

Proposed Code Amendments for 2017 Annual Communication

To: All officers and members of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina; to all subordinate lodges under this jurisdiction; and to all brethren mentioned in Sections 3-1 and 72-1 of The Code.

Enclosed are the proposed amendments which will be considered at Annual Communication September 22-23, 2017.

Amendment Group 1

Submitted by Grand Secretary

Would allow the Board of Custodians to elect officers after the installation of the Grand Master.

REG. 29-2 CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY.

~~In January of each year~~ At its first meeting following the installation of the Grand Master, the Board of Custodians shall elect its chairman from its members and a secretary who need not be from its membership but who shall be a member of a subordinate lodge obedient to the Grand Lodge; and if the secretary is not a member of the board, he shall not have a vote. [27-6;27-7.7; 27-7.8]. (*This regulation amended, effective 9/25/2004*)

Amendment Group 2

Submitted by Board of Publication

This amendment will clarify editorial control of Grand Lodge news and information through the North Carolina Mason and other forms of publication.

REG. 34-20 BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS.

The Board of Publications shall consist of five members. One member of this Board 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 of the publication, to select the editor, who in turn will select his staff. The committee shall have charge and supervision of the publication. The committee shall recommend to the Committee on Finance the compensation of the editor and his staff. to establish the policies of 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. 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].

Amendment Group 3

Submitted by Blackmer Lodge 127

This amendment would allow a lodge to open lodge on the First Degree and conduct its business.

REG. 45-2 STATED COMMUNICATION.

4. A lodge, regularly opened on the first or third degree for an emergent communication on the day of a stated communication at an earlier hour than that named in its by-laws for that stated communication, may be changed to a stated communication without going through the ceremonies of closing and again opening in the following manner.

A. At a time not more than thirty minutes after the hour named in the by-laws for the stated communication, the Master shall announce in open lodge that "the hour for the stated

communication having arrived, and the lodge having been opened on the degree of Entered Apprentice or Master Mason, further work in the emergent communication will be deferred and the business of the stated communication taken up."

REG. 45-8 QUORUM.

Seven Master Masons, members of the lodge, one of whom shall be authorized to open the lodge and preside, shall constitute a quorum to open the lodge on any degree and for the transaction of any business that may lawfully come before an Enter Apprentice's or Master Mason's lodge. The Tyler, if a member of the lodge, may be one of the seven. [38-2: 39-11; 74-1; 87-31].

REG. 45-9 DEGREE ON WHICH LODGE OPENED.

All business ~~shall~~ may be transacted in an Entered Apprentice's or Master Mason's Lodge, except proficiency examinations and degree work in the first and second degrees, or the discipline of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts as provided in Chapter 100. If a lodge chooses to transact business in an Entered Apprentice lodge it would be opened for the transaction of business in lieu of for work and instruction.

REG. 45-18 MASTER MASON'S LODGE CLOSED.

Every Master Mason's lodge shall be closed until the next stated communication unless sooner convened. Lodges of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons shall be closed without date unless conducting business in a lodge of Entered Apprentice in which case it shall be closed until the next stated communication unless sooner convened.

REG. 51-1 MODES OF AVOUCHMENT.

No brother shall vouch for another unless, in addition to the knowledge that the visitor is a Mason, the brother is also satisfied that the visitor is at the time in good standing. [87-51].

1. There shall be ~~three~~ four modes of avouchment of a brother as follows: [39-2.6.F.(3)1].

A. By sitting together in a regular lodge of Master Masons recognized by the Grand Lodge.

B. By an examination authorized by the proper officer of a lodge.

C. By one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Master Mason that he vouches for a third brother then and there present with them as a Master Mason in good standing. The Mason who is vouching for the visitor shall state the manner in which he acquired the knowledge on which he makes the avouchment. [51-2].

D. By sitting together with an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft during the conferring of their respective degree

REG. 59-2 MASTER.

Some, but not all, of the powers of the Master of a lodge which are also duties to be performed by him, or at his direction and under his supervision, are as follows:

16. After having opened his lodge, he may place any capable Master Mason in the East and permit him to confer any of the degrees, the Master being present. If any regular officer is absent, his office should be filled pro tempore by a Master Mason. [24-1.1; 45-12.2: 71-15].

REG. 84-4 HOW AND BY WHOM CONDUCTED.

