

PART TWO BYLAWS  
Of the  
GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL of CRYPTIC MASONS, INTERNATIONAL  
(Revised August 29, 2011, Amended September 29, 2014, Amended August 14, 2021)

**PROPOSED**

**REVISION OF PART TWO BYLAWS OF THE GENERAL GRAND  
COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS, INTERNATIONAL**

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, received a General Review,

WHEREAS, The Constitution requires that Bylaws be adopted,

WHEREAS, The Bylaws have been reviewed for corrections and updating,

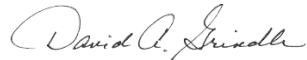
WHEREAS, There is a need for revisions of governance of various jurisdictions,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the General Grand Council in its 2023 Triennial Assembly rescind the present PART TWO BYLAWS to be replaced with the attached:

PART TWO BYLAWS  
Of the  
GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL of CRYPTIC MASONS, INTERNATIONAL  
[REVISED 2023]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once adopted, the Committee on Cryptic Jurisprudence has the authority to edit and make corrections of spelling, punctuation, and grammar as required.

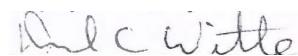
SUBMITTED BY:



DAVID A. GRINDLE, PGGM  
Past Illustrious Grand Master of Idaho



WILLIAM G. SNYDER, DGGM  
Past Illustrious Grand Master of Missouri



DAVID C. WITTE, PAST GGC AMBASSADOR  
Past Illustrious Grand Master of Missouri

# **PART TWO - BYLAWS**

(Revised August 14, 2023)

## **ARTICLE I – TITLES, STATIONS, AND PLACES**

### **SECTION 101 TITLES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL**

The Titles of the General Grand Council officers shall be:

Most Puissant General Grand Master  
Right Puissant Deputy General Grand Master  
Right Puissant General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work  
Right Puissant General Grand Treasurer  
Right Puissant General Grand Recorder  
Right Puissant Regional Deputy General Grand Masters  
Right Puissant General Grand Chaplain  
Very Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard  
Very Puissant General Grand Conductor of the Council  
Very Puissant General Grand Marshal  
Very Puissant General Grand Steward  
Very Puissant General Grand Sentinel  
Puissant General Grand Ambassador (May add “Very” if a Past Grand Master)

Any Special Representatives and/or Triennium Officers appointed by the General Grand Master shall carry the honorific of “Puissant”. Any Companion appointed who is a Past Grand Master or equivalent from a recognized Grand Council shall receive the honorific of “Very Puissant”

All honorifics assigned prior to the adoption of these Bylaws are “Grandfathered”.

### **SECTION 102 TITLES OF PAST GENERAL GRAND OFFICERS**

- A. Past Elective General Grand Officers shall retain the title of the highest office to which they have attained in the General Grand Council with the word “PAST” as a prefix. For example: Most Puissant Past Grand Master, or when a name is used, “Most Puissant Companion John Doe, Past General Grand Master”.
- B. The retiring General Grand Master shall retain the title of “Immediate Past General Grand Master” until the subsequent Triennium.
- C. Past Appointed Officers shall retain the honorific of the highest office held.

### **SECTION 103 STATIONS AND PLACES OF OFFICERS OF GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL**

Officers of the General Grand Council shall occupy the customary Cryptic Masonry ritualistic stations and places to which they are elected or appointed.

## **ARTICLE II – THE TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY**

### **SECTION 201 OPENING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THE TRIENNIAL**

After having been called to order, and it has been determined that a quorum is present, the order of business at the Triennial Assembly should be as follows, subject to the discretion of the General Grand Master:

- A. The ceremonies of opening the General Grand Assembly
- B. Roll call of the General Grand Council Officers
- C. Report of the Committee on Credentials
- D. Approving the Minutes of the previous General Grand Triennial Assembly

- E. Reception of Distinguished Guests
- F. Reception of Past General Grand Masters
- G. Roll call of current Regional Deputies
- H. Roll call of current General Grand Ambassadors
- I. Address of the General Grand Master
- J. Report of the Committee on the General Grand Masters Address.
- K. Report of the General Grand Treasurer
- L. Report of the General Grand Recorder
- M. Reports of the Trustees, other General Grand Officers, and Committees
- N. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence
- O. Election of General Grand Council Officers
- P. Unfinished Business
- Q. Closing of General Grand Council

## **SECTION 202      RULES OF ORDER IN THE GENERAL GRAND TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY**

The Rules of Order shall be as follows.

- A. At the first stroke of the Presiding Officer's Gavel, there shall be order, and any breach of order thereafter shall subject offenders to reprimand. Any member having been called to order twice at one session for transgressing these rules, and guilty of a third offense, may be peremptorily ordered to leave.
- B. Every member desiring to speak shall rise and address himself to the Presiding Officer. No member shall speak until he is recognized by the Presiding Officer. No member shall interrupt the speaker unless to call to order; but after the speaker has been set right, he may proceed by observing due order and decorum.
- C. In debate, a member may not speak more than once on the same question without permission from the Presiding Officer. Time limits and quantity of speakers for, or against, shall be determined by the Presiding Officer prior to the debate.
- D. A motion shall not be debatable until seconded, and stated by the Presiding Officer, after which it shall be in the possession of the General Grand Council. Motions cannot be withdrawn except by the mover with the consent of the person seconding previous to any decision and amendment. The question, after being put by the Presiding Officer, cannot be further debated.
- E. No appeals shall be allowed to the General Grand Council from the decision of the Presiding Officer under these Rules of Order. The motion to "Lay on the Table" shall not be permitted.
- F. The yeas and nays shall be ordered upon demand of nine (9) members of the General Grand Council. In taking the yeas and nays, the Affiliated and Constituent Grand Councils shall be called first, followed by the Subordinate Councils, and then General Grand Officers and other members called next in alphabetical order.
- G. A majority vote shall determine all questions except for:
  - 1. Amendments to Constitution which shall require a three-quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority vote for adoption, or
  - 2. Amendments to the By-Laws which shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote for adoption, or
  - 3. As may otherwise be specifically provided.
- H. On all other questions of procedure, "Masonic Robert's Rules of Order (Latest Version)", shall govern. The subsidiary motion, 'Previous Question,' shall not be permitted.

