

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT
MASTERS OF MAINE

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NAME AND JURISDICTION

SECTION 1. The name of this body is the GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS of the State of Maine. It shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the territorial limits of the State of Maine.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2. The members of this Grand Council shall consist of the officers thereof, Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Past Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Masters, Past Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductors of Work, Past Illustrious Masters of subordinate Councils and the first three officers, for the time being, of the respective Councils under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council; each of whom shall be entitled to one vote.

OFFICERS

SECTION 3. The officers of this Grand Council shall consist of a Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of Work, Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, Right Illustrious Grand Chaplain, Right Illustrious Grand Master of Ceremonies, Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard, Right Illustrious Grand Conductor of Council, Right Illustrious Grand Steward, and Illustrious Grand Sentinel.

POWERS

SECTION 4. This Grand Council shall have the sole government and superintendence of Councils of Royal and Select Masters within the State of Maine and shall have power to assign their limits, prescribe the minimum fees for admission and settle all controversies that may arise between them; and in ill cases of controversy an appeal shall lie to this Grand Council. It shall also have power to constitute new Councils of Royal and Select Masters within the State of Maine and grant charters and dispensations for same, to which shall be affixed the seal of the Grand Council and the signatures of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and Right Illustrious Grand Recorder. For violation of its laws, it may reprimand, suspend or expel any of its members; and it may require from subordinate Councils such dues and fees as it may judge necessary for its support.

SEAL

SECTION 5. The official seal represent two equilateral triangles interlocked, having inside the hexagon thus formed a trowel pointing upward, all enclosed with a double circle. Within the inner circle and above the interlocked triangles the words "Instituted A.L. 5855." On the left of the triangles the word "May," on the right a figure "3" and below the characters "A.I. 2855." Between the outer and inner circles the words "Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, Maine."

ASSEMBLIES

SECTION 6- The Grand Master may at any time order a Special Assembly to be holden at such time and place as he may think proper to appoint, giving the members at least ten days notice, thereof. (Adopted in 1987).

Voted to move the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council to be held on the Friday before the Grand Chapter's Annual Convocation. (Adopted in 1999).

QUORUM

SECTION 7-A representation of five subordinate Councils shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, although a smaller number may open and call off from time to time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 8 – The M.I. Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Master of Ceremonies, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Council, and Grand Steward shall be elected by ballot at the annual assembly, and the companion having a majority of votes shall be declared duly elected. All other officers and committees shall be appointed by the M.I. Grand Master. The Grand Council shall immediately after the election assign a time and place for the installation of these officers. The duties of the Officers of this Grand Council shall be such as are required by the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations, thereof, and by general Masonic usage.

Should any casualty at any time prevent the annual election of officers, the several officers shall retain their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

In case of the death, absence or disability of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the powers and duties of his station shall devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work in their order. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may fill pro tem, by appointment any vacancies that occur in the Grand Council.

COMMITTEES

SECTION 9. -As soon as practicable after his installation the Grand Master shall appoint the following Standing Committees: Finance; Masonic Jurisprudence; Credentials; Returns; Dispensations and Charters; Doings of Grand Officers; Amendments to the Constitution; Condition of the Fraternity; History; Ritual; By-Laws and Unfinished Business.

He shall also appoint several Special Committees such as: Membership; Memorials; Cryptic Rite Magazine; Triennial; Awards; Cryptic Rite Medical Research; General Grand Council Youth Committee; Public Relations; Masonic Unification and Cooperation; Annual Assembly and Web Page. Other Special Committees may be included as the Grand Master deems necessary, and some of the above may be omitted if they are considered by him to be unnecessary for the time being. Each of the above listed

committees shall consist of three members, with the exception of the Membership Committee, which shall be comprised of six members.

The duties of the Committees of this Grand Council shall be such as are required by the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations, thereof, and by general Masonic usage.

COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 10. - The Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer and Grand Sentinel shall receive For their services such compensation as the Grand Council may deem reasonable.