Any of the ceremonies provided for in this chapter may be conducted by the Grand Lodge or by a subordinate lodge at the discretion of the Grand Master, but the Grand Master or his duly appointed representative shall preside. The lodge making the request for such ceremonies shall bear the entire expense thereof.

1. The Grand Lodge, or a subordinate lodge, shall be opened on the Degree of Entered Apprentice or Master Mason, the usual ceremonies conducted and instruction and information given relative to the special ceremonies to be conducted. The minutes shall be read, approved and the Grand Lodge or subordinate lodge shall be closed, after which the special ceremonies shall be conducted. The charter of the subordinate lodge need not be removed from the lodge hall if the special ceremony is conducted in another location. [13-3.7: 38-3.1: 41-8: 38-3.41].

Amendment Group 4

Submitted by Casar Lodge 579

This amendment would allow a lodge to charge a late fee on unpaid dues after March 31st. The late charge is optional and would require a lodge to amend its bylaws before it becomes effective.

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.

Optional

SECTION 2. Dues not paid by March 31st of the year shall incur a \$10.00 or 10% late fee whichever is greater.

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]*

Amendment Group 5

Submitted by Bryant Webster, PGM

This amendment is being proposed to close certain loopholes by requiring the conduct of background checks for those seeking Advancement, Restoration after Exclusion, Restoration after Demitting or Affiliation after Two (2) years.

REG. 73-6 DEFAULT.

If an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft fails to present himself prepared for advancement within six months after initiation or passing, he must apply in writing to the lodge for advancement. In the event more than Two (2) years have passed since his Initiation or Passing, the application shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary and referred to a Committee of Investigation whose report shall be filed before a ballot can be had thereon. The Grand Secretary shall order a criminal background check of the applicant, and information with respect to the petitioner as he may possess.

REG. 78-2 RESTORATION AFTER TWO (2) YEARS.

2. He shall apply to that lodge in writing for restoration on the form prescribed. [Official Form 26].
A. The application shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary and referred to a Committee of Investigation whose report shall be filed before a ballot can be had thereon. The Grand Secretary shall order a criminal background check of the applicant, and information with respect to the petitioner as he may possess. [67-2; Official Form 26].

Demits

REG. 76-9 RESTORATION TO MEMBERSHIP.

A Mason who has received an absolute demit from his lodge shall not regain membership therein by paying dues. He can do so only by an application for affiliation. In the event more than Two (2) years have passed since his demit, the application shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary and referred to a Committee of Investigation whose report shall be filed before a ballot can be had thereon. The Grand Secretary shall order a criminal background check of the applicant, and information with respect to the petitioner as he may possess.

Affiliation

REG. 75-1 RIGHT TO APPLY FOR AFFILIATION.

The right of every Master Mason in good standing to apply for membership in any regular lodge of his choice, wherever it may be located, shall be absolute. An application for affiliation may be received by a lodge regardless of the *period* or *place* of residence, whether in or outside of North Carolina, of the applicant at the time the application is filed, and not be subjected to a background check. [42-12; 68-7; 76-3.6].

Amendment Group 6

Submitted by Bryant Webster, PGM

This amendment is being proposed to codify the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel, which has functioned since 2013 as an ad hoc committee, and which has greatly professionalized the handling of our personnel matters and brought us compliant with best practices.

In Chapter 34 (Grand Lodge Committees, Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence) add new Sections 34-23 through 34-25)

Committee on Personnel

REG. 34-23 MEMBERS. The Committee on Personnel shall consist of five members, each of whom shall be a Past Master. (27-6; 27-7.7).

1. The following officers of the Grand Lodge shall be members of the Committee on Personnel during their respective terms of office:
 - The Senior Grand Warden, who shall be the Chairman, and
 - The Junior Grand Warden, who shall be the Vice Chairman.
2. Three members of the committee shall be nominated by the Grand Master-elect and confirmed by the Grand Lodge as follows. Neither the Grand Master nor the Deputy Grand Master may be a member of the Committee on Personnel.
3. The Senior Grand Deacon shall attend, without the right to vote, all meetings of the Committee on Personnel. His duty to the Committee on Personnel will be to serve as an observer.
4. A quorum of the Committee on Personnel shall consist of three (3) or more members.

REG. 34-24 MATTERS REFERRED. Matters which shall be referred to the Committee on Personnel and its duties relative to these and other things are as follows.

