

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 on September 25, 2020.

Amendment Group 1

The following amendment has been submitted by the Finance Committee.

This amendment would allow the election of a chairman for the Finance Committee prior to the installation of Grand Lodge Officers.

Reg 34-3(c) - Subsequent to the election of officers of the Grand Lodge as provided in Chapter 12 and prior to the ~~close of the Grand Lodge~~ installation of the Grand Lodge officers, the committee shall elect its Chairman from its membership.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendments have 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

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43-2.14. A lodge shall keep its property insured against reasonable replacement cost 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, all pursuant to Reg 13-3.5.

Amendment Group 3

The following amendment has been submitted by Mack Sigmon, (Past) Grand Master

This amendment would allow members who do not live within the state to serve on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

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 a vacancy.

Amendment Group 4

The following amendments have been submitted by the Transition Committee.

These amendments would require additional qualifications for Grand Lodge Officers.

REG. 11-5 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.

In addition to other qualifications imposed in THE CODE an officer of the Grand Lodge shall have the following general qualifications.

2. No brother shall be eligible for the offices of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, ~~or~~ a Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, a Grand Deacon, Grand Marshal or a Grand Steward, who is not a Past Master of a subordinate lodge. [[3-3.2](#); [12-1](#); [57-8](#)].

Duties of the Grand Secretary

Amend 16-1 The duties of the Grand Secretary are as follows.

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38. To appoint, with the approval of the Grand Master, an assistant to the Grand Secretary who shall have and maintain the qualifications required for a Grand Secretary set forth in Chapter 11, and to fill any vacancy in the same manner. For the official acts of such Assistant to the Grand Secretary, the Grand Secretary and his bondsman shall be responsible. When the Grand Secretary is unable to perform the duties of his office for any reason, the Assistant to the Grand Secretary, when directed by the Grand Master, shall perform the duties of the Grand Secretary as Acting Grand Secretary and shall receive such compensation as the Grand Master shall direct, but the Grand Master in his

discretion shall have the power to name some other qualified brother as Acting Grand Secretary. (11-11; 12-5; 21-3; 21-3.3; 21- 3.4).

39. To perform any other duties which pertain to his office and which he may be directed to perform by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (22-1; 22-2; 22-4.3).

40. To assist the Personnel Committee in recommending salary and benefit packages for all Grand Lodge employees according to Personnel Committee policies and procedures, including a performance based pay plan that shall be submitted to the Board of General Purposes and Committee on Finance for approval and inclusion in the Budget.

41. To assist the Grand Master and the Personnel Committee in the process of transition of the Grand Secretary in accordance with meeting the following qualifications for his successor in office.

1. The Grand Secretary shall be a Past Master, a Past elected Grand Line officer, or Assistant Grand Secretary.

2. The Grand Secretary shall have sufficient skills in leading a state-wide non-profit organization.

42. To have a working knowledge of the United States Internal Revenue Code and assist in the preparation of the Grand Lodge 990 combined tax return.

43. To have working knowledge of the process of conducting independent audits such that he can assist with the annual audit of the Grand Lodge, as well as any audit conducted by the Internal Revenue Service or North Carolina Department of Revenue of the Grand Lodge, any of its subordinate lodges, or the North Carolina Masonic Foundation or any of its disregarded entities.

44. To have the skill to proficiently operate the Grand Lodge membership data base. The skill of the Grand Secretary shall be sufficient to provide individual instruction on the use of the membership database to the Grand Lodge office staff, lodge secretaries and Grand Lodge Officers. In addition to all individual instruction needed, the Grand Secretary shall provide educational classes for lodge secretaries on the use and operation of the membership database not less than one (1) time per year.

45. ~~40.~~ To surrender his office to his successor at the end of his term or sooner if lawfully required to do so and to deliver to him any and all property of every kind belonging to the

Grand Lodge in his possession, or for which he may be responsible. He shall take duplicate receipts therefor, one copy of which shall be delivered to the Grand Master.

46. ~~41.~~ To execute and file with the Grand Master, within fifteen days after his installation, an official surety bond in such penal sum as the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may require but not less than \$100,000.00, with such sureties as shall be approved by the Grand Master, conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office as provided in The Code or by any amendments thereto. The premium for said bond shall be paid by the Grand Lodge. If he shall fail to file the said bond within the prescribed time, the Grand Master shall declare the office vacant and appoint a brother who is qualified and who will file the required bond.

Amendment Group 5

The following amendment has been submitted by Cannon Memorial Lodge No. 626

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

Amend Chapter 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, or applications or propositions is hereby prohibited. When voting upon multiple petitions, and/ or applications, all petitions, and/ or applications can 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 6

The following amendment has been submitted by the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities

This amendment would increase the size of the Committee to five members, up from the present three. Upon adoption, the Deputy Grand Master will appoint three members to the Committee on the terms that he selects, e.g. one for three years, one for four years and one for five years. This amendment will become effective on adoption.

CHAPTER 32 Commission on Special Activities

REG. 32-1 MEMBERS. The Commission on Special Activities shall consist of three five 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. Each member of the Commission shall be a Past Master 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. 2. At each annual communication the Board of General Purposes shall nominate one qualified brother to serve for ~~three~~ five years. The Commission shall elect its chairman. In the event of a vacancy on the committee by death or for any other cause the Grand Master shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term.

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Amendment Group 7

The following amendments have been submitted by 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.

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 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~~ may 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 8

The following amendment has been submitted by Eagle Lodge No. 19

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

Chapter 36 Parliamentary Usage in the Grand 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 9

The following amendments have been submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment would require lodges that are consolidating to execute its deed to the consolidated lodge. Also, would allow the lodge Trustees to fulfill the role 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 10

The following amendments have been submitted by William G. Hill Lodge No. 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 minimum 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 per cent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five per cent (25%) for the Grand Lodge. *(This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2008)*

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 11

The following amendment has been submitted by Lebanon Lodge No. 391

This amendment would create a Chaplain of Distinction award.

REG. 56-7 CHAPLAIN OF DISTINCTION .Any lodge at a stated communication and by majority vote, 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 vote, may confer the honorary title of Chaplain of Distinction on a member of such lodge in good standing, who, at the time of such proposal shall have completed five consecutive full years as Chaplain of such lodge, and who at that time, shall be a member of his lodge in good standing, and shall have rendered outstanding and meritorious service as Chaplain. The proposal shall not be sent to the Grand Secretary nor referred to a committee. On election, report thereof shall be made to the Grand Secretary within ten days.