

Grand Lodge of AF&AM of North Carolina
Committee on Masonic Education
PO Box 6506
Raleigh, North Carolina 27628

*Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oxford, NC
Permit No. 56*

JULY- SEPTEMBER 2003



MASONIC EDUCATION
SERIES

2003

Vote

Growth By Change

Time to Revise the Code

You will soon be called to vote on the changes in North Carolina Masonry . . . Are you ready?

Earlier this year your Secretary received a full list of Proposed Revisions to the Code to be voted on at the Annual Communication in September. This list is also available on the Web Page. We hope by now he has gone over these with you, but in this quarter's Lodge Night Program we review some of the high spots of this year's proposals.

While this booklet is not intended to replace the full list which contains the full text of the Revisions and changes to the Code they will make, it will familiarize you with some of the proposed changes and how they will affect the craft. In most cases, we have attempted to mention some of the known reasons to approve an amendment and some of the reasons to reject it. But, in each case, the decision is yours. Become familiar with the proposals and let your lodge officers know how you feel so together we can . . .

VOTE FOR THE GOOD OF MASONRY

1 First Meeting In July

Group 1

1 Amendment 1 would allow the Grand Lodge to share its territorial jurisdiction by an agreement or “compact” with other Grand Lodges.

What it WILL do:

It will allow us to acknowledge “recognize” that other Grand Lodges exist, have a right to exist, and they are Masons. In effect all it does is say “we know you are here. We know you are Masons.”

What it will NOT do:

Merge, join us with, or in any way or manner unite us with any other Grand Lodge. It will not give them the right to visit us. It will not give us the right to visit them. This proposal does not “recognize” anyone.

FOR: There are several Grand Lodges currently operating in North Carolina. This Grand Lodge’s claim to sovereignty over all Masonic matters is not recognized by any of these other groups or the general public who views all Masons as Masons without concern as to Grand Lodge affiliation. The entire purpose of this provision was and is to keep non-whites from membership, but since this Grand Lodge is now integrated and includes non-whites, the current provision has no merit and is detrimental to our image.

AGAINST: I was told from the first that we had our Grand Lodge and non-whites had their own Grand Lodge. I was also told that they had their Masonry and we had ours.

Text of Amendment 1

SEC. 2-2 SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GRAND LODGE.

The sovereignty of the Grand Lodge touching upon all Masonic matters within, but not outside of its territorial boundary is full and complete and any of its subordinate lodges has the right to receive the petition of any profane for the degrees or the application of any nonaffiliated Mason for affiliation who possess the physical, mental, moral, and residential qualifications that may be required by the Constitution, Regulations, and Laws of the Grand Lodge. No other grand lodge shall have or exercise any rights within the territorial jurisdiction *unless by compact (mutual consent) approved by* of this Grand Lodge.

1

First Meeting In July (Cont.)

Group 2

2A

Amendment 2A would grant the title “Past District Deputy Grand Master” to an individual who had served in the position for only one year. At present, the requirement is three years.

What it WILL do:

District Deputy Grand Masters will earn the title Past District Deputy Grand Master if they serve one year or more.

What it will NOT do: N/A

FOR: This amendment would allow more people to hold the title of Past District Deputy Grand Master. Also, some men would more readily accept the position if they knew they could only serve one year.

AGAINST: It takes more than a year to become a good DDGM. Once more, this lowers our standards. Some men would receive the title who do not deserve it. A man who has only had the position one year shouldn’t receive equal recognition. It would be the same as awarding “Past Master” to someone who had only served four months as Master of his lodge.

2B

Amendment 2B would eliminate all term limits for District Deputy Grand Masters.

What it WILL do:

Allow District Deputy Grand Masters to hold the position indefinitely.

What it will NOT do: N/A

FOR: Passage of this amendment would mean a good man could keep the position longer than the present three year limit.

AGAINST: Passage of this amendment would allow one person to monopolize the position for an undetermined amount of time. It would encourage people to keep the position more from an inflated ego than a desire to serve the craft. Over long periods of time many people become less effective.

2 Second Meeting In July

Group 3

3

Amendment 4 would allow the delegates at each Annual Communication to set the per capita tax. The delegates would first approve a budget for the following year, then after all expenses and other income was computed the amount needed to balance the budget would be divided by the number of non-exempt Masons in the jurisdiction. This amount would be the per capita for the following year.