1. To review all proposals to establish, and thereafter to amend, the Personnel Policy shall be referred to the Committee.
2. To review all questions touching upon personnel matters of the Grand Lodge, and
3. Any other matters that may be referred to it by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

REG. 34-25 DUTIES AND POWERS. The duties and powers of the Committee on Personnel are as follows.

1. To review and recommend appropriate job descriptions for employees of the Grand Lodge.
2. To review the annual evaluations of all employees of the Grand Lodge.
3. Hearing grievances of employees of the Grand Lodge in accordance with the Grand Lodge Personnel Policy.
4. The recommendation to the Board of General Purposes of any additions, revisions, deletions, or amendments to the Grand Lodge Personnel Policy.

In Chapter 27 (Boards, Commissions, and Committees of the Grand Lodge) add the following new section:

REG. 27-1.3(Q)

(Q) On Personnel (24-23).

In Chapter 34 (Committee on Finance) add the following new section:

REG. 34-4.3

3. To receive and address all financially related matters concerning the employees of the Grand Lodge from the Board of General Purposes in due and timely fashion for inclusion in the Annual Budget.

In Chapter 21 (Fiscal Year, Compensation, and Disbursements by the Grand Lodge) amend Section 21-2 to read as follows:

REG. 21-2 COMPENSATION. The Grand Lodge shall annually fix the amount of compensation, if any, to be paid to its officers, employees, agents and members; and or others, failing to do so, the amount authorized the preceding year shall govern.

Every proposal to provide for compensation for the services of any officer, member, or agent of the Grand Lodge, or to increase the same shall be first referred to the ~~Board of General Purposes for its consideration and report as a matter of policy and must be adopted by the Grand Lodge before the financial question involved therein shall be considered by~~ Committee on Personnel, which shall then refer the same with its recommendations to the the Committee on Finance.

To the extent that any officer, member, or agent of the Grand Lodge receives compensation for services in a manner deemed to be in the capacity of an employee of the Grand Lodge, said individual shall also be subject to the Grand Lodge Personnel Policy.

Amendment Group 7

Submitted by Grand Secretary

To allow the Grand Master to dispense with the reading of minutes of any lodge communication he closes in ample form.

REG. 13-3 PERTAINING TO SUBORDINATE LODGES. Some, but not all, of the powers and duties of the Grand Master pertaining to subordinate lodges are as follows:

~~10. To approve the minutes of a lodge, without the necessity of the minutes being read, at an Emergent Communication called for the purpose of acting as host lodge for a district meeting.~~

Replace with:

10. To approve the minutes of a lodge, without the necessity of the minutes being read, at any communication of a lodge which the Grand Master closes in ample form.

Amendment Group 8

Submitted by GL Finance Committee

This amendment would increase the per capita amount.

Per Capita Tax

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~~ 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].

Amendment Group 9

Submitted by State College 770

This amendment immediately stops the purchase of new Endowed Memberships. Applications for Endowed memberships already accepted by the Grand Secretary would be unaffected. Current endowed membership participants would be unaffected. The rules of transferring of memberships and other regulations regarding current endowed memberships would continue. Lodges would continue to receive endowed payments in perpetuity.

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

Endowed Memberships accepted by the Grand Lodge exist under the following terms and conditions.