WORK AND VISITATION

SECTION 11. - The several Councils under jurisdiction of this Grand Council are required to have their work uniform and conducted according to the ritual promulgated by the General Grand Council of the United States. To this end, the M.I. Grand Master is authorized to preside in any Council in the State, to examine its work and proceedings and require a strict conformity to the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Regulations and Edicts of this Grand Council. He may also assign certain Councils to the Deputy Grand Master and to the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and in Councils so assigned they shall have all the authority conferred by this Section on the M.I. Grand Master; and the actual expenses incurred by the first three Grand Officers in visiting subordinate Councils officially shall be paid by the Grand Treasurer after being duly audited by the Finance Committee. The M.I. Grand Master may grant such dispensations as are permitted under the provisions of this Constitution and the regulations and landmarks of the craft.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM

SECTION 12. - Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Past Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Masters, Past Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, and Grand Officers, also Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters and Principal Conductors of the Work, for the time being of subordinate Councils, in attendance at the annual sessions of this Grand Council shall be paid such mileage and per diem as this Grand Council shall by regulation from time to time determine.

REVENUE

SECTION (13)- The revenue of the Grand Council shall be derived from an annual per capita tax on each member of subordinate Councils, such fees and assessments as may be provided by law and gifts made to the Grand Council.

NEW COUNCILS

SECTION 14. - Dispensations for forming and opening new Councils may be issued

by the Most Illustrious Grand Master during recess of the Grand Council to be in force only until the succeeding annual assembly of the Grand Council, unless continued by vote thereof, **Provided however, that** no dispensation shall be issued to a less number than twenty-seven Royal and Select Masters.

Art. (A)- *Precedence*-The date of the dispensation shall be the Council's date of Precedence.

Art. (B). -*Granting Charters*-Charters shall be granted only by vote of the Grand Council in Annual Assembly.

Art. (C)-*Fee for Charter*- The fee for instituting a new Council shall be thirty-five Dollars. No Council shall be holden in any town, other than the one named in its Charter, except by the authority of the Grand Council or of the M.I. Master.

OFFICERS

SECTION 15. -The officers of subordinate Councils under this jurisdiction shall consist of An Illustrious Master; Deputy Master; Principal Conductor of the Work; Treasurer; Recorder; Captain of the Guard; Conductor of Council; Steward and Sentinel. There may also be a Chaplain a Master of Ceremonies and an Organist.

Installation of Officers-The Officers of any Council should be installed into their stations as soon as may be convenient. Installations may be semi-public: however, ceremonial costumes shall not be used in a semi-public occasion.

BUSINESS

SECTION (16)-All business matters of a Council shall be transacted only in the Select Degree. Nine Royal and Select Masters shall constitute a quorum. The minimum number of Members belonging to the Council wishing to hold an Assembly shall be six, one of whom shall be one of the Three Principal Officers, the Recorder, or a Member designated to fill the position as a temporary substitute, and four other Members of the subject Council. The other three Companions may be Visitors.

REPRESENTATION

SECTION 17. -The several Councils in this Jurisdiction shall be represented in Grand Council by their first three officers or by their proxies.

Proxies- Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters and Principal Conductors of Work for the time being, of subordinate Councils, unable to attend assemblies of the Grand Council in person, shall have the power to appoint proxies, each of whom shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Companion represented, except that of taking his rank in the Grand Council or of drawing mileage and per diem for attendance. Such proxy must be a

Member of good standing in the same subordinate Council as his Principal, and present a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment; nor shall any companion be entitled to more than two votes, either in his own right and as a proxy.

DEGREES

SECTION 18. -Every Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council shall have power to confer the following degrees and in the following order, viz.: Royal Master; Select Master; and Super Excellent Master, and shall receive from each Candidate the sum of not less than ten dollars previous to his receiving the degrees. And no Council, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, shall hereinafter admit to membership therein, any Companion who shall not have received, in a duly constituted Council, the first two of the three degrees above named.

