

Proposed Amendments for the 2022 Annual Communication

Amendment Group 1

Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment would permit lodges to change their “stated” meeting night with due and timely notice, and allow lodges to meet virtually based on guidelines established by the Board of Custodians, and adopted by this Grand Lodge in 2020.

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.

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8. ...

I. To permit a lodge to hold emergent communications with due and timely notice to conduct essential business for the benefit of the Craft.

J. To permit a lodge to meet on the appropriate degree to conduct its business and education.

REG. 45–3 EMERGENT COMMUNICATIONS.

...

3. ...

4. A lodge shall not transact the following business at an emergent communication, without dispensation:

A. Election of officers, [54-1; 54-1.2; 54-1.1; 54-1.3]

B. Receipt of petitions for the degrees or action thereon, [65-1; 68-1]

C. Receipt of applications for affiliation or restoration or action thereon, [68-1; 75-8; 78-2.2.D; 101-6]

D. Receipt of applications for advancement or action thereon, [68-1; 73-6]

E. Amend the by-laws of the lodge, [44-7 (Art.24)]

F. Grant a demit, [76-4]

G. Exclude a member for non-payment of dues, [77-20.7]

H. Grant a waiver of jurisdiction, or [42-9]

I. Transact any business which is required by law, or by order of the Grand Master, to be transacted at a stated communication.

(This regulation amended, effective upon adoption)

Amendment Group 2

Submitted by William G. Hill Lodge 218

This amendment would permit the purchase of an endowed membership by bequest by a deceased member and increases the Veteran and Memorial Endowed membership fees to align with inflation.

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

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20. An endowed 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 or may be purchased in memory of a member by family or loved ones.

REG. 77-26 VETERAN'S (FIFTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD) 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 minimum purchase fee for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is ~~five hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). 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.

REG. 77-27 MEMORIAL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

A Memorial Endowed Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Master mason of a North Carolina lodge. The minimum purchase fee for a Memorial Endowed Membership is ~~five hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). 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.

Amendment Group 3

Submitted by Lux Libertas Lodge 772

This amendment would facilitate lodges conducting some meetings virtually and permitting some brothers to attend stated communications virtually.

Chapter 38 Subordinate Lodge Defined

Reg. 38-3 Dispensation, Charter or Warrant.

2. At each communication the charter shall be in the lodge room or in an adjoining anteroom thereof, except at divine services, Masonic funerals, or the celebration of St. John's Day, or by dispensation of the Grand Master pursuant to Regulation 41-2 in the case of loss. If the communication is virtual, the Master or the Secretary shall be in possession of the Charter or a photographic copy as provided in Regulation 38-3.3, which need not be displayed unless any brother shall request to see the same.

Chapter 43 Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties

Reg. 43-2 Powers and Duties.

Amend to add:

Reg. 43-2

18. A lodge may conduct 34% of its stated communications virtually annually. During any period of pandemic, state or national emergency a lodge may meet virtually until the pandemic, state or national emergency has ended, and these meetings will not be counted in determining the number of lodge meetings conducted virtually. In addition to state and national elected officials acting within the course and scope of their authority, the Grand Master may declare the existence of pandemics and state or national emergencies.

19. The Master of a lodge, or the lodge may allow a brother under a disability to attend lodge meetings virtually until such time as the disability passes. For the purposes of this section disabilities may include, among others; age, health, sickness, injury, travel, and anything else which might make it unduly difficult or impractical for a brother to attend a lodge meeting. A brother attending virtually under a disability shall participate in votes and shall be considered as in attendance when determining if all brothers have voted, provided that at least two Masons must participate virtually for either to participate in a secret ballot or be counted as present for a secret ballot. Neither the Master nor the Lodge shall use the provisions of this paragraph to increase the number of permitted virtual stated communications by declaring all brothers disabled to attend lodge meetings, and violation of this provision is a Masonic offense.

20. A lodge may provide for virtual meetings in its By-laws, by order of its Master or by majority vote of its brothers present and voting, and such a virtual meeting shall be deemed to take place at the lodge hall.

21. A lodge may select the virtual meeting platform so long as the platform permits polling and secret ballots as discussed in Reg. 68-3, and complies with US National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) or its successor's standards for preventing eavesdropping by unauthorized parties.

22. During a virtual meeting, at appropriate times, images of columns, the letter "G", the Holy Bible, an altar, the Three Great Lights, and the Flag of our Country shall be displayed.

Reg. 43-3 Limitations.

21. A lodge shall not confer degrees virtually.

22. Members of the lodge shall be given reasonable and timely notice of virtual lodge meetings as provided in Reg. 45-4 Notices. Notice shall also be sent to the lodge's District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer.