4. Obsolete
5. Obsolete
6. Obsolete
7. Obsolete
8. Obsolete
9. Obsolete

10. After the endowed membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the endowed membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for endowed membership as of the date of application.
11. After the applicant's endowed membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the endowed membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer. The funds shall be placed collectively in the Permanent Fund.
 - A. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual lodge basis.
 - B. The amount paid shall be apportioned between the Subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge in the ratio of the per capita tax in effect on the date of the application to the subordinate lodge dues on the date of the application.
 - C. To protect subordinate lodges from future Grand Lodge per capita tax increases on endowed members, the per capita tax on endowed memberships will be replaced by the apportionment of the endowed membership payment provided in Regulation 77-25.8.B.
 - D. The funds shall be audited annually.
12. An endowed member shall owe no further dues to the lodge of which he is an endowed member. A dues receipt card shall be issued by the lodge secretary.
13. When purchased under the five (5) year option, the subordinate lodge shall receive from the endowed membership installment payment each year not less than the difference between the subordinate lodge dues and the per capita tax on the date of the application. The Grand Lodge shall receive from the endowed membership installment payment each year not less than the per capita tax on the date of the application. These payments shall be made to the subordinate lodge when the installment is received by the Grand Lodge.
14. A. The payments to the subordinate lodge and the Grand Lodge mandated by this Regulation 77-25.11 shall be made regardless of the income earned by the Permanent Fund.
15. B. Beginning the year after the final installment payment is made the endowed member's dues shall be paid as provided in Regulation 77-25.9.
16. The Grand Secretary shall, at the time of the annual income distribution under Regulation 77-25.9, submit a statement to the subordinate lodge showing the apportionment of income from the endowed membership between the subordinate lodge and the Grand Lodge.
17. The obtaining of endowed membership in one subordinate lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other subordinate lodges to which he belongs. Dual memberships are permitted.
18. An endowed member may transfer his endowed membership to another lodge of which he is a dual member.
 - A. If the lodge to which the endowed membership is transferred has lower dues, including per capita tax, than the lodge from which the endowed membership is transferred, the entire amount paid for the endowed membership shall, nevertheless, be transferred.
 - B. If the lodge to which the endowed membership is transferred has higher dues, including per capita tax, than did the originating lodge on the date of the application for endowed membership, the member shall remit an amount equivalent to the difference between the original cost of the existing endowed membership and the cost of an endowed membership in the lodge to which it is transferred, computed as of the date of the transfer.
 - C. If the member wishes to retain his dual membership in the lodge from which he transfers his endowed membership, he shall pay that lodge's regular dues and per capita tax for the year in which the transfer is made and any subsequent years so long as he retains his dual membership.
19. An endowed member may affiliate with another subordinate lodge as provided in Chapter 75 of The Code. If the affiliation is within this grand jurisdiction, the entire endowed membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this grand jurisdiction, the entire endowed membership fee shall remain with the lodge of which he was an endowed member.

20. Any certificate of good standing issued to an endowed member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is an endowed member and the amount of the endowed membership fee shall be transferred to the particular lodge in North Carolina with which he affiliates.
21. If an endowed member shall be suspended, expelled or demits and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his endowed membership shall be deemed to also be restored.
22. If a lodge consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that lodge in the endowed membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant sections of The Code.
23. A Brother, at a future time, may add any amount to his endowed membership fee through his local lodge secretary.
24. If an endowed member has not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Master shall direct the lodge secretary to report the name of the missing brother to the Grand Lodge as deceased. The name shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased endowed membership. This action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the subordinate lodge and Grand Lodge for that endowed member as provided in Regulation 77-25.9.

Amendment Group 10

Submitted by State College 770

This amendment creates a new type of lifetime membership, Legacy Membership. Legacy membership is crafted after Endowed Memberships, except with the amount paid out increasing over time. This allows the dues paid to the lodge to keep up with inflation, leaving a true legacy.

REG. 77-26 LEGACY MEMBERSHIPS.

Legacy Memberships may be purchased from the Grand Lodge on the following terms and conditions.

1. Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a particular lodge of this grand jurisdiction may become a legacy member in that lodge pursuant to the provisions of this section.
2. Legacy memberships have a minimum payment as follows:
 - A. The minimum payment for a Legacy Membership shall be thirty-five (35) times the annual dues of the applying member's subordinate lodge effective on January 1st following the date of the application.
 - B. Regardless of the annual dues of the applying member's subordinate lodge the minimum payment for a Legacy Membership shall not be less than one thousand three hundred dollars (\$1300.00).
 - C. The minimum annual installment payment for a Legacy Membership under Regulation 77-26.3 shall not be less than three hundred dollars (\$300).
3. The legacy membership fee may be paid in five (5) equal annual installments according to the following:
 - A. The annual installment shall be eight (8) times the annual lodge dues effective on January 1st following the date of application.
 - B. A member may not revert to the single payment method, but may remit any or all installments early, provided no installment is past due.
 - C. Failure to pay any installment due by December 31 of each successive year constitutes voluntary withdrawal from the program, and regular dues in this lodge for the same year are payable.
 - D. A member may withdraw from the legacy membership program at any time.
 - E. A member withdrawing from the installment option reverts to the membership status held before joining the program and shall remit dues to his lodge for the current year and for successive years unless otherwise exempted.
 - F. A member who has withdrawn from the installment payment option may re-enroll in the program in the same status held when he withdrew. The remaining installments due from the re-enrolling brother shall be determined under Regulation 77-26.3.A and

77-26.2.C based on dues of the subordinate lodge effective on January 1st following the date of his re-enrollment.