## **SECTION 203 ELECTION PROCEDURES**

- A. Candidates for an office may file a letter of intent with the Trustees at least six (6) months prior to the Triennial Assembly. The Candidate's biographical information will be posted on the General Grand Council Website and on the Triennial Website, if one exists. Candidates who have filed shall be provided with General Grand Council contact information as appropriate.**
- B. The Presiding Officer will hold Elections before the noon recess, in the normal order of highest office to the lowest, and no ballot shall remain open during a recess.**
- C. Nominations will be made during the election procedure. Nominators will speak for no more than five (5) minutes. Seconders will speak for no more than 3 minutes.**
- D. There will be a call for any further nominations. Nominations may be made from the floor following the rules in C. above.**
- E. Elections may be held using electronic devices to count the votes.**

## **SECTION 204 PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL**

### **A. Reports**

- 1. All reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees shall be submitted electronically and duly signed electronically.
- 2. Committee Reports shall be signed by a majority of the committee. If there is a dissenting minority, they may present a report in like manner.

### **B. Contents**

Following the Triennial Assembly, the Proceedings of the General Grand Council, shall be issued in printed, and/or media form and shall contain, but not limited to:

- 1. The proceedings of the Triennial, and all Special and Occasional Assemblies, during the Triennial years
- 2. The names of all General Grand Officers
- 3. **Photos of the outgoing and incoming General Grand Masters**
- 4. The names of Past Elective General Grand Officers
- 5. The names of committee members under their respective committee
- 6. The report of the Committee on Credentials in detail
- 7. The names of the Grand Councils and Subordinate Councils present
- 8. The names of Grand Council and Subordinate Councils in arrears
- 9. The General Grand Masters Address, reports of General Grand Treasurer, the General Grand Recorder, and the Trustees of the General Grand Council
- 10. Such additional information as the Trustees of the General Grand Council shall direct

### **C. Distribution of Proceedings**

The General Grand Recorder shall forward the printed and/or media copies not later than nine (9) months following the Assembly:

- 1. One copy to each constituent Grand Council
- 2. One copy to each elective and past-elective officer of the General Grand Council
- 3. One copy to each of the appointive General Grand Officers, Regional Deputies, and Ambassadors of the General Grand Council
- 4. One copy to unaffiliated Grand Councils
- 5. One copy to each subordinate Council

No more than one copy shall be sent to the same recipient who may request a specific format in advance.

**D. Penalty**

**If the Proceedings are not distributed by the time allotted, the General Grand Recorder or his assigned staff will have any payments or reimbursement of expenses withheld pending compliance with B. above. The Board of Trustees may include suspension or removal from office.**

## **ARTICLE III – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 301 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND MASTER**

The duty of the General Grand Master is:

- A. To convene and preside at all General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International, Triennial, Special, and Occasional Assemblies
- B. To decide all questions of Usage, Order, and Cryptic Law
- C. To exercise the "Executive" functions of the General Grand Council, in accordance with the orders, directions, resolutions, and transactions of its membership at its Triennial or Special Assemblies
- D. To present a written address at the Triennial Assembly setting forth his official acts, the general condition of Cryptic Masonry internationally, and make such recommendations as he may deem necessary
- E. To exercise such other powers and authority, in the interim between Triennials, as may be set forth or be implied in the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Grand Council
- F. To supervise the administrative obligations of the elected and appointed General Grand Council Officers for the term which they have been selected
- G. To serve as Chairman of, and preside over, all meetings of the Trustees
- H. To appoint non-elected General Grand Officers, Deputies, Ambassadors, Standing Committees, and other officials as he shall deem necessary or desirable to carry on the work of the General Grand Council, and to fill vacancies
- I. To appoint any additional committees that in his discretion are required to foster the advancement of the General Grand Council
- J. To nominate a Companion for the Medal of Honor and to select three (3) Columbian Medal Awards at-large per Triennial with the approval of the elected General Grand Officers
- K. To reprimand, suspend, and replace any appointed Officer, Regional Deputy, Ambassador, or Committee Member for cause
- L. To appoint an Assistant General Grand Treasurer, due to the absence, incapacitation, resignation, death or failure in performance of General Grand Treasurer's office, as determined by a majority of the Trustees. The Assistant General Grand Treasurer shall have authority to perform all the duties of the General Grand Treasurer and receive all emoluments due the office until a successor is elected and installed
- M. To appoint an Assistant General Grand Recorder, due to the absence, incapacitation, resignation, death or failure in performance of General Grand

Recorder's office, as determined by a majority of the Trustees. The Assistant General Grand Recorder shall have authority to perform all the duties of the General Grand Recorder and receive all enumeration due the office until a successor is elected and installed

- N. To execute all official documents pertaining to the business of the General Grand Council
- O. To divide the General Grand Council into such number of Regions as he may deem advisable and to increase, decrease, realign such as in his and the Trustees opinion, will best serve the interests of the General Grand Council membership
- P. To perform such other duties as may be required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Grand Council and the Customs and Usages of Cryptic Masonry

### **SECTION 302 DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL GRAND MASTER**

The duty of the Deputy General Grand Master is:

- A. To preside at all General Grand Assemblies in the absence, unavailability, or incapacity of the General Grand Master
- B. To serve as a member and Vice Chairman of the Trustees of the General Grand Council, and in the absence of the General Grand Master, to preside
- C. To present the Triennial Budget with the assistance of the Finance and Accounts Committee, General Grand Treasurer & General Grand Recorder
- D. As the General Grand Master-elect, to prepare for his term as General Grand Master
- E. To perform such other duties as assigned or may be required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Grand Council and the Customs and Usages of Cryptic Masonry

### **SECTION 303 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK**

The duty of the General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work is:

- A. To assume the duties of the General Grand Master and/or the Deputy Grand Master in their absence, and assume the power and authority of their office as prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws
- B. To serve as a member of the Trustees, and to preside at all General Grand Assemblies in the absence, unavailability, or incapacity of the General Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master
- C. To review the corporate and financial position of the General Grand Council for clarification and amending, and to advise and make recommendations to the Trustees of this General Grand Council for review
- D. To prepare and present at the Triennial Assembly a written summary of the transactions of the Trustees during the Triennium
- E. To perform such other duties as assigned or may be required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Grand Council and the Customs and Usages of Cryptic Masonry