23. Brothers attending a lodge meeting virtually must at all times tile their space, have a video camera on without a virtual background so that all attendees may observe their space, and be aproned.

Chapter 44 Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Lodge

Reg. 44.7 Uniform By-laws

Article 8

Third Alternative form for Section 3

All communications shall be held at the lodge hall in (or near) _____ in the County of _____ North Carolina, at such other place as the Master of the lodge may order or the lodge by majority vote may agree including virtually, and if virtually then the meeting shall be deemed to take place at the lodge hall.

Chapter 45 Communication of a Lodge

Reg. 45-7 Place of Communications.

The communications of a lodge shall be held in the meeting place or hall within the city, or town, or place of its location as the lodge shall name in its by-laws, or virtually. [13-3.8.G; 38-4; 38-4.1; 38-4.2; 38-5; 42-3; 71-12; 71-14; 82-9].

Reg. 45-22 Flag and Pledge.

The flag of the United States shall be displayed on a suitable standard in the East at the right hand of the Master, at every communication of each lodge; unless the meeting is virtual in which event an image of the flag shall be displayed prior to and during the pledge of allegiance. A pledge of allegiance to the flag shall be given at the opening of every communication of a lodge.

Chapter 59 Duties of Officers of a Lodge

Reg. 59-2 Master.

30. He shall make the work and ritual practiced in his lodge conform to the authorized work adopted by the Grand Lodge and to no other system, and to preserve carefully the Official Standard of the Work receipted for by him; except that when meeting virtually the pass shall be taken up and communicated as if at Grand Lodge. [24-5; 24-5.3; Chapter 24].

Chapter 63 Voting in a Lodge

Reg. 63-2 Written Ballot.

When a vote by written paper ballot is ordered, the Master shall appoint not more than five tellers, and they shall be provided with ballot slips by the Secretary and shall immediately commence distributing them to the members present who are entitled to vote. The Master shall announce that each member voting shall prepare his ballot by writing clearly thereon the nature of his vote and shall order the tellers to collect the votes. When all have voted, he shall declare the ballot closed and order the tellers to count the ballots and announce the result. Other business may be transacted while the tellers are counting the ballots if the lodge consents. [54-3; 54-3.1; 100-1.4; 100-1.7]. Except that when meeting virtually, the written ballot shall be by Poll launched by the Master as a Host or Co-Host; the Master shall approve the Poll before launch, and shall both share the results with the brethren and declare the results. The Master may delegate these duties as a Host or a Co-host. Polls shall be anonymous at the request of any brother.

REG. 63-5 SECRET BALLOT.

Secret ballot shall be taken as follows. [87-17].

1. Wherever the term secret ballot is used in THE CODE, it shall mean the use of white balls and black cubes but not black balls, and with a ballot box so arranged that the character of an individual ballot shall not become known; and, may be conducted virtually using virtual white balls and black cubes so long as anonymous. [Chapter 68].

Chapter 68 The Secret Ballot

Reg. 68-3 Procedure

21. Except that when conducting a secret ballot virtually; the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden shall be Co-Host and as such shall determine that the Poll is anonymous and the question to the brethren is correct and that the only answers are “White Ball” and “Black Cube” and shall observe that no votes have been cast before launching the Poll; the Master shall launch the Poll and when all have voted shall order the ballot closed; the Junior Warden shall then report how he finds the ballot, then the Senior Warden shall report how he finds the ballot and then the Master shall announce how he finds the ballot. If there is any disagreement between the three principal officers as to how they find the ballot then they shall proceed under Reg. 68-3.14 as if the Poll results were the ballot box. When the voting process is complete the Master shall destroy the Poll. All procedural steps of Reg. 68-3 not inconsistent with this paragraph apply to virtual secret ballots.

Chapter 72 Proficiency

Reg. 72-2 Candidate Must Pass Proficiency.

9. A candidate may be examined within a virtual communication so long as he and his coach are at the same physical location within sight and reach of each other.

Amendment Group 4

Submitted by the Commission on Special Activities

This amendment increases the number of members of this committee from 5 to 7 members, and removes the requirement that a member be a Past Master.

REG. 32-1 MEMBERS. The Commission on Special Activities shall consist of ~~five~~ seven members to be nominated by the Board of General Purposes and elected by the Grand Lodge as follows. (27-1.3.P; 27-6; 27-7.8).

1. member of the Commission shall be a ~~Past Master~~ member of a subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction well versed in the law of this Grand Lodge and in the usages and customs of the Craft and shall be experienced in handling business matters pertaining to subordinate lodges.