Any Council in this Grand Jurisdiction may confer any degree upon a candidate lawfully elected thereto by a Council in any other Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Council holds fraternal relations, on request under seal of the electing Council, the identity and standing of the candidate being fully established; in which case such Companion shall not become a member of the Council which shall so confer any degree, and the fees for so conferring any degrees shall belong to the Council at whose request the degrees shall have been conferred by this Grand Council.

APPLICATION

SECTION 19. *Petitions*; No Council shall confer its several degrees on any person who is not a regular and affiliated Royal Arch Mason, nor unless his character and Masonic acquirements shall be vouched for by two Select Masters. The application of every candidate for the degrees in any Council in this jurisdiction shall be in writing, signed by the applicant, shall give the date and place of his birth, his residence, his occupation and accompanied by a copy of his current dues card from the Chapter of which he is a member. The petition shall state whether or not he has ever been rejected by any Council, and shall bear the signature of two Select Masters who are members of the Council to which the petition is presented at a Stated Assembly.

Ballot; -No ballot shall be required for the degrees of a Council of Royal and Select Masters, nor for the degree of Super Excellent Master within this Grand Jurisdiction, providing that full compliance with the procedures initially set forth in this section are observed. In the absence of any objection to the foregoing procedure, the Illustrious Master shall declare the petitioner accepted and a candidate for receiving the conferral of the degrees. If there be any objection, the petition shall be referred to a Committee of Inquiry for investigation and be resubmitted at the next Stated Assembly, at which time the Committee's recommendation shall be read and the petition voted on by secret ballot, with a clear ballot being required for acceptance.

If, however, as a result of objection under the terms previously stated, a ballot must be taken, it shall be at a Stated Assembly, and under the same procedures as required for degrees of the Symbolic Lodges, viz.: If more than one negative vote appears, the petitioner must be declared rejected; however, if only one negative vote appears, the

Illustrious Master shall immediately cause a second balloting to take place, and if a negative vote again appears, the petitioner is rejected.

WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION

SECTION 20. - *Withdrawal Of Petition:* A petition for the degrees or application for membership by affiliation shall not be withdrawn after it has been referred to a Committee of Inquiry without the unanimous consent of all members present when the action was taken, nor until after a report of the Committee and ballot had thereon, nor unless the ballot be clear. But if it shall be determined at any time before rejection that the Council has not jurisdiction over the petitioner because he is resident of another Grand Jurisdiction, or that he is not eligible for any other reason, the conditions shall be entered of record and the petition and fee returned to the petitioner, in which case the status of the petitioner shall be the same as before the petition was presented. Provided, however, that if a petitioner be resident of another Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Council holds fraternal relations, and if said petitioner desires membership within this State, his petition may be processed for presentation in the Council with whom he desires membership, provided that the proper procedure has been followed and a waiver of jurisdiction be procured from the Grand Jurisdiction in which the petitioner resides. This latter provision shall not be required in the case of membership by affiliation.

OBJECTION

Section 21. -*Objection:* An objection by a member of a Council before the conferring of the degree of Royal Master is equivalent to a rejection by ballot and must be so recorded; such objection may be made privately to the Illustrious Master or in open Council, and the reasons therefore cannot be required, and if any member of the Council shall declare the name of the objector or assist in the conferring of any degrees of Cryptic Masonry on any Royal Arch Mason against whom he has knowledge or information that objection after acceptance, he shall be liable to being expelled from the Institution; but if objection is made after a candidate has received the Royal Degree, they must be made known to the Council and their sufficiency determined by a two-thirds vote of the members present when action is taken, provided, however, that if objection is based on moral grounds or on an allegation of charges involving moral turpitude, action shall devolve on the Council to cause an investigation to be made, and if reasonable cause to sustain the objection appears, to make due report of the charges to the Illustrious Grand Master for a hearing and trial before a Trial Commission.

FAILURE OF CANDIDATE TO APPEAR

SECTION 22. -*Failure of Candidate to Appear:* A candidate for the degrees of Cryptic Masonry whose petition has been accepted, who does not present himself to receive the Royal Degree within one year from such acceptance, shall forfeit all right by reason of such acceptance and shall not be entitled to receive the degrees except on a new petition.