### **SECTION 304 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND TREASURER**

The duty of the General Grand Treasurer is:

- A. To file a bond in the sum as the Trustees of the General Grand Council may direct, with the General Grand Trustees at the commencement of his term of office, upon condition, that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office, and will deliver to his successor in office, or on demand of the Trustees of the General Grand Council, all funds, securities, jewels, vouchers, bonds, papers and other property, of the General Grand Council in his possession. Said bond is to be furnished by a surety company qualified to do business in the State of the General Grand Treasurer's residence, and approved by the Trustees of the General Grand Council; the cost thereof is to be paid out of the funds of the General Grand Council
- B. To insure the keeping of a suitable and permanent financial accounting of the General Grand Council, and the careful segregation and recording therein of all moneys received in the name of the General Grand Council
- C. To issue checks in payment of obligations of the General Grand Council, when authorized by the General Grand Council, or the Board of Trustees of the General Grand Council
- D. To prepare and deliver a quarterly financial statement of the various funds of the General Grand Council in such form and substance as may be required by the Board of Trustees to the Board of Trustees and the Finance and Accounts Committee
- E. To submit all records and documents of whatever nature of his office relates to the business transactions of the General Grand Council for the Triennial to the auditor, appointed by the Board of Trustees for examination
- F. To report the current status of the budget, all finances and funds held by the General Grand Council to the Board of Trustees at all Board meetings
- G. To immediately transmit all accounts and documents in his possession to his successor in office
- H. To perform such other duties as assigned by the Board of Trustees or may be required by the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Grand Council

### **SECTION 305 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND RECORDER**

The duty of the General Grand Recorder is:

- A. To file a bond in the sum as the Trustees of the General Grand Council may direct, with the General Grand Trustees at the commencement of his term of office, upon condition that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office, and will deliver to his successor in office, on demand of the Trustees of the General Grand Council, all funds, securities, jewels, vouchers, bonds, papers and other property of the General Grand Council in his possession. Said bond is to be furnished by a surety company qualified to do business in the General Grand Recorders State of residence and approved by the Trustees of the General Grand Council. The cost thereof is to be paid out of the funds of the General Grand Council
- B. To keep and maintain an office as directed by the Trustees of the General Grand Council at a location approved by the Trustees
- C. To attend all Assemblies of the General Grand Council and record the proceedings thereof. To attend the meetings of the General Grand Trustees and record their proceedings. The record of these proceedings shall be made available for inspection by any member of the General Grand Council at the General Grand Recorder's Office. The proceedings should also be included and printed in the proceedings of the Triennial.

- D. To preserve among the archives of the General Grand Council, a transcript of such records, and all original documents pertaining to the Triennial, Special, or Occasional Assemblies of the General Grand Council
- E. To prepare the Proceeding of the General Grand Triennial, Special, and Occasional Assemblies for publication within nine months of the proceeding Triennial, and further to have available said Proceeding in a format approved by the Trustees of the General Grand Council for distribution. To edit the proceedings and provide same for review by the Immediate Past General Grand Master and the Trustees prior to distribution
- F. To prepare, attest and duly seal all Dispensations, Charters, Certificates, Commissions and other instruments of writing emanating from the General Grand Council, General Grand Master, or Trustees of the General Grand Council keeping a record thereof
- G. To insure the keeping of a suitable and permanent financial account of the General Grand Council, Grand Councils, and Subordinate Councils and the careful accounting and recording therein of all money received by him
- H. To maintain an adequate supply of Cryptic Rituals, Codes, Forms, and other publications for the use by General Grand Council, Constituent Grand Councils, and Subordinate Councils. These shall be for sale at a price set by the General Grand Recorder and reviewed by the Trustees. With approval of the General Grand Trustees, items may be sold and distributed by electronic media
- I. To examine the Returns of the Grand Councils, and Subordinate Councils as for correctness of their Per Capita and fees, to adjust any differences he may find and report his findings to the General Grand Council
- J. To procure a General Grand Master's Apron, Case, and Jewel for the General Grand Master for his use while in office, and retained when he retires
- K. To have custody of the Seal and jewels of the General Grand Council
- L. To prepare and present a full and accurate report of the performance of his duties for each of the preceding fiscal three years
- M. To chair the Committee on Credentials and Registration
- N. To perform such other duties as assigned by the Board of Trustees or may be required by the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Grand Council

**SECTION 306 DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL GRAND MASTERS.**

The duty of a Regional Deputy General Grand Master is:

- A. To visit each Grand Council Assembly in their respective Region
- B. To report to the General Grand Master the status of each Grand Council within the Region
- C. To represent the General Grand Master at activities of the Grand Councils, and Subordinate Councils when called on by the General Grand Master
- D. To prepare and present at the Triennial Assembly a summary of the activities within the Region assigned



- E. To conduct an annual regional meeting which may be in concert with the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America
- F. To perform such other duties as assigned by the General Grand Master, or maybe required by the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Grand Council

**SECTION 307 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND APPOINTED OFFICERS**

The duty of an Appointed Officer is:

- A. To perform such duties as assigned by the General Grand Master, or that may be required by the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Grand Council and the Customs and Usages of Cryptic Masonry
- B. It shall also be the duty of the General Grand Chaplain to attend the General Grand Triennial Assembly and other communications, and there offer up prayers, suitable to the occasion, as established by the Customs and Usages of Cryptic Masonry. The General Grand Chaplain shall provide for memorial recognitions for our departed Past General Grand Officers, and constituent Companions.

**SECTION 308 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND AMBASSADORS**

The duty of a General Grand Ambassador is:

- A. To act as a Special Representative of the General Grand Council in their respective State, Region, Province, Territory, or Country, for which they have been appointed
- B. To aid visiting General Grand Officers in the Grand Jurisdiction
- C. To aid the Regional Deputy during Regional Conferences, and at the Triennial Assembly
- D. To participate and promote General Grand Council in all its endeavors
- E. To perform such other duties as assigned by the General Grand Master and Regional Deputies

**SECTION 309 DUTIES OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST GENERAL GRAND MASTER**

The duty of the Immediate Past General Grand Master is:

- A. To serve as an advisory member of the General Grand Council Trustees.
- B. As defined by the Bylaws of the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, to serve as a member of the Board.