4. The member desiring a Legacy Membership shall apply to the secretary of this lodge for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge either the minimum payment described in Regulation 77-26.2 or the initial installment described in Regulation 77-26.3.
 - A. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which legacy membership fee is predicated.
 - B. The application shall be signed by the applicant. The lodge secretary shall complete his part of the application and apply the certification of the lodge secretary.
 - C. The lodge secretary shall forward the application together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary.
 - D. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Secretary.
 - E. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certified he received the application.
5. The Grand Secretary shall certify legacy memberships as follows:
 - A. If the Grand Secretary determines that the minimum fee, tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge secretary's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the particular lodge secretary.
 - B. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent lodge secretary for correction.
 - C. A copy of the completed and accepted legacy membership application and a certificate of legacy membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary.
6. After the legacy membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the legacy membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for legacy membership as of the date of application.
7. The legacy membership shall be effective for the succeeding calendar year after certification by the Grand Secretary.
8. A legacy member shall owe no further dues to the lodge of which he is a legacy member. A dues receipt card shall be issued by the lodge secretary.
9. A Brother, at a future time, may add any amount to his legacy membership fee through his local lodge secretary.
10. Legacy membership fees accepted by the Grand Secretary shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer. The funds shall be placed collectively in the Permanent Fund.
 - A. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual lodge basis.
 - B. The amount paid shall be apportioned between the Subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge in the ratio of the per capita tax to the subordinate lodge dues on January 1st following the date of the application.
 - C. The per capita tax on legacy memberships will be replaced by the apportionment of the legacy membership payment provided in Regulation 77-26.10.B, thus protecting subordinate lodges from future Grand Lodge per capita tax increases on legacy members.
 - D. The amount paid in Regulation 77-26.10.B shall start at the subordinate lodge dues in the first year this amount is paid. In the ensuing years, this amount is expected to increase by two percent (2%) of the preceding year, however, the exact amount is dependent on the returns of the permanent fund and the spending policy for legacy funds.
 - E. The funds shall be audited annually.
11. When purchased under the five (5) year option, the subordinate lodge shall receive from the legacy membership installment payment each year not less than the difference between the subordinate lodge dues and the per capita tax on which the application is based. The Grand

Lodge shall receive from the legacy membership installment payment each year not less than the per capita tax on the date of the application. These payments shall be made to the subordinate lodge when the installment is received by the Grand Lodge.

- A. The payments to the subordinate lodge and the Grand Lodge mandated by this Regulation 77-25.11 shall be made regardless of the income earned by the Permanent Fund.
 - B. Beginning the year after the final installment payment is made the legacy member's dues shall be paid as provided in Regulation 77-25.10.
12. The Grand Secretary shall, at the time of the annual income distribution under Regulation 77-25.10, submit a statement to the subordinate lodge showing the apportionment of income from the legacy membership between the subordinate lodge and the Grand Lodge.
 13. The obtaining of legacy membership in one subordinate lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other subordinate lodges to which he belongs. Dual memberships are permitted.
 - A. A legacy member may transfer his legacy membership to another lodge of which he is a dual member.
 - B. If the lodge to which the legacy membership is transferred has lower dues, including per capita tax, than the lodge from which the legacy membership is transferred, the entire amount paid for the legacy membership shall, nevertheless, be transferred.
 - C. If the lodge to which the legacy membership is transferred has higher dues, including per capita tax, than did the originating lodge on the date of the application for legacy membership, the member shall remit an amount equivalent to the difference between the original cost of the existing legacy membership and the cost of a legacy membership in the lodge to which it is transferred, computed as of the date of the transfer.
 - D. If the member wishes to retain his dual membership in the lodge from which he transfers his legacy membership, he shall pay that lodge's regular dues and per capita tax for the year in which the transfer is made and any subsequent years so long as he retains his dual membership.
 14. A legacy member may affiliate with another subordinate lodge as provided in Chapter 75 of The Code. If the affiliation is within this grand jurisdiction, the entire legacy membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this grand jurisdiction, the entire legacy membership fee shall remain with the lodge of which he was a legacy member.
 - A. Any certificate of good standing issued to a legacy member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a legacy member and the amount of the legacy membership fee shall be transferred to the particular lodge in North Carolina with which he affiliates.
 15. If a legacy member shall be suspended, expelled or demits and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his legacy membership shall be deemed to also be restored.
 16. If a lodge consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that lodge in the legacy membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant sections of The Code.
 17. If a legacy member has not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Master shall direct the lodge secretary to report the name of the missing brother to the Grand Lodge as deceased. The name shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased legacy membership. This action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the subordinate lodge and Grand Lodge for that legacy member as provided in Regulation 77-25.10.
 18. A Legacy Membership may be purchased by a bequest in a will by any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a particular lodge of this grand jurisdiction at the time of his death.
 19. An Endowed Membership described in Regulation 77-25 may be upgraded to a Legacy Membership. To upgrade the member shall remit an amount equivalent to the difference between the original cost of the existing endowed membership and the cost of a new legacy membership in the lodge, computed as of the date of the remittance.

