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 the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, to be held this September 23 and 24, 2016.

Amendment Group 1

The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment would clarify residency requirements for District Deputy Grand Masters by only requiring him to be a member of a lodge in the district.

REG. 26-2.2 QUALIFICATIONS

Each District Deputy Grand Master shall be a member of a subordinate lodge within the district he represents.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment would permit a member of a Grand Lodge Board, Commission, or Committee to live outside the state of North Carolina.

REG. 27-3 ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE.

A brother to be eligible to serve on any board, commission, or committee of this Grand Lodge shall be and remain a member in good standing in a subordinate lodge of this Grand Lodge and shall continue to be a resident of this state during his tenure. Failure to do so will create an immediate vacancy. [3-2; 28-1; 31-1.1; 33-1; 34-1; 34-19; 35-1]

Amendment Group 3

The following amendment has been proposed by Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237.

This proposed amendment would set the minimum initiation fee at three times the annual dues of the lodge, minus the amount paid toward the Grand Lodge’s per capita.

Fees for the Degrees

REG. 64-1 MINIMUM INITIATION FEE.
No lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than fifty dollars three times their annual dues minus the annual per capita tax. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

1. A lodge may charge more, but not less, than the prescribed minimum fee.

2. Each lodge shall state in its by-laws the amount to be charged by it as a fee for the degrees.

3. The fee for the degrees shall not be prorated in any manner.

4. A lodge shall collect the same fee for the degrees from each petitioner without discrimination.

5. It shall not dispense with, waive, or refund the same or any part thereof by any plan or device whatever, except when the petition is rejected or no degree is conferred. [49-10.1; 64-4.1; 64-4; 64-3; 64-4.5; 66-2; 67-6; 69-2; 73-3.3; 75-18].

REG. 64-2 Obsolete. (This regulation amended, effective 7/31/2000)

REG. 64-3 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PETITION.

No lodge shall receive any petition for the degrees unless the prescribed fee shall have been actually paid in full, in money, to the proper officer. No written or verbal promise to pay the same may be received in lieu thereof.

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Amendment Group 4

The following amendment has been proposed by the Lodge Service Commission.

This proposed amendment will change some of the regulations pertaining to the Lodge Service Commission, allowing more flexibility for lodges to rent their facilities while maintaining compliance with the IRS.

REG. 43-7 COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.

No lodge shall engage in any commercial enterprise or business of like nature.

1. If a lodge owns a building in which its lodge room or hall is located or other real property, it may rent any space available for office or commercial purposes, reserving the right to terminate any lease in the event the leased premises should be used for any illegal or un-masonic purposes. [13-3.8.D; 43-2.6; 43-3.3; 43-3.12; 38-1; 87-14; 86-2.46].

2. A lodge may not rent, for office or commercial purposes, any real property it owns and with respect to which it owes or has secured any indebtedness, except in compliance with Reg. 43-8.

REG. 43-2 POWERS AND DUTIES.

15. A lodge may sell and convey its property at will. [52-7; 60-10].
REG. 43-8 SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVAL.

No subordinate lodge shall have the power or authority to do any of the things or acts described in this regulation until its application therefor has been approved by the Lodge Service Commission, or by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon appeal therefrom. [86-2.51.E].

1. Prior to receiving Lodge Service Commission approval a lodge shall not:
   
   A. Pledge its credit, or issue bonds, notes, or other evidence of debt, or subscribe to or guarantee the stock, bonds, or debts of any building association or company, either in the name of the lodge or under the name of a building association or company formed by Masons within or without the lodge for any building project, [25-2; 31-4.3]

   B. Lease real estate for more than five years either as lessee or lessor,

   C. Purchase real estate for any purpose,

   D. Become a party in creating, organizing, amending, or dissolving a civil corporation for any purpose whatever,

   E. Become a party in amending or dissolving any existing civil charter of a subordinate lodge [4-6; 49-5; 60-10; 86-2.46], or

   F. Enter into a joint enterprise with any other group, body, organization, or other entity, including another Masonic lodge or recognized Masonic body composed wholly of Masons, in the construction, ownership, and management of a building, or for any other purpose [25-2; 43-2.13],

   G. Sell real estate, or

   H. Rent, for office or commercial purposes, any real property it owns and with respect to which it owes or has secured any indebtedness.

Amendment Group 5

The following amendments have been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment would include the Chaplain on the list of lodge officers not required to be proficient in the third degree catechism.

REG. 55-2 OFFICER MUST PASS PROFICIENCY.

No member of a lodge shall be installed as an officer who has not made suitable proficiency in the catechism of the Third Degree and passed a satisfactory examination thereon in open lodge, and such fact entered upon the minutes of the lodge except the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Chaplain, and the Tyler, [53-2.2; 53-2.4; 55-3; 55-4; 59-12.31].
Amendment Group 6

The following amendment has been proposed by Vandora Lodge No. 745.

This proposed amendment would allow a member who was excluded for NPD to repurchase the total amount of dues equivalent to his years excluded, and in return have his NPD record expunged from his Masonic record.

REG. 78-5 EXPUNGEMENT OF EXCLUSION FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

A brother in good standing, who was formerly excluded for nonpayment of dues, may have such exclusion expunged from his record by proceeding as follows:

1. He must be a member in good standing of a subordinate lodge in this Masonic jurisdiction and current with all dues.

2. He shall submit a written request to the secretary of his current lodge expressing his desire to have the record of his exclusion expunged. If he is a member in good standing of more than one Lodge, he should submit his request to the secretary of the Lodge of which he has been a member longest.

3. The secretary shall forward the request to the Grand Secretary, who determines the total number of years the brother was excluded, and if he is eligible for his record to be expunged. The Grand Secretary shall report that information to the Lodge secretary. All parts of a year are considered a whole year.

4. The Grand Secretary shall then calculate the cost of expungement by multiplying the current annual dues (including Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax) of all lodges of which the brother was a member by the number of years the member was excluded. (For example: if the member had been excluded for 10 years and the Lodge’s current dues are $100 with an additional $15 per capita, the cost would be $1150).

5. If the member opts to pay the cost of the expungement he shall remit the payment to the Grand Secretary who shall disperse the Lodge’s portion, along with appropriate documentation.

6. The Grand Secretary shall verify the process was completed appropriately, and if so, he shall oversee the expungement of all documentation, notes, or any other record indicating the member had ever been excluded for nonpayment of dues.

A member who properly completes this procedure will be shown to have maintained continuous membership from the date he was raised unless he has been suspended, expelled, or otherwise excluded for any reason other than nonpayment of dues. Awards presented to recognize numbers of years of service will also be recalculated and the Grand Secretary shall assure that the corrected date(s) becomes a part of the member’s permanent record.
This procedure may not be used for any type of suspension, expulsion, or exclusion other than nonpayment of dues.

Amendment Group 7

The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

*This proposed amendment will permit special ceremonies (cornerstone dedications) to be conducted on Sundays at a church.*

**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.

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2. The ceremonies provided for in this chapter shall not be conducted on Sunday except for a church. [45-11].

Amendment Group 8

The following amendment has been proposed by Lexington Memorial Lodge No. 473.

*This amendment would suspend any future purchases of endowed memberships and grandfather-in current endowed membership participants. 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 may be purchased from the Grand Lodge on or before December 31, 2016.

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