

## Amendments for the 2021 Annual Communication

### Amendment Group 1

*(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendment has been submitted by the Board of General Purposes.

*This amendment would require lodges to fully insure their property as per NC law. Failure to do so would disallow any lodge to seek assistance from other lodges.*

Chapter 43 Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties

...

43-2.14. A lodge shall keep its property insured for reasonable replacement cost, against loss or damage by fire and other hazards. Any lodge failing to insure its property shall not be granted permission to ask for assistance from other lodges of this jurisdiction on account of loss except by the Grand Lodge on recommendation by the Grand Master. [60-1.3.F]. It shall be malfeasance of the three principal officers and the Trustees of the lodge pursuant to Reg 13-3.5 if the lodge fails to keep its property insured as here provided. It shall be malfeasance pursuant to Reg 13-3.5 if the Secretary fails to timely issue a voucher to pay a properly submitted bill for insurance resulting in the loss of insurance coverage, and it shall be malfeasance pursuant to Reg 13-3.5 if the Treasurer fails to timely pay a properly issued voucher to pay for insurance resulting in the loss of insurance coverage if the lodge has the funds to pay the bill.

### Amendment Group 2

*(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendment has been submitted by Cannon Memorial Lodge 626.

*This amendment would allow a lodge to vote on petitions for the degrees collectively.*

~~68-3.3 Not more than one petition or proposition shall be voted on at the same time, and the simultaneous use of different or multiple ballot boxes on different petitions or applications or propositions is hereby prohibited.~~ The simultaneous use of different or multiple ballot boxes on different petitions, applications, or propositions is hereby prohibited. When voting upon multiple petitions, and/or applications, all petitions, and/or applications may be voted on at the same time. Upon examination of ballots, if any number of black cubes are found, the Lodge will vote on each candidate individually and follow existing rules set forth by The Code.

### **Amendment Group 3**

***(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)***

The following amendments have been submitted by the Grand Secretary.

*This amendment would allow a lodge, if it wanted to, to open on the First Degree and conduct its business.*

#### REG. 45-2 STATED COMMUNICATION.

4. A lodge, regularly opened on the first or third degree for an emergent communication on the day of a stated communication at an earlier hour than that named in its by-laws for that stated communication, may be changed to a stated communication without going through the ceremonies of closing and again opening in the following manner.

...

[45-2.4] A. At a time not more than thirty minutes after the hour named in the by-laws for the stated communication, the Master shall announce in open lodge that “the hour for the stated communication having arrived, and the lodge having been opened on the degree of Entered Apprentice or Master Mason, further work in the emergent communication will be deferred and the business of the stated communication taken up.”

#### REG. 45-8 QUORUM.

Seven Master Masons, members of the lodge, one of whom shall be authorized to open the lodge and preside, shall constitute a quorum to open the lodge on any degree and for the transaction of any business that may lawfully come before a an Entered Apprentice’s or Master Mason’s lodge. The Tyler, if a member of the lodge, may be one of the seven. [38-2; 39-11; 74-1; 87-3].

#### REG. 45-9 DEGREE ON WHICH LODGE OPENED.

All business shall be transacted in an Entered Apprentice’s or Master Mason’s Lodge, except proficiency examinations and degree work in the first and second degrees, or the discipline of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts as provided in Chapter 100. If a lodge chooses to transact business in an Entered Apprentice lodge it would be opened for the transaction of business in lieu of for work and instruction.

#### REG. 45-18 MASTER MASON’S LODGE CLOSED.

Every Master Mason’s lodge shall be closed until the next stated communication unless sooner convened. Lodges of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons shall be closed without date unless conducting business in a lodge of Entered Apprentice in which case it shall be closed until the next stated communication unless sooner convened.

#### REG. 51-1 MODES OF AVOUCHMENT.

No brother shall vouch for another unless, in addition to the knowledge that the visitor is a Mason, the brother is also satisfied that the visitor is at the time in good standing. [87-5].