REG. 77-27 VETERAN'S ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

A Veteran's Endowed Membership may be purchased by any Master Mason of a North Carolina lodge who has received his Veteran's Award (80-3). The purchase fee for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is fixed at seventy-five per cent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five per cent (25%) for the Grand Lodge. *(This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2008)*

REG. 77-28 MEMORIAL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

A Memorial Endowed Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Master Mason of a North Carolina lodge. The purchase fee for a Memorial Endowed Membership is five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for a Memorial Endowed Membership is fixed at seventy-five per cent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five per cent (25%) for the Grand Lodge. *(This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2008)*

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Amendment Group 11

Submitted by Eagle Lodge 19

This amendment modifies the order of business for a lodge business meeting.

Reg. 45-21 ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Subject to change or modification by the lodge or by the Master, the order of business at each stated communication shall be as follows:

1. The Master recognizes Past Masters, Certified Lecturers, and Coaches as a courtesy.
2. The Senior Deacon, in the discharge of his duties and at the direction of the Master, introduces visiting brothers.
3. Reading of the Minutes and intervening communications by the Secretary, as information to the brethren. [44-7 (Art. 21A); 45-23]
4. The Secretary clears his desk, which includes if applicable:
 - a. Official communication from the Grand Master, Grand Secretary or any officer or agency of the Grand Lodge which shall be read in the lodge at the next stated communication after it is received. [44-7 (Art.21C)]
 - b. Reception of petitions and applications read by the Secretary and record thereof made stating that the fees are paid [44-7 (Art 21F)];
 - c. Informal communication affecting the craft including correspondence of a general nature such as notes of appreciation for courtesies shown. [44-7 (Art 21K)].
 - d. Issues of delinquency not requiring a vote.
5. Reports of Committees, if any there be, which includes;
 - a. Standing Committees,
 - b. Special Committees including Committees of Investigation.
6. The Business of the Lodge which is conducted by balloting:
 - a. Unfinished business is any Motion or Resolution that was carried over from the prior meeting, plus any matter that was under discussion at a prior meeting not yet formalized by a motion or resolution. [44-7 (Art 21B)].
 - b. New business is any new motion or resolution which the master may elect to take up for consideration, including by way of illustration and not limitation, the exclusion of delinquents and action of the lodge in response to correspondence. [44-7 (Art 21D)].
 - c. Ballot a separate secret ballot on each petition for degrees and each membership or restoration, and have the results entered on the minutes. [44-7 (Art 21E)].
7. Examination for proficiency and work in any degree. [44-7 (Art 21L)].
8. Masonic Education is required at every meeting by Reg. 59.2 Master, ¶26. (If Masonic Education is being provided by someone other than a member of your lodge, then consider moving Masonic Education to immediately follow the introduction of visiting brothers as a courtesy and accommodation to your speaker who may desire to be excused after presenting.)
9. Announcements and matters of general information affecting the craft.
10. Closing. [44-7 (Art 21N)]

Amendment Group 12

This amendment makes the Senior and Junior Grand Deacon chairmen of the Committees for Whitestone and Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

CHAPTER 17

Duties of Appointive Officers

REG. 17-1 DUTIES OF THE GRAND DEACONS.

The Grand Deacons shall perform the usual duties pertaining to their respective offices, aid in distributing papers, documents, and resolutions from members in the Grand Lodge, and place the same in the hands of the Grand Secretary or other officer entitled to them, and generally perform such other duties as may be required of them by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. [11-1.2].

