

# Proposed Amendments to The Code

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 Section 3-1 and 72-1 of The Code.

Enclosed are the proposed amendments which will be considered at Annual Communication September 27-28, 2019.

## Amendment Group 1

The following amendments have been submitted by Grand Lodge Finance Committee.

*This amendment would raise the per capita rate owed to the Grand Lodge to \$25 from its current rate of \$20. Per Capita pays for the operation of the Grand Lodge and an increase was last approved in 2013.*

### 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 ~~twenty~~ **twenty-five** dollars 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 subsection amended, effective 1/1 /2014.*)

## Substitute Amendment

The following substitute amendments have been submitted by Grand Lodge Finance Committee.

*This amendment would increase the grand lodge per capita five dollars effective December 31, 2019; five dollars effective December 31, 2022; five dollars effective December 31, 2025*

### 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 twenty-five dollars ~~and~~ for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December ~~thirty-first~~ 31, 2019; the sum of thirty dollars for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December 31, 2022; the sum of thirty-five dollars for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December 31, 2025. 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 2

The following amendment has been submitted by Sophia Lodge No. 767

*This amendment would require the grand lodge to collect \$1.00 a year on all its per capita tax members on roll as of December 31, for the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.*

### **Chapter 20 - Per Capita Tax and Initiation Fee** **Reg. 20-1 Established.**

**5. The sum of \$1.00 in addition to the sum set forth above for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December 31<sup>st</sup> 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].**

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## Amendment Group 3

The following amendment has been submitted by Mount Holly Lodge No. 544

*This amendment would place the requirement of notifying the Secretary of the Lodge the member's contact information the lodge member.*

### **Chapter 52 - Members of a Lodge** **REG. 52-3 DUTIES OF A FREEMASON.**

The duties of a Freemason are as follows:

10. To notify the Secretary of his lodge immediately of any change in his mailing address, **home telephone number, cellular telephone number, or email address.**

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## Amendment Group 4

The following amendment has been submitted by Stedman Lodge No. 730

*This amendment would make the balloting of an Honorary Members a majority vote to approve.*

### **CHAPTER 81 - Honorary Membership** **REG. 81-2 PROPOSAL AND BALLOT.**

Any lodge at a stated communication and by ~~unanimous~~ **majority assent** ~~secret ballot~~, upon a written proposal signed by at least three members of the lodge and received at a previous stated communication not less than twenty-eight days before such ballot, may confer honorary membership upon any qualified Master Mason who at that time shall be a member in good standing of a duly recognized lodge. Such proposal shall not be forwarded to the Grand Secretary and no reference to a Committee of Investigation shall be necessary. [Official Form 50].

## **Amendment Group 5**

The following amendments have been submitted by Oak Grove Lodge No. 750

*This proposed amendment would “administratively suspended” the membership of a member who has been charged with a felony. During this time, he may not attend any lodge. The member may request a review of the suspension by the Judge Advocate upon written request. Once his charges have been adjudicated and should he be found not guilty, his record is then expunged, and he is a member in good standing. If found guilty, his case is forwarded to the Judge Advocate for formal Masonic charges.*

### **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 charges of unmasonic conduct 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, a United States District Court or under United States Uniform Code of Military Justice shall be deemed innocent. However, a Mason subject to such felony criminal charges shall be administratively suspended until such time as there is a final adjudication of said charges. While under administrative suspension for pending felony criminal charges, a Mason may not attend any lodge or participate in a Masonic event.
  - 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 with a copy of the criminal pleading such as an indictment.
  - b. The Mason charged with a felony may submit a written petition to the Judge Advocate for relief from the administrative suspension within the time period hereinafter designated. The petition shall state with particularity any grounds, extenuating circumstances or special prejudice resulting from an administrative suspension prior to adjudication. The petition must include a proclamation of actual in-

nocence and declaration of intent to contest fully any accusation or conviction the accused may present. The Petition must be signed by the Mason who has been criminally charged prior to its submission to the Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate shall consider Petition submitted by the Mason and any other circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature of charge, disharmony in lodge and the potential damage to the reputation of Freemasonry. The Judge Advocate may determine the matter with or without a hearing or upon affidavits, including an affidavit of an attorney. If a hearing is held, it will be upon such notice and at such time and place as set by the Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate may consider any trustworthy and reliable information and evidence. The Judge Advocate may sustain, reverse, or modify the administrative suspension upon such terms as are just. Unless reversed or modified, the suspension will be effective from the date of initial charge of felony. The petition must be filed with the Office of Grand Secretary within ninety (90) days of the initial criminal charge or ten (10) days from receipt of any notice of suspension from the Judge Advocate, if any, whichever is first to occur. Service shall be as provided in Reg. 91-9 of the Code. The Judge Advocate may, for good cause shown, modify any determination made under this section.

- c. 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 conviction shall be forwarded to the Judge Advocate for action as set out in the Code.
- d. 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 in their entirety by the prosecuting authority, the administrative suspension issued against said Mason shall be immediately withdrawn and the record of the administrative 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.
- e. 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 administrative 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 administrative suspension shall remain in effect until such time as the matter is concluded pursuant to the procedures set out in the Trial Code.

f. In any case in which the Judge Advocate has a conflict of interest or otherwise recuses himself, he shall designate a qualified brother to perform the duties of the Judge Advocate hereunder.

3. A Mason against whom charges of unmasonic conduct have been preferred 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. Unless a petition for relief from an administrative suspension has been reversed or modified the by the Judge Advocate as set out in Reg. 74-5.2(b) above, until a final adjudication for the criminal charges has occurred and the Mason is again entitled to all the rights and privileges of Masonry, a Mason against whom felony criminal charges have been filed shall not be appointed or elected to office, nor appointed or serve on any committee or board, nor installed in any office, nor demitted, nor be buried with Masonic ceremonies. [[50-1](#); [53-2.4](#); [55-5](#); [82-2](#); [82-2.5](#); [90-4](#)].

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