1. There shall be ~~three~~ four modes of avouchment of a brother as follows: [39-2.6.F.(3)].

A. By sitting together in a regular lodge of Master Masons recognized by the Grand Lodge.

B. By an examination authorized by the proper officer of a lodge.

C. By one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Master Mason that he vouches for a third brother then and there present with them as a Master Mason in good standing. The Mason who is vouching for the visitor shall state the manner in which he acquired the knowledge on which he makes the avouchment. [51-2].

D. By sitting together with an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft during the conferring of their respective degree.

REG. 59-2 MASTER.

Some, but not all, of the powers of the Master of a lodge which are also duties to be performed by him, or at his direction and under his supervision, are as follows:

16. After having opened his lodge, he may place any capable Master Mason in the East and permit him to confer any of the degrees, the Master being present. If any regular officer is absent, his office should be filled pro tempore by a Master Mason. [24-1.1; 45-12.2; 71-15].

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.

1. The Grand Lodge, or a subordinate lodge, shall be opened on the Degree of Entered Apprentice or Master Mason, the usual ceremonies conducted and instruction and information given relative to the special ceremonies to be conducted. The minutes shall be read, approved, and the Grand Lodge or subordinate lodge shall be closed, after which the special ceremonies shall be conducted. The charter of the subordinate lodge need not be removed from the lodge hall if the special ceremony is conducted in another location. [13-3.7; 38- 3.1; 41-8; 38-3.4].

#### **Amendment Group 4**

*(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendment has been submitted by Eagle Lodge 19.

*This amendment proposes to resolve a conflict in The Code concerning motions to close debate in a subordinate lodge.*

REG. 36-4 OBSTRUCTIVE MOTIONS FORBIDDEN. The formation of a committee of the whole, the call for the previous question, and all obstructive motions are forbidden. ~~This applies to subordinate lodges as well as the Grand Lodge.~~ (The Trial Code, Chapter 91).

#### **Amendment Group 5**

*(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendments have been submitted by the Grand Secretary.

*This amendment would require consolidating lodges to deed its property to the consolidated lodge. It would also allow the lodge Trustees to fulfill their roles as executors of the lodge's property until all property is sold or transferred.*

REG. 48-3 CONSOLIDATED LODGE. The name and number of the consolidated lodge shall 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.

7. All real estate of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall become the property of the consolidated lodge. The Trustees of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall execute the instruments necessary to effect the transfer of property before the consolidation is completed. Solely for the purpose of transferring property, the Trustees of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall continue to have such authority until all property of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall have been conveyed to the consolidated lodge.

~~7-8.~~ Any life member or honorary member of a lodge ceasing to exist shall retain his same status in the consolidated lodge. (48-1.11).

REG. 48-4 NOTICE OF COMPLETION. When the consolidation has been completed, the Secretary of the consolidated lodge shall furnish the Grand Secretary copies of all deeds conveying real estate from the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist to the consolidated lodge and shall notify the Grand Secretary of the first stated or emergent communication held after the consolidation becomes effective.

## **Amendment Group 6**

***(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)***

The following amendments have been submitted by William G. Hill Lodge 218.

*These amendments would allow the estate of a deceased member to purchase an endowed membership for the member. It also increases the Veteran's and Memorial Endowed memberships cost.*

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

20. An endowed membership may be purchased by the estate of 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.

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 purchase fee for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is ~~five hundred dollars (\$500)~~ seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is fixed at seventy-five percent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five percent (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 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 percent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five percent (25%) for the Grand Lodge.

## **Amendment Group 7**

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would raise the minimum initiation fee in order to provide more charity as the current fee structure was set over a century ago. This proposal does not affect the Grand Lodge per capita assessment, but rather the "petitioner's fee" due at the time of initiation.*

## **Chapter 20 - ... 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.

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

### **Amendment Group 8**

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would raise the minimum initiation fee to \$125.00.*

### **Chapter 64 - 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 ~~forty~~ one hundred twenty-five dollars. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

### **Amendment Group 9**

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would remove certain outdated and poorly phrased Masonic offenses from the Code.*

### **Chapter 43 – Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties**

REG. 43-3 LIMITATIONS. Some, but not all, of the limitations of powers and authority of a subordinate lodge are as follows. (4-2; 4-6).