<i>Example: Approved Budget</i>	\$ 558,707.00
<i>Less Other Income</i>	<u>18,000.00</u>
<i>Amount Needed</i>	520,000.00
<i>Divided by the number of non-exempt Masons</i>	<u>49,733</u>
<i>Per Capita Payable Following Year</i> \$	10.91

(Using the 2002 Example above our PerCapita would have been 10.91 instead of the 12.00 actually passed. The present system forces us to project for needs 3 years ahead because what is passed in 2002 has to wait until 2003 to come in effect and begin to be collected in 2004)

What it WILL do:

It will give us a more realistic view of our expenses by looking at each program and service and deciding which ones we are willing to pay for and which ones we are not. And/or how much we are willing to pay for each program or service.

What it will NOT do:

If we keep the same programs and services it will not automatically lower the costs, just make us look at the individual items closer so we can expand on the ones we need and eliminate the ones we don't need.

FOR: This is the only sensible way to set our per capita. We discuss and determine reasonable expenses for the next year. Then we approve only enough per capita to pay them. The way we're doing it now we often pay more per capita than is needed for the following year.

AGAINST: The way we're doing it is fine. We figure how much money we can spend, then make the budget fit within that amount. If it doesn't fit, we don't need it. If we approve more than we need we can use it later.

2

Second Meeting In July (Cont.)

Text of Amendment 3

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. The amount established by the Grand age as the per capita tax for the current year at the annual communication held the preceding calendar year ~~the sum of twelve 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. [5-1,1; 29-1; 51-1; 51-7]. (Subsections 2 - 4 are unchanged.)

Group 4

This is a bookkeeping amendment only to correct a previously missed item.

Group 5

Proposed by: H. Lloyd Wilkerson, Master of Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760

5

Amendment 5 would allow lodges to meet quarterly rather than monthly. At present by going dark in the summer and on holidays a lodge can hold a few as six stated communications per year.

What it WILL do:

This amendment will accommodate the new “traveling “ and “special interest” lodges in the state which meet at different places. Since they do little or no degree work, they have no need to meet monthly.

What it will NOT do:

How often a lodge meets will remain up to the lodge. The change will make absolutely no change in the individual lodge unless the lodge votes for a change.

For: A lodge would still have to adopt a change in the bylaws before such a change could take effect. The majority of the lodge membership would have to approve.

Against: We need more meetings, not less.

3 First Meeting In August

Group 6

6

Amendment 6 would change the ballot to require two or more black cubes to reject a petition **for affiliation**.

What it WILL do:

NOTE: This recommended change is for APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION ONLY. NOT new petitions for the degrees. This will require two black cubes to reject the applicant.

What it will NOT do:

This will in no way change our present way of requiring a unanimous ballot to approve a new candidate.

For: The petitioner is already a Mason and should be allowed some latitude in petitioning another lodge.

Against: No person should be accepted for affiliation except by a unanimous ballot. It should be the same as for a new candidate.

Text of Amendment 6

REG. 75-7 BALLOT AND RECOMMENDERS.

The application of a Mason for affiliation shall be recommended and signed by at least two members of the lodge to which the same is presented. It shall require a secret ballot. Rejection shall require two or more black cubes to be cast, ~~and it shall require a unanimously favorable secret ballot to elect to membership..~~ [74-2; Chapter 68).

3

First Meeting In August (Cont.)

Group 7

7A **Amendment 7A** would allow a candidate two years to return his catechism between the degrees. At present the time allowed is six months.

What it WILL do:

It will give candidates more time to finish their catechisms. Only a majority vote will be required on the application for advancement.

What it will NOT do: N/A

FOR: Job and family situations as well as medical problems often make it difficult to be coached and return a catechism within the six month period.

AGAINST: If a man can't return his catechism within the present six months he's not concerned enough about Masonry to become a Mason. Men have been returning their catechisms within six months for decades.

7B **Amendment 7B** would allow a member of a lodge doing courtesy work to object to a man's advancement just as if he were in the home lodge. It would also make the Code conform to changes made to objections to advancement made at the 2001 Annual Communication.

