

**RULES GOVERNING THE OFFICIAL STANDARD OF THE  
WORK AND THE VOCABULARY**

(Modified and adopted January 14, 2011)

The following rules govern the use of the OSW and the Vocabulary:

Rule 1. The Grand Secretary shall be the Custodian of all unissued copies of the Official Standard of the Work and the Vocabulary, and shall issue the Vocabulary only upon proper written application. He shall provide all forms of application, receipts and other documents necessary to account for the same, and shall keep a record of all copies issued, and to whom issued.

Rule 2. Receipts for the Vocabulary shall be given on such forms as may be prescribed by the Grand Secretary. Immediately upon receipt of the Vocabulary, the brother receiving the same shall sign proper receipt, which shall be promptly transmitted to the Grand Secretary.

Rule 3. A copy of the Vocabulary shall be issued to Secretaries of our subordinate lodges, who shall receipt therefore and be held responsible for the same. He shall transfer the Vocabulary, so issued to him, to his successor in office and take his receipt for the same, which shall be forwarded immediately to the Grand Secretary. In the event he is unable, for any cause, to deliver to his successor the copy of the Vocabulary in his possession, the Master of his lodge shall take up his copy of the Vocabulary and reissue it to his successor in office, taking his receipt for the same, which shall be forwarded immediately to the Grand Secretary.

Rule 4. According to Regulation 86-57 of the Code, it shall be a Masonic offense for any brother to make any copy of or from, either in whole or in part, or to make or permit to be made any writing whatever in any copy of the Official Standard of the Work or of the Vocabulary, or to violate any rule or regulation made to govern the use of the same.

Rule 5. In case of loss or destruction of the Vocabulary, the Grand Secretary shall be notified immediately, giving a full report of the circumstances surrounding the said loss or destruction.

Rule 6. Neither the Official Standard of the Work nor the Vocabulary shall be used in any lodge while opening, closing, or conferring the degrees, and in accordance with page six of the general rules of the OSW. It is preferred that the OSW not be used when coaching or instructing candidates, however, under no circumstances shall the OSW be given to a candidate for his own self-instruction. The Vocabulary shall not be used when coaching or instructing candidates.

Rule 7. In all cases of the ritualistic work where the Official Standard of the Work is silent as to any action or floor work, or other work, no Certified Lecturer or Certified Instructor, or any brother, shall be authorized to insist that his idea of the subject is positively the only way to do that particular thing; he may state his "opinion," but he is not authorized to insist that his way is the only way to do such work.

Rule 8. In accordance with the passing of the Grand Master's Opinion on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Annual communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F. & A.M., each DDGL will receive a copy of the Vocabulary to use during his tenure as DDGL. This Vocabulary shall be passed to his successor at the time he passes other items required by the DDGL to fulfill his duties. Failure to do so will result in a fine as determined by the Board of Custodians and any other penalties as allowed by the CODE or imposed by the Grand Master. The Secretary of the Board of Custodians shall be the Custodian of all copies, issued and unissued, of the Vocabulary for use by the DDGL's during their tenure.