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Amendment Group 5

Submitted by the Junaluskee Lodge 145

This amendment permits Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to wear lodge emblems and logos when representing the lodge during public events.

REG. 86-2 SPECIFIC MASONIC OFFENSES.

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44. To wear the square and compasses, or any other Masonic emblem, or the emblem of an organization composed exclusively of Masons, when he stands excluded, suspended, or expelled, or when he is an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, with the exception that an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft may be permitted to wear a lodge shirt while participating in lodge functions such as degrees, fundraisers, and community events when accompanied by one or more Master Masons for the duration of the specific event.

Amendment Group 6

Submitted by PGM P. Shaun Bradshaw

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

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)

Amendment Group 7

Submitted by PGM P. Shaun Bradshaw

This amendment increases the minimum initiation fee from \$50 to \$75.

REG. 64-1 MINIMUM INITIATION FEE. No lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than ~~fifty~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

Amendment Group 8

Submitted by PGM P. Shaun Bradshaw

This amendment increases the portion of the initiation fee that goes to benefit our Masonic charities.

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-seventy-five~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each Entered Apprentice initiated by or for the lodge, whether initiated therein or by another lodge for it as a courtesy, ~~ten sixty~~ sixty dollars (\$60.00) of which is for charity, five dollars (\$5.00) of which shall represent a contribution to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, five dollars (\$5.00) to the Grand Lodge Building Endowment and ~~one dollar~~ 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].

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Amendment Group 8 Substitute

Submitted by the Finance Committee

This amendment increases the portion of the initiation fee that goes to benefit our Masonic charities.

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-seventy-five~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each Entered Apprentice initiated by or for the lodge, whether initiated therein or by another lodge for it as a courtesy, ~~ten~~ twenty dollars (\$20.00) of which is for charity, five dollars (\$5.00) of which shall represent a contribution to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, ~~one~~ five dollars (\$5.00) to the Grand Lodge Building Endowment and ~~one~~ forty-five dollars (\$45.00) is an initiation fee to be applied to the general fund. [5-1.4; 5-1.7; 5-5; 20-1].

Amendment Group 9

Submitted by Albemarle Lodge 703

This amendment would allow the Grand Master, upon appeal from the consolidated lodge, to determine whether a higher or lower lodge number takes precedence when lodges consolidate.

REG. 48-3 CONSOLIDATED LODGE. The name and number of the consolidated lodge shall ~~shall~~ should be that of the oldest lodge consolidated considering the date of charter, and no new charter shall be necessary, nor shall it be necessary to constitute the lodge again.

1. The officers of the ~~senior~~ lodge shall be determined by resolution (Form 16) ~~the officers of the consolidated lodge~~ and serve until the next annual communication, and no installation is required.

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3. The bylaws of the consolidated lodge shall be determined by resolution (Form 16) ~~be those of the senior lodge which were in effect at the time of consolidation~~, and the stated communication of the consolidated lodge, until properly changed, shall be at the time fixed in those bylaws.

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(This regulation amended, effective upon adoption)

Amendment Group 10

Submitted by PGM R. David Wicker, Jr.

This amendment clarifies the relationship between the Grand Lodge and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and defines the jurisdictional authority of the Grand Lodge.

REG. 35-1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, a corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina, shall be managed by a board of directors as provided in its by-laws, the Grand Lodge, at each annual communication, shall nominate a director to succeed the director whose term will next expire and shall nominate a director to serve the remaining term of any director whose seat has become vacant for any reason. [27-4; 27-7; 21-5]. (This regulation amended, effective January 1, 2016.)

1. The period of service of the members of this board is arranged in such manner that the term of one of them expires at each successive annual communication, at which time the Grand Lodge shall elect his successor. Each director shall continue to serve until his successor shall have been elected and shall have assumed his duties as a director.

2. Each director shall be and remain a resident of the State of North Carolina and a member in good standing in a subordinate lodge holding charter under the Grand Lodge. Removal from the State of North Carolina or ceasing to be a member in good and regular standing in a subordinate lodge shall be equivalent to resignation from the Board of Directors. (27-6).

3. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master until the next regular annual communication of the Grand Lodge at which time the Grand Lodge shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

4. The Grand Lodge may at any time by a two-thirds majority vote declare vacant the office of any or all members of the Board of Directors and may elect successors to serve the unexpired term of any member whose office shall be declared vacant.

(This regulation amended, effective upon adoption)

Amendment Group 11

Submitted by PGM R. David Wicker, Jr.