What it WILL do:

It will allow a member in a lodge doing courtesy degree work to object to doing the degree work in his lodge.

What it will NOT do:

Even if a member objects, this does not prohibit the candidate's advancement in his own lodge or another lodge willing to do the courtesy work.

FOR: A lodge doing courtesy work should have the same rights over a candidate as the home lodge. If a lodge doesn't feel this way they should do their own degree work.

AGAINST: Courtesy work is courtesy work only. We shouldn't be able to tell another lodge who to advance and who not to advance.

4 Second Meeting In August

7C

This amendment is a bookkeeping item to remove the heading for Reg. 73-3 which was repealed at the 2001 Annual Communication.

Group 8

The following are bookkeeping type items proposed by the Grand Secretary to streamline the dues, clear the Code of outdated regulations and alter or remove unnecessary paperwork from the Lodge Secretary. Full text of the changes was sent earlier and should be reviewed in the event of questions.

8A

Since the lodge sets its own minimum dues. This amendment would eliminate the provision for minimum lodge dues as being unnecessary.

8B

This amendment would eliminate the provision concerning advance payment of dues and the issuance of certificates of good standing as being unnecessary.

8C

This amendment would simplify the provisions for notice of delinquency and exclusion for nonpayment of dues.

8D

This amendment would correct a mathematical and typographical error in the provision for endowed memberships.

Group 9

9

This amendment would allow us to wear our aprons and other Masonic clothing in parades and other non-Masonic functions.

For: Wearing our aprons proudly in public would dispel myths and increase our public awareness.

Against: Certain things are for the lodge only. It shows more decorum to avoid public spectacles dressed as Masons.

5

First Meeting In September

Group 10

10

This amendment would give a lodge the discretion to rent lodge facilities to outside civic, social, and other non Masonic groups who would be serving alcoholic beverages as a part of the function. Masonic groups would still be prohibited from using alcoholic beverages in the lodge

What it WILL do:

This amendment will allow lodges to rent their facilities to outside groups who will be serving alcoholic beverages as a part of their function such as for wedding receptions.

What it will NOT do:

Masonic groups will continue to not be able to serve alcohol at Masonic functions such as lodge meetings or Table Lodges.

FOR: With the added pressure of declining membership and increased costs of maintaining a building this would help with the costs. The decision of who to rent to and the type of functions permitted remains with under the control of the lodge.

AGAINST: Who will monitor the functions and when the public sees people standing out front with drinks in their hands how do they know whether or not they are Masons? The few dollars it may gain from rental will not be worth the cost to our image.

11

This amendment would allow a lodge the discretion to rent the lodge facilities for dances, bazaars, and card parties and functions, with fewer restrictions, subject to individual lodge discretion or temple board rules.

What it WILL do:

This amendment will allow lodges to rent to groups for dances and social functions. It would allow functions that are now prohibited.

What it will NOT do:

Control of the lodge and facilities remains with the lodge.

5

First Meeting In September (Cont.)

FOR: With the added pressure of declining membership and increased costs of maintaining a building this would help with the costs. The decision of who to rent to and the type of functions permitted remains with under the control of the lodge.

AGAINST: Who will monitor the functions and make certain the activities are acceptable?

6

Second Meeting in September

Group 12

12

The amendments under this group would a lodge to open and conduct its business on either the Master Mason, Fellow Craft, or Entered Apprentice Degree.

What it WILL do:

It will allow us to open in any degree. If we should open on the Entered Apprentice Degree all the initiated members who are current in their work may attend non-degree parts of the meeting. For degree work it will be necessary to open on the degree and invite in all who have achieved that degree. It will grant Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts Masonic Funeral rights.

What it will NOT do: Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are not members of the lodge and have no voting rights. Though they may fill the seats of appointed officers, they may not be elected to office.

FOR: Since a man can be involved in and with the lodge from the start it will encourage him to finish his catechism. And, since he cannot attend the degree work above his he will be encouraged to move up.

AGAINST: When a man can attend the meetings and enjoy full Masonic burial rights where is his incentive to progress? Most Masonic meetings are boring, will seeing this encourage him to put out the effort to become a Master Mason?