**SECTION 309 DUTIES OF THE PAST GENERAL GRAND MASTERS**

The duty of the Past General Grand Masters' is:

- A. To serve as advisory members of the General Grand Council Trustees, when called upon by the Trustees
- B. As defined by the Bylaws of the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, to serve as members of the Board.

**SECTION 311 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL GRAND TRUSTEES**

The Power and Duties of the General Grand Trustees are:

- A. To attend Trustees meetings twice a year, at such time and place as determined by the General Grand Master. They may hold special meetings at the order of the General Grand Master or upon written call of two (2) Trustees. Each Trustee shall have no

less than two (2) weeks notice of time and place of each meeting

- B. The General Grand Master shall preside as Chairman, and in his absence, the Deputy General Grand Master shall preside
- C. To designate one or more banks as depositories of investments and other valuable papers belonging to the General Grand Council. Access thereto shall be invested by the General Grand Council Treasurer and Recorder and be authorized by the Trustees of the General Grand Council
- D. To receive all real, personal, and mixed property in the name of the "General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International"
- E. To establish an investments policy for the funds or trust funds of the General Grand Council
- F. To review all bills and claims against the General Grand Council
- G. To make a report at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council setting forth in detail all their acts in the management and control of the General Grand Council funds during the Triennium, and may make recommendations relating to the property and financial interests of the General Grand Council as they may deem necessary and advantageous
- H. To examine and approve all new or abbreviated forms required for use by Constituent Grand Councils and Subordinate Councils
- I. To employ a Certified Public Account (CPA), or Accountants, who shall examine and report upon income, expenditures, and all other matters relating to the financial affairs of the General Grand Council. The report of the CPA or Accountants shall be filed with the General Grand Recorder. If the examination was an audit, a certificate will be filed with the General Grand Recorder, and said certificate shall be included in the proceedings of the General Grand Council Triennial Assembly
- J. To procure a security bond for the General Grand Council Recorder and General Grand Treasurer, and appointed Assistants who have custody of funds or property of the General Grand Council
- K. To procure blanket Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance for the protection of the General Grand Council in such sum and under such conditions as they may determine
- L. To function as the Human Resources/Personnel Committee to oversee, to set and provide compensation for persons employed to perform services in connection with the business of the General Grand Council
- M. **To appoint an Assistant General Grand Treasurer, who shall serve and be assigned such duties as ordered by the Board of Trustees or the General Grand Treasurer approved by the Trustees. The Assistant General Grand Treasurer may be appointed as the Acting General Grand Treasurer in the event of the absence, incapacitation, resignation, death, or failure in the performance of the General Grand Treasurer's office, as determined by a majority of the Trustees. The Acting General Grand Treasurer shall have authority to perform all the duties of the General Grand Treasurer and receive all remuneration due that office until a successor is elected and installed.**

- N. **To appoint an Assistant General Grand Recorder, who shall serve and be assigned such duties as ordered by the Board of Trustees or the General Grand Recorder approved by the Trustees. The Assistant General Grand Recorder may be appointed as the Acting General Grand Recorder in the event of the absence, incapacitation, resignation, death, or failure in the performance of the General Grand Recorder's office, as determined by a majority of the Trustees. The Acting General Grand Recorder shall have authority to perform all the duties of the General Grand Recorder and receive all remuneration due that office until a successor is elected and installed.**
- O. To approve all manuscripts for publication prior to printing
- P. May establish a Records Retention Policy
- Q. **May establish additional entities it deems necessary for the betterment and furtherance of the Cryptic Craft, including but not limited to, the formation of associations of Grand Recorders, Grand Treasurers, or Thrice Illustrious Masters Associations. Such associations may be formed independently or in cooperation with the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International or the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America as well as any recognized Grand Lodge.**
- R. In the case of a vacancy on the Trustees, the surviving Trustees shall appoint a Past General Grand Master to fill the vacancy until the next Triennial
- S. The Trustees shall establish a policy and procedure for the reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred in performing duties on behalf of Cryptic Masons, International within the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States, subject limitations of the approved budget
- T. The Trustees shall establish Triennial Not-for-Profit and For-Profit Corporations on an as-needed basis.

### **SECTION 312 VACANCIES**

- A. Should the office of General Grand Master be vacated by death, permanent disability, or other causes, the Deputy General Grand Master and the General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, shall in the order named, be installed and succeed to the office vacated, along with its title and prerogatives. As to the office of the General Grand Master, the question of permanent disability or other causes as herein used shall be determined by the Committee on Cryptic Jurisprudence. Upon issuance of a resolution confirming that Committee's determination by the Deputy General Grand Master and General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work acting as the Board of Trustees, the office of General Grand Master shall be deemed vacant, and the Deputy General Grand Master shall succeed to the office of General Grand Master for the remainder of the Triennial term.
- B. Should succession occur due to a vacancy in the office of General Grand Master or Deputy General Grand Master, the remaining vacant office may be filled by:
  - 1. Appointment of a Past General Grand Master as the interim General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work as selected by the concurrence of the Board of Trustees until such time as a Special Assembly of the General Grand Council is held, nominations received, and election held to fill the vacancy. The Past General Grand Master so appointed shall not be eligible to continue in that office or advance by election at the next regular Triennial Assembly.

