a fiscal year is not received by the Grand Secretary on or before the first day of March of the succeeding year shall be prima facie evidence of the delinquency. (20-1.4; 41-10.8; 47-9.2).

1. The lodge shall be assessed ~~five~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each day it is delinquent beginning March first, which assessment shall not be waived, abated, or remitted, except for good cause by action of the Grand Secretary upon written petition therefor. (5-1.1).

REG. 59-12 SECRETARY. The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows. (44-7 (Art. 6)).

...

1. ...
2. ...

...

19. He shall report to the Grand Secretary within five days after each stated communication transactions if any, at such stated communication under each of the following subjects, giving the full name of each: (75-10; ~~Official Form 49~~).

A. ...

B. ...

REG. 65-8 FORWARDED TO GRAND SECRETARY. When a petition for degrees is received by a lodge, the Secretary shall, within five days after presenting and reading in open lodge at a stated communication, forward the original petition to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall order a Criminal Background check of the petitioner and attach it, an invoice therefor, and information with respect to the petitioner as he may possess, verify the appropriate membership of the recommenders and return the same with his record to the Secretary of the subordinate lodge, ~~within five days from its receipt by him~~. The cost as set forth in the invoice from the Grand Secretary shall be added to the fees for the degrees as provided for in Article 9, Section 1 of the uniform by-laws. (59-12.19). (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2012.)

Amendment Group 3

Per Capita Tax

Submitted by the Committee on Finance

This amendment raises the per capita from \$25 to \$35 to manage the significant rise in inflation since 2019 (approx. 20.2 percent), the reduction in total membership, and growth in the number of 50-year members not paying per capita.

The Code Commission found this amendment to be in order. 8 March 2023

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 ~~twenty-five~~ thirty-five dollars 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 either the Fifty-Year or Sixty-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 January 1, 2020.)*

(This regulation amended, effective upon adoption)

Amendment Group 4

Submitted by the Committee on Finance

This amendment reapportions the amount of the initiation fee to be applied to the General Fund to better account for the true costs of processing a petition for membership, and in light of the previous adoption of a budgeted per capita donation given to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The total amount of the fee remains unchanged.

The Code Commission found this amendment to be in order. 8 March 2023

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.

...

2. The sum of twenty-one dollars (\$21.00) 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, ~~five dollars (\$5.00) of which shall represent a contribution to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial,~~ one dollar (\$1.00) to the Grand Lodge Building Endowment and ~~one~~ five dollars (\$5.00) is an initiation fee to be applied to the general fund. [5-1.4; 5-1.7; 5-5; 20-1].

Amendment Group 5

Submitted by Stokesdale Lodge 428, Salem Lodge 289, and Oak Grove Lodge 750

This amendment clarifies that Freemasonry brings together men of different races, colors, creeds, and opinions to unite in the objectives of our Craft as defined in our Preamble.

The Code Commission found this amendment to be in order. 8 March 2023

Preamble

III 9. It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of various races, colors, creeds, and opinions may unite.

(This regulation amended, effective upon adoption)

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Amendment Group 6

Submitted by the Grand Master and Board of General Purposes

This amendment modernizes the work of the Board of Publications and the Committee on Masonic Public Relations to reflect current and best practices.

The Code Commission found this amendment to be in order. 8 March 2023

REG. 34-20 BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS BOARD OF MARKETING AND

COMMUNICATIONS. The Board of ~~Publications~~ Marketing and Communications shall consist of five members. One member of this committee shall be nominated each year by the Grand Master for confirmation by the Board of General Purposes to serve a five-year term. A vacancy shall be filled by nomination of the Grand Master and confirmation by the Board of General Purposes for the unexpired term. It shall be the duty of this Board to establish the policies for the publication of Masonic news and information through various media, including print and electronic, and to encourage and promote the use of technology for communicating the message of Masonry amongst the lodges, ~~and by the Grand Lodge, and for the general public, to increase awareness of Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction.~~ The Board shall select the editor and have editorial supervision of the North Carolina Mason and all similar news and informational publications, in all forms and formats. (27-1.1.C).

~~**REG. 34-22 MASONIC PUBLIC RELATIONS.** The Committee on Masonic Public Relations shall consist of five members. One member of this committee shall be appointed each year by the Grand Master to serve for five years. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master for the unexpired term. This committee shall develop and implement programs designed to increase public awareness of Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction and through appropriate methods to make the public aware of the good effects and purposes of the Masonic Fraternity. (27-1.3.P).~~