1. Their respective places in the Grand Lodge are as prescribed by the custom and usage of the Craft.
2. If, while the Grand Lodge is open, the Junior Grand Deacon is not at his place for any reason even temporarily, the Grand Master shall see that the place is filled at all times.
- 3. During his respective term of office, the Senior Grand Deacon shall be a member of the Committee on The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc., and he shall serve as its chairman. [34-18].**
- 4. During his respective term of office, the Junior Grand Deacon shall be a member of the Committee on WhiteStone (a Masonic and Eastern Star Home of North Carolina Community), Incorporated, and he shall serve as its chairman. [34-17].**

Amendment Group 13

Submitted by Oak Grove 750

This amendment will require unanimous consideration for this Grand Lodge. Its purpose is to "suspend" membership of a member who has been charged with a crime but has yet to be adjudicated in criminal court. If he is found guilty, the Judge Advocate will summarily expel him from the fraternity or if found not guilty, his membership is fully restored and all notations expunged from his record.

REG. 74-5 STATUS OF MASONS.

Status of Masons shall be as follows:

1. A Mason shall be in good standing until charges for unmasonic conduct or Federal or State criminal charges alleging the commission of a felony have been served on him or until he has been duly demitted, excluded, suspended, or expelled. [50-1; 87-5; 90-4].
2. A Mason against whom Masonic charges have been preferred shall be deemed innocent, and he may attend the lodge of which he is a member until he shall have been found guilty. A Mason who has been criminally charged with a felony in any state court, the United States District Courts, or under United States Uniform Code of Military Justice shall be deemed innocent. However, a Mason subject to such criminal charges shall be immediately suspended until such time as there is a final adjudication of said charges. While under suspension for pending criminal charges, a Mason may not attend any lodge.
 - a. It shall be the duty of every Mason with knowledge that a member has been criminally charged with a felony to report that fact to the Master of his Lodge and/or to the District

- Deputy Grand Master who shall immediately forward that information to the Office of the Grand Lodge.
- b. If, at the time of the final adjudication of the criminal charges, a Mason is found to be guilty of a felony, regardless of whether the finding of guilt is as a result of a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest or by trial, said Mason shall be immediately expelled by the Judge Advocate.
 - c. If, at the time of the final adjudication of the criminal charges, a Mason is found to be not guilty or if the charges are dismissed by the prosecuting authority, the suspension issued against said Mason shall be immediately withdrawn, and the record of the suspension shall be expunged from the records maintained by the Grand Lodge. The Mason shall thereafter be entitled to all the rights and privileges of Masonry.
 - d. If, at the time of the final adjudication of the criminal charges, a Mason is found to be guilty of a misdemeanor or other lesser offense, regardless of whether the finding of guilt is as a result of a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest or by trial, the matter shall then be referred to the Judge Advocate for his consideration as to whether charges of unmasonic conduct should be preferred. If, after proper consideration, charges of unmasonic conduct are not preferred, then the suspension issued against said Mason shall be immediately withdrawn, and the record of the suspension shall be expunged from the records maintained by the Grand Lodge. The Mason shall thereafter be entitled to all the rights and privileges of Masonry. If charges of unmasonic conduct are preferred, then the suspension shall remain in effect until such time as the matter is concluded pursuant to the procedures set out in the Trial Code.
3. A Mason against whom Masonic charges have been preferred or felony criminal charges have been filed shall not be appointed or elected to office, nor installed in any office, nor demitted, nor be buried with Masonic ceremonies while the charges are pending. [50-1; 53-2.4; 55-5; 82-2; 82-2.5; 90-4].
 4. A Mason who has been suspended for a definite period of time shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership in his lodge at the expiration of the time without action by the Grand Lodge or the lodge. He shall not be subject to dues during the time he is suspended. [77-10; 101-2].
 5. The reversal of a judgment of suspension or expulsion by the Grand Lodge or a termination of a judgment of suspension by the Grand Lodge shall restore the accused to membership in his lodge without further action by the lodge. [98-11; 100-5; 101-1; 101-8].
 6. If restoration of an expelled Mason is made by the Grand Lodge, he shall not thereby be restored to membership in his lodge, but shall become a nonaffiliated Mason. [98-11; 100-5; 101; 101-3; 101-7; 101-8].
 7. The members of a defunct lodge who are not in arrears for dues shall be nonaffiliated Masons.
 8. The members of a defunct lodge who are in arrears are excluded Masons. Such excluded Masons shall be nonaffiliated Masons upon paying to the Grand Secretary such arrears as may be required by law and obtaining a Grand Lodge demit. [49-4; 49-4.1].
 9. Restoration of an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft shall be to the same status in his lodge that he had before he was suspended or expelled, or as provided in Regulation 101-3.1.