2. If all of the Past General Grand Masters decline the appointment, or if the General Grand Master and the Deputy General Grand Master jointly decide not to appoint a Past General Grand Master to the vacancy, the General Grand Recorder shall issue the Board of Trustees' call for a Special General Grand Assembly for the primary purpose of an election to fill the vacancy, with three months' notice to the voting membership. The qualified member elected shall be installed in due form and assume the title and prerogatives of the office of General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for the balance of the Triennial term of office.
  3. As an alternative to the appointment of a Past General Grand Master as an interim General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, or a call for a Special General Grand Council Assembly, the General Grand Master and the remaining elected advancing line officer, acting as the Board of Trustees, may submit a panel of three eligible and qualified members for special election to the position that is conducted by an electronic ballot of the voting membership. The individual elected by such electronic ballot upon a majority of the ballots cast in due form will be installed in due form, and assume the title and prerogatives of the office of General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for the balance of the Triennial term of office. The General Grand Recorder shall give ninety days' notice of the special election to the Grand Recorders of the member Grand Councils, Recorders of the constituent councils under direct supervision of the General Grand Council and the voting membership.
- C. The General Grand Master, Deputy General Grand Master, or the General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work may submit a written resignation for reasons of health, disability, or inability to perform the duties of their position which may be accepted by the Board of Trustees. The General Grand Recorder shall notify the member Grand Councils and any constituent councils under direct supervision of the General Grand Council of any such resignation.
- D. Resignations of other Elective and Appointive General Grand Officers and members of any committee may be accepted by the General Grand Master and replacements named by the General Grand Master with notice to the Board of Trustees.

## **ARTICLE IV – OF DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 401 DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS**

The duty of the Committee on Finance and Accounts is:

- A. To manage the day-to-day investments of the General Grand Council with such criteria as determined by the Board of Trustees
- B. To retain or change the services of brokers, financial consultants, or professional managers with the approval of the Board of Trustees
- C. To assist the Board of Trustees with the General Grand Council Triennial finance report
- D. To make recommendations to the Board of Trustees as to the finances of the General Grand Council

### **SECTION 402 DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON CRYPTIC JURISPRUDENCE**

The duty of the Committee on Cryptic Jurisprudence is:

- A. To consider and report on all questions of Cryptic Masonic Law referred to it by the General Grand Council Elected Officers, or any Committee of the General Grand Council through the Board of Trustees, including decisions of the General Grand

Master during the Triennium

- B. To consider and report on all proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws
- C. To monitor and correct the contents of the Constitution and By-Laws for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and miss-wording in conjunction with the General Grand Recorder

**SECTION 403 DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION**

The duty of the Committee on Credentials and Registration is:

- A. To receive and examine the credentials of members and delegates to the General Grand Council and to report thereon to the Assembly as soon as practical after the opening of the Triennial Assembly, the numerating of delegates present and entitled to vote and to participate in the proceedings thereof
- B. The Chairman of the Committee shall be the General Grand Recorder
- C. The Committee shall consist of five (5) or more members

**SECTION 404 DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL EXAMINATION**

The duty of the Committee on Financial Examination is:

- A. To conduct annual Review of the Administrative and Financial records of the General Grand Council
- B. To report the findings to the Board of Trustees and the cumulative results to each Triennial Assembly

**SECTION 405 DUTIES OF THE LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The duty of the Legal Advisory Committee is to advise the Board of Trustees on matters that are not Masonic but Local, State, or Federal in nature and to advise when to hire local Legal Assistance.

**ARTICLE V – OF FUNDS AND FINANCIAL**

**SECTION 501 FUNDS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL**

The Funds of the General Grand Council shall be:

- A. GENERAL FUND – The General Fund shall be maintained for the operation and maintenance of the General Grand Council under the supervision of the Board of Trustees. This Fund shall receive all moneys thereafter paid to the General Grand Council, except those specifically designated for other funds.
- B. GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL PROGRAM FUND– The Program Fund is established as a permanent endowment fund to assist the General Grand Council in meeting its operational expenses in perpetuity and shall also be maintained for the initialization and perpetuation of all benefit and self-funded programs of the General Grand Council.
  - 1. The Members of the Program Board shall consist of the five (5) elected officers of the General Grand Council plus up to four (4) appointed advisory members, three (3) of whom may be Past Illustrious Grand Masters.
  - 2. The Program Board shall hold Board meetings twice a year at such time and place as determined by the Program Board.
  - 3. The Program Board shall ensure that the Program funds designated for the principal corpus are invested in accordance with established policy and establish and

maintain procedures to ensure that the proper investment and use of the Program Funds are followed.

4. Promotional proceeds identified as such shall be placed in the Program Fund and are to remain there as part of the permanent fund unless designated by the Program Board for use in furtherance of promotional activities and events.
5. The General Grand Treasurer will invest the Program funds in accordance with the approved Investment Policy with the approval of the Program Board.
6. The General Grand Treasurer shall file an annual report of finances and the actions of the Program Board as a part of the General Grand Treasurers Triennial report.

**C. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND** – The Life Membership Fund shall receive all funds designated as Life Membership for investment. Income from this Fund shall be used to offset the per capita of affiliated Grand Councils and Subordinate Councils on a basis set by the Board of Trustees.

## **SECTION 502 FEES, DUES, ASSESSMENTS, etc.**

All Fees, Per Capita, Dues, Assessments, etc. shall be calculated and paid in U.S. Currency.

### **A. Dispensation to Form–**

1. Councils – The sum of fifty dollars US (\$75.00) for each Dispensation to create a Subordinate Council
2. Grand Councils -The sum of one hundred dollars US (\$100.00) for each Dispensation to create a Grand Council
3. Provincial General Grand Council – The sum of one hundred fifty dollars US (\$150.00) for each Dispensation to create a Provincial General Grand Council

### **B. Charter –**

1. Councils - A Fee of one hundred dollars US (\$100.00) for issuance of an original Charter to a Subordinate Council
2. Grand Councils - A Fee of one hundred fifty dollars US (\$150.00) for issuance of an original Charter to Constituent Grand Council
3. Provincial General Grand Council – A fee of two hundred dollars US (\$200.00) for issuance of an original Charter to a Provincial General Grand Council
4. Duplicate Charters – A fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to reissue a Charter lost, destroyed or unusable

### **C. Per Capita and Fees–**

1. **For each Cryptic Mason or Royal and Select Master in good standing on their rolls as of the usual lawful date of their Annual Grand Assembly of on the last day of the fiscal year, excepting those holding General Grand Council Life Memberships as defined in subsection D (below), the annual per capita dues assessed each Affiliated or Constituent Grand Council of the General Grand Council shall be as follows:**
  - a. **A minimum of two dollars and fifty cents US (\$2.50), OR**
  - b. **A minimum of five dollars US (\$5.00) for Grand Councils Chartered after the 48<sup>th</sup> Triennial Assembly where the membership is not 100% General Grand Council Life Members.**