REJECTION

SECTION 23-*Rejection:* No petition for the degrees shall be received by any Council from any petitioner who has been rejected by that Council until six months after the date

of such rejection, and no petitioner whose application shall have been rejected in any Council under this Jurisdiction shall be received in any other Council than that to which the petitioner first applied except after five years from such rejection, unless the Council having jurisdiction recommend him to another Council by an unanimous vote taken by secret ballot. The application for such recommendation shall in every case take the course of a petition for the degrees. Any Companion knowingly assisting or recommending for initiation to any Council, whatever, any person who has been rejected by any Council, shall, if a member of a Council under this Jurisdiction, shall be suspended or expelled as may be determined after hearing of charges and on due trial.

HEALING

SECTION 24-*Healing*: Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction are authorized to confer the degrees of Royal Master; Select Master and Super Excellent Master, free of charge, on any worthy Companion from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who has not hereto received them, and who may present himself as a Select Master, and produce evidence of having received that degree, to the end that he may be “healed” and become a regular Royal and Select Master, (and also Super Excellent Master, if necessary) as recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction. The Companion does not thereby become a member of the Council conferring the degrees.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 25-*Council Membership*: Every candidate accepted by any Council in this jurisdiction, upon receiving the Select Degree and signing the by-laws shall thereby become a member of the accepting Council, and the Recorder shall enter his name upon the membership rolls. A Companion receiving the Select Master degree in a subordinate Council in this jurisdiction becomes a member thereof, unless the degrees are conferred by courtesy for a Council in another jurisdiction.

DEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 26-*Dependent Membership*: Membership in a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be based upon affiliation in a duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons and in a duly constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. When either of said affiliations ceases, membership in the Council shall also cease; provided however, this law shall not apply to the transfer of membership from one Lodge to another or transfer from one Chapter to another Chapter, during a period of six months pending such transfer.

Before a Council shall suspend a member for non-affiliation in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, it shall first serve a formal notice upon him by registered or certified mail, directed to his last known address, requiring him within four weeks from the date of said notice to show either of the following:

- (a) That he is now affiliated with a regular Royal Arch Chapter, naming it, or
- (b) That his petition for membership has been presented to and is now under consideration by a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, naming it, and awaiting action.

The failure of a Companion after proper notice to refuse the charge of non-affiliation shall be construed as an admission of its truth, and the Companion shall for such failure thereupon be declared suspended. A member under suspension for non-affiliation with a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, who may thereafter effect affiliation with a regular Chapter, may, upon notifying the Council in writing of this fact and naming the Chapter with which he has become affiliated, be restored to membership in the Council automatically, and the Illustrious Master shall immediately declare such restoration.

DEMISSION FROM MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 27 *Demission from Membership*: Council membership may be terminated under either of the following conditions: (a)- A demit shall be granted to a Companion who wishes to terminate his membership provided that all dues are paid and no charges pending against him. Such a demit shall be an honorable discharge from membership. (b)- A member, first receiving permission from his Council, may apply to another Council for membership, in which case he shall state in his request for permission that he desires to affiliate with _____ Council (naming it), and that if accepted by said Council, he shall request a demit and file it with the accepting Council. The permission granted to affiliate with another Council shall be consummated within three months from the date from the date of permission; otherwise said permission shall be void, and membership remains in his Council. However, if he wishes dual membership with another Council within or without this Grand Jurisdiction, such permission shall not be required, and his membership shall be in both Councils.

NO RIGHTS UNDER DEMIT

SECTION 28-*No Rights Under Demit*: A Companion holding a demit is unaffiliated and not entitled to any rights or privileges of Cryptic Masonry, except for the right to make application for membership in a Council.

JURISDICTION

SECTION 29-*Jurisdiction for Affiliation*: A Select Master holding a demit from a regular Council of Royal and Select Masters may apply to any Council for membership by affiliation, whether or not he resides within the jurisdiction of the Council to which he applies.