4. ~~No lodge shall authorize, sponsor, sanction, hold, conduct, or permit to be held in the name of Masonry any meeting or gathering, for business, social, or any other purpose where alcoholic beverages are permitted, served, or consumed as a part of such meetings or gatherings.~~

**OBSOLETE.**

### **Amendment Group 10**

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would make obsolete sections of The Code deeming professional gambling, legal gambling, or operating a business where legal gambling takes place a Masonic offense. It would also make it a Masonic offense to cast a negative ballot against a petitioner due to his race, color, creed, or nation of origin.*

## Chapter 86 – Masonic Offenses

REG. 86-2 SPECIFIC MASONIC OFFENSES. The following are specific Masonic offenses and, in certain instances, the penalty is specified. These shall not be construed as excluding any other Masonic offenses or un-Masonic conduct or penalties not specifically described or enumerated in this chapter or in other chapters of The Code.

33. ~~To be a professional gambler, or to keep a gambling establishment, or permit gambling in any form in any place under his control. Penalty expulsion. -OBSOLETE.~~

...

34. To illegally play cards or dice, or otherwise, in any manner, illegally gamble for money or for things of intrinsic value.

...

60. A brother may not cast a negative ballot on a petition, either for the degrees or affiliation, if it is based on the petitioner's race, color, creed, or national origin. A brother doing so is guilty of un-Masonic conduct.

### Amendment Group 11

The following amendment has been submitted by Semper Fidelis Lodge 680.

*The amendment states that all service awards shall be presented by the Grand Master or his representative.*

REG. 80-4 TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge shall provide at its expense a suitable certificate together with a medal or emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Service Award to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who have been Master Masons in good standing for twenty-five years or more.

1. In the event he has been deprived of all the rights and privileges of a Master Mason because of demission, provided the period of non-affiliation is nine months or less, the time he was non-affiliated shall be eliminated in counting the years to arrive at the membership for twenty-five years.

2. ~~The certificate shall be presented by the Grand Master or his personal representative.~~ All Service Award Certificates shall be presented by the Grand Master or his personal representative.

3. The cost shall be borne by the Grand Lodge, and no duplicate shall be provided at the expense of the Grand Lodge. The emblem shall be silver, or white metal may be used. (89-12).

## **Amendment Group 11 Substitute**

The following substitute has been submitted by the Grand Secretary.

*This amendment aligns the process of creating, delivering, and presenting service awards to lodges and members into current practice.*

~~REG. 80-2 SIXTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge has established a Medal or Emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Diamond Jubilee Veteran's Emblem to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who have been Master Masons in good standing for a total of at least sixty years or more preceding the date of the award. This medal together with a suitable certificate shall be presented in the name of the Grand Lodge and the cost thereof to be borne by the Grand Lodge.~~

REG. 80-2 TWENTY-FIVE, FIFTY, SIXTY, and SEVENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge has established a Medal or Emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Service Emblem to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who have been Master Masons in good standing for a continuous total of at least twenty-five, fifty, sixty, seventy years or more preceding the date of the award. This medal together with a suitable certificate shall be presented in the name of the Grand Lodge and the cost thereof to be borne by the Grand Lodge. Regulations 89-11, 89-12, Appendix B

~~REG. 80-3 FIFTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge has established a medal or emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Veterans' Emblem to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge who have been Master Masons in good standing for a total of at least fifty years or more preceding the date of the award. The cost of this medal, together with a suitable certificate, to be presented in the name of the Grand Lodge shall be borne by the Grand Lodge.~~

REG. 80-3 GENERATION OF SERVICE AWARDS. The following procedure shall be observed in the production and delivery of the Grand Lodge's Service Awards.

1. Within the first quarter of the year and following the receipt of the annual lodge returns, the Grand Secretary shall prepare the Service Award Certificates and mail them together with the appropriate emblems to the Secretary of the lodge, unless directed otherwise by the Grand Master.