- c. **Fifty Year Members of an Affiliated or Constituent Grand Council shall be exempt from per capita.**

**These per capita fees may be altered by resolutions at any Triennial Assembly by a 2/3 affirmative vote. Said resolution may include a cost-of-living adjustment and/or funds to support special projects, e.g., support of DeMolay International, George Washington National Masonic Memorial, etc.**

2. Subordinate Council per capita - Each subordinate Council shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Council 10 dollars US (\$10.00) for each companion greeted therein, and five dollars US (\$5.00) annually for each member, until such time as a Grand Council shall be regularly established in that State, District, Territory, or Country in which such Council is located, excepting those holding General Grand Council Life Memberships as defined in subsection D (below).
3. Subordinate Council Degree Fees – Subordinate Councils under the immediate jurisdiction of this General Grand Council shall require the payment of fees of not less than twenty-five dollars US (\$25.00) each for the Degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, and the Super Excellent Master. These fees are the property of the Subordinate Council.
4. **Provincial General Grand Council Fees – At the formation of a Provincial General Grand Council, the Grand Councils will pay \$100.00 (US), the fee for a Life Membership, on each Companion on the Prior Year's Annual Return that is not already a Life Member of General Grand Council. At the Greeting of new Select Masters, the Grand Councils will pay to the General Grand Council \$50.00 (US) per Companion to endow them.**

D. General Grand Council Life Memberships

1. Any Cryptic Mason/Royal and Select Master, in good standing of an Affiliated or a Constituent Grand Council or Subordinate Council, may become exempt from paying General Grand Council per capita by purchasing a non-voting Life Membership in the General Grand Council for each Council to which he belongs.
2. Life Membership Fee - A Companion may submit an application for GGC Life Membership to the General Grand Recorder, or to his Grand Recorder, who in turn will forward the application to the General Grand Recorder.

The current fee of 25 times the per capita (\$62.50 USD) remains in effect until January 1, 2025.

**On January 1, 2025, the cost of a General Grand Council Life Membership shall be:**

- a. **\$100.00 US for Companions with less than forty (40) years of membership**
- b. **\$75.00 US for Companions with forty (40) years of membership but less than fifty (50).**
- c. **\$60.00 US for Companions with fifty (50) or more years of membership.**
- d. *Additions to Life Memberships:* Voluntary additions of funds to this Life Membership may be added at any time.
- e. *Dispatch of Funds:* All funds received by the General Grand Recorder shall be deposited in the Life Membership Fund.

- f. *Funds Ownership*: All funds deposited with the General Grand Council are the property of the General Grand Council and will be used to offset the Per Capita of the Affiliated or Constituent Grand Councils or Subordinate Councils.
  - g. *Not Refundable*: The total purchase amount of this Life Membership, or the revenue derived from its investment, is non-refundable to the purchaser.
3. The General Grand Recorder shall keep a permanent record of Cryptic Masons/ Royal and Select Masters with General Grand Council Life Memberships.
4. The General Grand Council will design and provide each life member with a one-time special membership certificate (receipt) designating his status with the General Grand Council.
5. The purchase of a GGC Life Membership will take effect after the annual per capita is paid in full.
6. Each Affiliated/Constituent Grand Council/Subordinate Council may or may not adopt this Life Membership proposal.
7. If a General Grand Council Life Member transfers to another Council within his Grand Council, he may take his Life Membership with him, and the Grand Recorder will inform the General Grand Recorder of his change in status.
8. If a General Grand Council Life Member is a Plural Member in his Jurisdiction, or Dual Member in another Grand Council Jurisdiction, his Life Membership is only effective in each Council where he was a member when it was purchased. He may purchase General Grand Council Life Memberships in all Councils where he is a member. However, Grand Councils to which he belongs will pay the per capita to the General Grand Recorder for each council where he doesn't hold a Life Membership.
9. Holders of a General Grand Council Life Membership certificate are subject to all the laws, rules and regulations as provided in the code of any Grand Council and loss of membership by suspension or expulsion shall automatically abrogate his life membership and any claim to any portion of any such fees paid for such life membership.
10. Any Council or individual may purchase a Permanent Memorial Life membership in the name of a deceased Companion for the fee as described in 2.c. above provided the Companion, in whose name the certificate is to be issued, was in good standing in a legally constituted Council at the time of his demise. A special membership certificate designating the Memorial Life membership for the deceased and the purchaser may be sent to the purchaser or the family of the deceased at the request of the purchaser.
11. In the event of the dissolution of the General Grand Council, all funds in the Life Membership Fund and the Permanent Memorial Fund will be returned to the various Constituent Grand Councils, Subordinate Councils, or individuals of unaffiliated Grand Councils according to their contributions or to a Masonically-affiliated 501(c)3 or similar charity under the terms of the resolution of dissolution.

## **SECTION 503 REVENUES OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL**

The revenues of the General Grand Council shall be:

- A. Fee, dues, and assessments as set forth in Subsection 502



- B. Any money or property given, devised, bequeathed, or belonging to the General Grand Council and any income derived there from.
- C. Any and all monies or property whatsoever of which the General Grand Council has or may come into its possession.

**SECTION 504      DISBURSEMENTS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL**

- A. Disbursement of funds of the General Grand Council greater than \$1,000.00 or for unbudgeted expenses shall be made only by Resolution of the General Grand Council in Session or by Order of the Board of Trustees.
- B. Forms of Claims – Each claim against the General Grand Council shall show each item included therein, and by whose authority the indebtedness was incurred.
- C. Form of Disbursements – Each check drawn by the General Grand Master, General Grand Treasurer, or General Grand Recorder shall show,
  - 1. Date of issuance
  - 2. To whom issued
  - 3. For what amount issued
  - 4. By what authority issued
  - 5. Upon which fund drawn
- D. The General Grand Master, General Grand Treasurer and General Grand Recorder shall have administrative access to the records of all cash and investment accounts.