JURISDICTION FOR PETITIONING FOR DEGREES

SECTION (30) -*Jurisdiction for Petitioning for Degrees*: A Royal Arch Mason may apply for the Cryptic Degrees to any Council within the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maine, regardless of his Chapter location or distance from his legal residence. A member of any Council within this Grand Jurisdiction, subsequently desiring membership in another Council within this jurisdiction, may do so either via the route of demission or dual membership. Ref. Standing Reg. adopted in 1999.

DUES

SECTION 31- A Council shall have power to assess and collect from its members such amounts as necessary for its successful operation and as established by its by-laws. The dues of any member may be remitted in cases of financial exigency in whole or in part, but no dues shall be remitted in advance. A member in arrears for dues who states in open Council or in writing to the Illustrious Master that he cannot pay them without material injury to his family and such statement be confirmed by the Illustrious Master, his dues shall be remitted.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS

SECTION 32- *Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues:* Any member in arrears for dues may be suspended from membership at a Stated Assembly of the Council by a majority vote of the members present; provided, that he must first have been cited to appear before the Council at a Stated Assembly, the date whereof shall be therein stated, and to then and there show cause why he should not be suspended for the non-payment of his dues to the Council. Such notice to appear shall be not less than thirty days before action is to be taken. Suspensions without notice are void. Suspensions for non-payment of dues shall operate as a suspension of all rights to attend the assemblies of any Council in this Grand Jurisdiction.

RESTORATION OF DELINQUENT MEMBERS

SECTION 33-*Restoration of Delinquent Members:* A Companion suspended from membership for non-payment of dues will be restored to membership in his Council at any time within three years thereafter by the payment or remission of the amount due at the time of his suspension, but after the expiration of the three-year period, he can be restored only upon a petition for restoration and payment of the amount in arrears, which petition shall take the same course as an application for initiation; and if rejected, said applicant shall not again be permitted to petition, again until six months after the rejection.

RETURNS

SECTION 34-On or before the fifteenth day of April each subordinate Council shall SEND to the Grand Treasurer the annual return of the officers, names of candidates admitted to the degrees, those rejected, affiliated or reinstated; also all deceased, demitted, suspended or expelled with dates thereof and mail a duplicate copy to the Grand Recorder. Said return shall be made up to April 1st of each year. Each Council shall pay to the Grand Treasurer one dollar for each member admitted, together with such per capita assessment as the Grand Council may from time to time determine; failure to make such return on time shall forfeit the right of representation in the Grand Council at the annual assembly, until such disability is removed.

FORFEITURE

SECTION 35-The charter of any Council in this jurisdiction may be suspended by the Grand Master or revoked by the Grand Council for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Improper conduct.

- (b) Failure to assemble for the space of twelve months.
- (c) Failure to be represented at the annual assembly of the Grand Council for two meetings in succession.
- (d) Failure to discharge its dues to the Grand Council for two successive years.

But the charter of any Council shall not be revoked or forfeited for any of the above causes until due notice has been served on its Illustrious Master and an opportunity afforded to make answer thereto.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

SECTION (36)-*Honorary Membership*-Councils may confer Honorary Membership upon Select Masters who are members of other Councils, for meritorious service rendered to Cryptic Masonry, but an election to Honorary Membership shall not carry with it any of the privileges of active membership. The Members of a Council shall be notified of the pendency of any motion relative to Honorary Membership, and in such cases it shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative. The Council may recall any such Honorary Membership at its pleasure.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

SECTION (37)-*Life Membership*- Councils may enact by-laws providing for Life Membership, provided, however that the Life Membership plan is approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

All sums collected for Life Memberships shall be invested to produce income, kept in a separate fund, and income only used for Council expenses.

After the demise of a Life Member his original investment fund may then be returned to either the Council's General Fund or the Charity Fund, whichever the Council so votes.