This amendment clarifies the designation of defunct lodge funds placed within the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

REG. 49-7 PROPERTY OF DEFUNCT LODGE

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9. If anything remains after the just debts of the defunct lodge are paid, the balance shall be transferred to the Grand Lodge's account(s) within the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc. (This regulation amended, effective upon adoption ~~January 1, 2002~~).

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(This regulation amended, effective upon adoption)

Amendment Group 12

Submitted by PGM R. David Wicker, Jr.

This amendment would require lodges to appoint a committee of investigation for delinquent members prior to excluding them for non-payment of dues to determine if there is a mitigating factor to their delinquency.

REG. 77-19 OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION.

During the third quarter of each year the Secretary shall forward to each member of the lodge who then owes any amount for dues an Official Notice of Delinquency by first-class mail in a sealed envelope with return address thereon. *(This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2004)*

1. This notice shall be over the name of the Master and the seal of the lodge, attested by the written signature of the Secretary, and sent to the last known address of the member informing him of the amount of dues then unpaid, and notifying him that unless the same is paid by the first stated communication of the lodge in October next following the date of notice, or unless he shows cause at that stated communication why he should not be excluded for nonpayment of dues, the lodge will at that time take action on his delinquency at a stated communication during the fourth quarter of that year. [Official Form 23]. *(This section amended, effective 1/1/2010)*

2. A list of the names of each member of the lodge to whom the Secretary has sent an Official Notice of Delinquency shall be read out during the first stated communication of the lodge in September. This list of members shall be referred by the Master to a special Committee of Investigation to consist of not less than three members of the lodge who are appointed by him. The Committee of Investigation shall diligently attempt to make personal contact with each member and speak with him directly to determine the basis of his failure to pay his dues. The Committee of Investigation shall inquire as to the member's health and financial status to determine if the brother is unable to pay his dues and if his dues should be cancelled as provided by Regulations 77-5 and 77-14.

32. A certificate of the Secretary to be read and entered on the minutes of the lodge, at the next stated communication following the mailing and the appointment of a special Committee of Investigation, to the effect that the provisions of this Regulation have been fully complied with, shall be conclusive thereof. and the lodge shall then have jurisdiction to act as provided in Regulation 77-20.

43. Payment in full of the entire amount due by the member on or before the first stated communication in October will satisfy and make void the said notice.

54. If no response is made to the Official Notice of Delinquency, the member shall not for that failure or omission be subject to charges of un-Masonic conduct. [77-21]. *(This section amended, effective 1/1/2004)*

REG. 77-20 ACTION BY THE LODGE, EXCLUSION.

During the fourth quarter of each year the Secretary shall report to the lodge the name of each delinquent member who at that time owes any amount for dues together with his certificate to the effect that the provisions of Regulation 77-19 have been fully complied with in respect to each member reported by him.

1. The report and certificate of the Secretary shall be entered on the minutes of the lodge.

2. At the same communication, the Committee of Investigation shall make its report in writing as favorable or unfavorable with regard to any action to be taken to exclude a member for nonpayment of dues. The members of the Committee shall confer in advance of making this report. The members of the Committee shall take into consideration the health and/or financial hardship of the member. The Master may grant a Committee of Investigation more time but not more than twenty-seven days. If the members of the Committee are unable to personally contact the member, their report shall state all actions taken by them with regard to their attempts to contact the member. The Master shall have the discretion to determine if the efforts made to contact the member are sufficient to permit the lodge to take any action to exclude the member for nonpayment of dues.

32. Before ~~At the same communication,~~ the lodge may take any action to exclude a member for nonpayment of dues, the report of the Committee of Investigation shall be received by the Master and read to the lodge. ~~shall take action on each delinquent member whose name has been reported by the Secretary.~~

43. For good cause, of which the lodge shall be the judge, it may cancel all or any part of the dues of any such member as provided for in Regulation 77-5.

54. The lodge may exclude him for nonpayment of dues, subject, however, to the provisions of Regulations 77-15, ~~and~~ 77-14.2, and 77-19. [59-12.10; 77-5.2; 77-5.3].

65. After due notice as required in Regulation 77-19 and during the fourth quarter of each year, each subordinate lodge shall take definite action on those of its members who at that time owe dues by either canceling the dues of any such member as provided for in Subdivision 77-20.3 of this regulation or by excluding him for nonpayment of dues, *subject, however,* to the provisions of Regulations 77-15, ~~and~~ 77-14.2, and 77-19.

76. The Secretary shall mail a notice to each member excluded for nonpayment of dues within ten days of such exclusion.

87. A lodge may exclude a member for nonpayment of dues only at a stated communication in the fourth quarter by a majority vote of the members present and as hereinbefore set forth. [45-3.4]. (*This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2004*)