**SECTION 505      SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES**

- A. All salaries of staff hired by the General Grand Council shall be determined by the Board of Trustees and paid monthly.
- B. Officers and Committee Reimbursement – General Grand Officers, Committee members, and Regional Deputies may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in accordance with the policy and procedures as established by the Board of Trustees, in a timely manner, subject to the budget and approval of the Board of Trustees, provided that the expenses are not paid by any other Masonic General or Grand Body for the same Period and/or event

**ARTICLE VI – SUBORDINATE COUNCILS**

**SECTION 601      GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL AS A GRAND COUNCIL**

The General Grand Council acting as a Grand Council for all Subordinate Councils throughout the world operates with the traditional and historical authority of a Chartered Grand Council.

**SECTION 602      DISPENSATIONS TO FORM**

In Masonic jurisdictions where there is no Cryptic Rite Masonry in practice, a petition for a dispensation to organize a Council may be submitted in accordance with the following procedure:

- A. A petition for a dispensation to organize a Council must be signed by at least **eighteen (18)** regular Royal and Select Masters. The dispensation fee as stated in Section 502 A.1, must accompany the petition.
  - 1. The petition must be accompanied by a letter from the recognized GrandLodge

of that jurisdiction stating recognition of Cryptic Rite Masonry and permission to form a Council within the jurisdiction.

2. Each petitioner must submit evidence of good standing as a Master Mason in a recognized Grand Lodge of Master Masons and as a Royal Arch Mason of a Chapter recognized by that Grand Lodge or recognized by/affiliated with the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and evidence of having received the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master in a Council recognized and affiliated with the General Grand Council, International, and a certificate of good standing or a demit from the same.
  3. The petition must include:
    - a. a proposed name of the Council (Name shall not be the name of a Living Past or Current General Grand Officer)
    - b. the locale of the Council
    - c. the place of meeting
    - d. the names of the companions to serve as Illustrious Master, DeputyMaster and Principal Conductor of the Work respectively.
  4. The petitioners must certify that they will conform to the orders of the Most Puissant General Grand Master or his designated representative and to the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Grand Council.
- B. After the dispensation is issued, the Council will be instituted and the principal officers placed in their offices according the procedure in the *"Manual for CrypticMasons."*
  - C. A Council Under Dispensation possesses all the legal rights and privileges granted and conferred by the General Grand Council to a chartered Council except the right to elect and install officers and to vote in General Grand Council.
  - D. The acting Illustrious Master shall fill all offices not named in the Dispensation from the Companions listed on the petition.
  - E. Each Council under Dispensation, at least two months prior to the next Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, shall forward to the General Grand Recorder its Dispensation, return of work done, minutes of proceedings, and a copy of its proposed Bylaws.
  - F. Existing membership of petitioners shall remain in abeyance when Dispensation is granted. If the petitioner fails to then petition for a Charter, he does not become a Charter Member. If a petitioner is demitted and fails to petition for a Charter, his demit must be returned to him.
  - G. If a Council under Dispensation is not issued a Charter for any reason, all members who have been received or greeted and are in good standing shall be issued a Certificate of Good Standing which shall have the same effect as a demit.

### **SECTION 603      CHARTERING OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS**

- A. Charters shall be granted only by the General Grand Council at its Triennial Assembly and signed by the three General Grand Dais Officers attested and Sealed by the General Grand Recorder.
- B. The General Grand Council may grant a Charter for a Subordinate Council provided the Petition for Charter meets the following qualifications:
  1. The Petition Is signed by at least **eighteen (18)** Select Masters who were named

in the Dispensation, or were greeted by its authority together with such others as shall have received the unanimous consent of the Council to join the petition and submit their demits

2. **The Petitioners must be General Grand Council Life Memberships before a Charter may be issued unless the Board of Trustees determines that such action would be detrimental to the existence of the Council.**
  3. Proposes a name for the New Council (Name shall not be the name of a Living Past or Current General Grand Officer)
  4. Is accompanied by a fee as specified in Section 501 B.1
  5. The Petition for Charter is signed by the full name of each petitioner
  6. Gives the names and offices of the Companions selected for the elective offices
- C. When a Charter has been issued to a Subordinate Council under Dispensation, such Subordinate Council cannot lawfully meet as such until it has been duly constituted, and the officers named in the Charter installed in accordance with the procedures stated in the *"Manual for Cryptic Masons."*
- D Expenses incurred by the Most Puissant General Grand Master or his proxy in constituting a Subordinate Council and installing its officers shall be paid by the Subordinate Council receiving the services.

#### **SECTION 604 CHARTERED SUBORDINATE COUNCILS**

Councils organized and chartered as a subordinate shall conform to, and are subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Grand Council, including the Preamble and Landmarks, and to the orders of the General Grand Officers.

- A. Chartered Subordinate Councils, which perform Cryptic work in good and ancient form, adhere to their own Bylaws and the General Grand Council's Constitution and Bylaws, are represented at each Stated Triennial Assembly, and submit their Annual Returns and per capita each year may enjoy continued independence of operation.
- B. It is not in the power of a majority of the members of a Subordinate Council to surrender its Charter so long as nine or more of its members continue to meet and work under it.
- C. The General Grand Council may suspend the Charter of any Subordinate Council that:
  1. Fails to meet for minimum of six times per year.
  2. Fails, for the period of two consecutive Triennials, to be represented.
  3. Fails to remit Annual Returns for two consecutive years.
  4. Fails to remit per capita tax for two consecutive years.
- D. When the Charter of a Constituent Council is surrendered or arrested, or the Council otherwise is dissolved, the status of all members not transferring membership to another Council in a merger shall be that of non-affiliated Cryptic Masons. The Council Recorder shall forward to the General Grand Recorder a certified list of all members either in good standing or the amount of dues and assessments owing by each at the time of demise. It shall be the duty of the General Grand Recorder to issue to each of such members a certificate stating his Masonic Standing, which certificate shall be recognized as a Demit provided it states that he is in good standing. If good standing may be restored by payment of delinquent dues and assessments, said dues and

assessments maybe paid to the General Grand Recorder who will then issue a new certificate.

- E. When a Charter shall become lost, destroyed, or defaced and unfit for use, it shall be lawful for the Most Puissant General Grand Master to order another to be issued. It shall set forth the members and officers in the original Charter, the Assembly at which it was granted, and the names of the Council officers attached thereto. It shall be signed by the Most Puissant General Grand Master and attested by the General Grand Recorder under the Seal of the General Grand Council.