VETERAN MEMBER

SECTION (38)-*Veteran Member*-A Council of Royal and Select Masters in this State MAY vote to declare anyone of its members a Veteran Member, provided, he has been a member in good standing in the Grand Council of Maine for a minimum of 40 years, and has reached the age of 70 years. If he satisfies this provision, and his Council votes to place him on the roll of Veteran Members, his dues are to be remitted, and the Grand Council per capita tax will not be assessed against him or his Council, and will be remitted.

Before the above section can become enacted in subordinate Councils in this jurisdiction, each Council must vote for adoption; then revise their by-laws accordingly; and secure approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master for said change to by-laws.

RITUAL

SECTION (39)-*Standard Ritual*-The ritual and system of floor work established by this Grand Council shall be standard for the regulation of all subordinate Councils under this

Grand Jurisdiction and no alteration shall be made in the work or lectures without permission of the Grand Council. Grand Council shall prescribe the form and manner for conducting private and public ceremonies.

WRITTEN RITUAL

SECTION (40)-*Written Ritual*- Each Council shall maintain a standard copy of the adopted Ritual of the Grand Council of Maine and it shall be kept in the custody of the Recorder of each Council. Other copies shall be available for the use of the Officers and Members and they are authorized to purchase copies for their own use.

REFERENCE MANUAL

SECTION (41)-Each Council shall maintain a copy of the Standard Manual for Cryptic Masonry as adopted by the Grand Council. This Manual shall include, besides the Ritual, the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Council; a copy of the Manual of Ceremonies as adopted by the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International; a copy of the By-Laws of the subject Council; as well as other information that the Grand Council may furnish from time to time. This Manual shall also contain a copy of the Visitation Report forwarded to the Council by the Grand Council Visitation Officer and shall be maintained as a reference.

DISCIPLINE BY THE GRAND COUNCIL

SECTION (42)- The Grand Council shall use for its reference the discipline procedures as set forth by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maine and those of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine in their respective regulations.

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 43-This Constitution shall not be altered or amended unless such alterations or amendments be proposed in writing at an Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, published among the minutes of the proceedings, and at the next Annual Assembly receive the approval of two-thirds of the members present.

REPEAL OF INCONSISTENCIES

SECTION 44-All laws and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution are hereby repealed.

MERGING OF COUNCILS

SECTION 45-Any two or more Councils may merge into one Council in the manner prescribed as follows:

- I. When a proposition to merge a council with another is made therein, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall cause the matter to be laid over to a future meeting and a special notice given to the members of the council that the matter will come before the council at that meeting for action.
- II. If the council votes to merge, with not exceeding six votes in the negative, the measure shall be deemed to be carried.

- III. Concurrent action must be taken in the other council at a meeting notified for the purpose, in the same manner and Adopted by the same vote.
- IV. If said councils vote to merge, the proceedings shall be certified by each council and forwarded to the Most Illustrious Grand Master for examination.
- V. If he finds the proceedings of the councils in accordance with these provisions, the councils may be merged under the name and number, which they may select.
- VI. The Council, accepting the merging of another Council, shall have its charter shall remain in force.
- VII. The Council, merging with another Council, shall have its charter endorsed in that it is no longer in force and delivered to the council accepting the merging, and if desired, it shall be preserved in its archives.
- VIII. The officers of the council closing its doors shall at once deliver and pay over to the officers of the council with whom it has merged all its property, books and finances.

CONSOLIDATION OF COUNCILS

SECTION 46-Any two or more Councils may consolidate into one Council in the manner prescribed as follows:

- I. When a proposition to consolidate a council with another is made therein, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall cause the matter to be laid over to a future meeting, and special notice given to the members of the council that the matter will come before the council at that meeting for action.
- II. If the Council votes to consolidate, with not exceeding six votes in the negative, the measure shall be deemed to be carried.
- III. Concurrent action must be taken in the other council at a meeting notified for the purpose, in the same manner and Adopted by the same vote.
- IV. If said councils vote to consolidate, the proceedings shall be certified by each council and forwarded to the Most Illustrious Grand Master for examination.
- V. If he finds the proceedings of the councils in accordance with these provisions, the councils may be consolidated under the name and number, which they may select.
- VI. The charters of the councils involved in this consolidation shall be endorsed under the attestation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Recorder, under the seal of the Grand Council, as the warrant of the consolidated council; which shall take whichever rank it desires as the date and rank of the new charter.
- VII. The liquidating councils' charters shall be endorsed in like manner in that they are no longer in force and delivered to the consolidation council, and if desired, shall be preserved in its archives.
- VIII. The Most Illustrious Grand Master by himself or such companion as he may specially deputize therefore, shall cause the members of said councils