2. The lodge will make its own arrangements for the presentation of the awards provided in Regulations 80-2.

REG. 80-4 Obsolete

REG. 80-5 Obsolete

REG. 80-6 ERRORS IN RECORDS. In unusual cases, where the records are inconclusive as to continuous membership of a brother for the period of time required in Regulations 80-2, ~~80-3, or~~



~~80-4~~, or where a lodge or any Masonic officer is at fault in any matter or as to any record pertaining to the affiliation of a brother, the Grand Master, after investigation and if he is fully satisfied that such brother is not at fault, may issue an order declaring such brother entitled to receive the Emblem or the Award as authorized in Regulations 80-2, ~~80-3~~, or ~~80-4~~ as the case may be.

REG. 80-7 DEATH AFTER APPLICATION. Should the brother become eligible ~~die after the award~~, as provided for in Regulations 80-2, and die ~~80-3~~, or ~~80-4~~, ~~has been requested of the Grand Secretary and~~ prior to the scheduled date of presentation, the said award may be delivered without ceremony to his widow or other relative who may have a Masonic claim on the Masonic Fraternity as the Grand Master may direct. (Chapter 74).

### **Amendment Group 12**

The following amendments were submitted by Grand Secretary.

*This amendment creates a Grand Lodge Committee on Philanthropy to review and report all aspects of the Grand Lodge's charitable and philanthropic endeavors to the Grand Lodge.*

### **REG. 34-26 PHILANTHROPY.**

The Committee on Philanthropy shall consist of not less than five (5), nor more than nine (9) members appointed annually. The Senior and Junior Grand Deacons shall be members and co-chairmen of this Committee during their respective terms of office. It shall be the duty of this committee to personally investigate and report on all philanthropic endeavors undertaken by this Grand Lodge, including the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and all its beneficiaries. The Committee shall examine the condition of all physical and financial properties associated with this Grand Lodge's philanthropic and charitable endeavors, the management of any such business, and the reports of such officers and/or directors associated thereto. The committee shall report all matters proper to be considered in its report to the Grand Lodge. It shall report its findings with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication.

### **Amendment Group 13**

The following amendments were submitted by Grand Secretary.

*The amendment consolidates subordinate lodge committees on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the Committee on WhiteStone into one committee, and further makes the subordinate lodge committee on DeMolay optional.*

REG. 61-5 COMMITTEE ON PHILANTHROPY. The Committee on Philanthropy shall consist of not less than three members who shall be appointed annually by the Master. It shall identify, coordinate, and promote philanthropic and charitable purposes amongst the members of the lodge for the public good, either locally or more broadly situated.

REG. ~~61-6~~ **OBSOLETE**

## REG. 61-8 OBSOLETE

### **Amendment Group 14**

The following amendment has been submitted by Allen Graham Lodge 695.

*This amendment permits any Mason to object to the passing or raising of a candidate in any lodge.*

REG 73-4 OBJECTION TO ADVANCEMENT. After a candidate has been initiated as an Entered Apprentice, an objection to his advancement to the degrees of Fellow Craft or Master Mason shall be only on charges of unmasonic conduct. (see also reg 71-7)

1. If charges are preferred against an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, his advancement shall thereby be stayed pending trial of such charges.
2. ~~If a member of the lodge~~ If any Master Mason in good standing objects to the passing or raising of a candidate, he shall state in open lodge or in writing at any time before the degree is given that he objects to the passing or raising of the candidate and that he intends to prefer charges.
3. The charges must be filed with the Secretary of the lodge within ten days after the date of the objection.
4. If the charges are not filed within ten days, the the candidate may be advanced as if no objection had been made.
5. If the charges are filed within ten days, they shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary as provided for in The Trial Code.

### **Amendment Group 15**

The following Amendment has been submitted by Lux Libertas Lodge 772.

*Amendments to the Code to 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 put on 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 DDGM and DDGL.

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 stated communication so long as he and his coach are at the same physical location within sight and reach of each other.