to be assembled, after due notice of at least 30 days to the Constituent members of each of the councils being consolidated, sent by each of those council's Recorder, in the usual manner of giving notice. This notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and further state that the Most Illustrious Grand Master or his designee shall conduct the election of new officers of and immediately thereafter shall install those newly elected Officers. Immediately thereafter the Most Illustrious Grand Master, or his designee, shall proceed to organize the new council by delivering the charter endorsed as above provided. He shall make due return of his proceedings to the Grand Recorder, to be entered upon the records of the Grand Council and reported at its next annual assembly.

- IX. The officers of each of these old councils shall at once deliver and pay over to the corresponding officers of the consolidated council all the property, books and moneys of each of said councils, to be the property of the new council.

STANDING REGULATIONS

1999. Adopted as proposed in 1998, that the territorial jurisdictions of Councils be concurrent, encompassing the entire Jurisdiction of the Grand Council, so that a Royal Arch Mason may apply for the degrees of Cryptic Masonry to any Council within the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Maine, regardless of his Chapter location or distance from his legal residence. A member of any Council within this Grand Jurisdiction, subsequently desiring membership in another Council within the jurisdiction, may do so either via the route of demission or dual membership. (Replaces 1872)

1977. Resolved that beginning with the Annual Assembly of 1977, the Grand Council pay from the funds of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maine (1) to each duly elected and installed Grand Officer, (2) to each Past M.I. Grand Master and (3) to each eligible senior officer of each constituent Council present at all sessions of the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, a sum per mile for distance traveled within the State (from the site of their Council, or place of residence, whichever is nearer) as recommended by the Finance Committee each year and voted by Grand Council. (Replaces 1942 Standing Reg.)

1965. Dual Membership. A Companion holding membership in a Constituent Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maine may hold dual membership in a Council in another State provided that the Grand Council of Maine does not prohibit it, and he can become a

member of more than one Council within the Grand Council of Maine. (As revised in 1999.)

1971. That a per capita tax of one dollar be laid upon every member in good standing on the roster of the several Councils subordinate to this Grand Council, payable to the Grand Treasurer on or before April 15th of each year.

1979. That whenever the Constitution of the Grand Council of Maine does not cover a particular situation, the Constitution of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Maine, A.F. & A.M., shall prevail.

1986. Councils may enact By-Laws for Life Membership for Members to be determined by the Council on approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, provided that funds collected shall be put into a separate account and only the income thereof shall be used. However, upon the death of said member, the balance of his account may be transferred to the general fund by a majority vote of the members present at any stated assembly.

1987. In order that the historical records of this Grand Council may be properly preserved for future reference and possible eventual publication, that a Grand Historian should be appointed each year by the Grand Master, charged with the responsibility of continually up-dating the historical record of this Grand Council. This office would be a special appointment, and not considered as a "line office". The honorary title of Grand Historian should be the same as that which he has received in service to his Council as to the Grand Council. (Note: As of 1987, Fred Atwood, now deceased, had been serving a second year as Grand Historian.)

1994. That no person shall be admitted at the opening of a Council of Select Masters unless he shall be a member in good standing of that degree.

1994. That the cost of providing a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master's Jewel is extremely expensive and is a great burden upon the finances of this Grand Council, be it resolved that from the date of adoption of this article, all Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters' Jewels shall be the property of the Grand Council and must be returned to the Grand Council on the death of the recipient.

1996. Resolved that Charles S. Brown was conferred with the title of Honorary Most Illustrious Past Grand Master for his many years of service as Grand Recorder.