#### **SECTION 605 FEES AND PER CAPITA**

- A. The degrees fees in the subordinate Councils under the immediate jurisdiction of this General Grand Council shall be as specified in Section 502 C.2. (above) for the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master and the appendant degree of Super Excellent Master.
- B. Every Subordinate Council operating by Dispensation, or Charter, shall pay into the Treasury of the General Grand Council, greeting fees and per capita as specified in Section 502 C.2. (above) until such time as a Grand Council shall be regularly established in that State, District or Territory in which such Council is located. These Annual Returns are due to the General Grand Recorder by February 28<sup>th</sup>, and they are considered delinquent if received after that date. A penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00) US per month will be assessed to and paid by the recorder for any part of each month the Report is late.

#### **SECTION 606 PENAL CODE**

- A. If at any time a Subordinate Council shall deem it necessary to institute trial of a member for some Masonic offense, the Penal Code of this Section of the Bylaws shall govern such trial so far as the provisions shall pertain. Otherwise, the trial commission shall look to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge under whose permission they operate, which shall be the final authority regarding the point at issue.
- B. Communicating the penal proceedings of a Subordinate Council to persons not Royal and Select Masters is a high offense against that particular Council and the proprieties of the Craft.
- C. Should any member attempt to arrest the legitimate work of his Council, disobey the Illustrious Master, or persist in disturbing the harmony of the Council, he will thereby render himself subject to Masonic discipline.
- D. Any member who shall fail to pay his dues at the time provided for in the Bylaws of his Council may be suspended until such dues are paid or remitted by the Council.
- E. Subordinate Councils, at their own option, may give notice of suspension or expulsion of a member to other Councils and shall notify appropriate Commanderies.
- F. The suspension or expulsion of a member, for any cause, shall preclude all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry regarding that member except the right of that member to seek reinstatement or restoration by a lawful means.
- G. The penalties for offenses against Masonic law and Propriety are four:
  - Reprimand
  - Suspension to a definite time
  - Suspension indefinitely
  - Expulsion.

Penalties must be imposed by the Council finding a Companion guilty of the offense according to the nature of the offense committed.

- H. A reprimand shall not be given until the alleged offender has had due notice and an opportunity for explanation or excuse. A reprimand shall not be given by anyone but the Illustrious Master, in the manner and form he may deem proper, in private, or in open Council from his appropriate station.
- I. Restoration after a definite suspension shall take place at the expiration of the time specified in the sentence without further action.
- J. Indefinite suspension may be caused by non-payment of dues and restoration will be governed by this Code of Laws.
- K. Expulsion by a Lodge of Masons or a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons carries the same penalty in the Council. Adoption by the Council of such action shall be sufficient without the formality of a trial by the Council. If a requisite Masonic body initiates and imposes a penalty and it is reported to the Council, a similar penalty shall be entered upon the minutes, and the member notified to the last or best known address of the member.
- L. No Companion can be reprimanded or suspended (except for non-payment of dues), or expelled by any Constituent Council for any cause whatever except upon written charge and specifications and due notice of the time and place of trial, except in cases where the accused may be absconded before service of notice.
- M. A Companion, who for any cause may have been suspended by a prerequisite Masonic Body and subsequently restored by that Body, is restored to good standing in his Council, and the Recorder shall enter it in the minutes and notify the member.

## **SECTION 607 APPEALS**

- A. All appeals shall be in writing and filed with the General Grand Recorder, and the appellant shall give the other party reasonable notice thereof.
- B. The right of appeal to General Grand Council from the decisions of Subordinate Councils is vested in the accused, any member of the Council under whose auspices the trial was held, or a member of the same Council as the accused.
- C. In case of appeal, the Subordinate Council shall furnish the General Grand Council and the accused with an attested copy of its proceedings of the trial and such testimony in its possession as they may require.

## **ARTICLE VII – GRAND COUNCILS**

### **SECTION 701 DISPENSATIONS TO FORM**

Jurisdictions with at least three (3) chartered Subordinate Councils may petition to the General Grand Council for a dispensation to organize a Grand Council using the following procedure:

- A. The petition must be signed by at least **twenty-seven (27)** regular Royal and Select Masters. The fee for such dispensation shall be as stated in Section 501 A. 2.
  - 1. The petition must be accompanied by a letter from the recognized GrandLodge of that jurisdiction stating recognition of Cryptic Rite Masonry and permission to form a Council within the jurisdiction.
  - 2. The petitioners must be members of Subordinate Councils in Good

**Standing and General Grand Council Life Members. The Board of Trustees may determine on petition to forgo Life Memberships if they determine it would be detrimental to the formation of the Grand Council.**

3. The petitioners must certify that they will conform to the orders of the Most Puissant General Grand Master, Right Puissant Deputy General Grand Master, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Grand Council.
  4. The petition must identify the Subordinate Councils which constitute the new Grand Council.
  5. The petition must name the Companions by office to be held for:
    - a. Most Illustrious Grand Master
    - b. Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
    - c. Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
    - d. Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
    - e. Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
    - f. Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
    - g. Illustrious Grand Conductor of Council
    - h. Illustrious Grand Steward
    - i. Illustrious Grand Chaplain
    - j. (Optional, Illustrious Grand Marshal) and
    - k. Illustrious Grand Sentinel
- B. Subsequent to the dispensation being issued, the Grand Council shall be instituted and the officers will be placed in their respective offices according to the procedure in the Manual for Cryptic Masons.
- C. A Grand Council under Dispensation possesses all the legal rights and privileges granted and conferred by the General Grand Council to a Chartered Grand Council except the right to elect and install Grand Officers and to vote in General Grand Council as a Grand Council.
- D. Each Grand Council under Dispensation, at least two months prior to the next Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, shall forward its Dispensation, return of work done, minutes of proceedings, and a copy of its proposed Bylaws to the General Grand Recorder.
- E. If a Grand Council under Dispensation is not issued a Charter for any reason, all Constituent Councils will revert back to the status of "Subordinate" Councils.

## **SECTION 702 CHARTERING GRAND COUNCILS**

- A. Charters shall be granted only by the General Grand Council at its Triennial Assembly and will be signed by the three General Grand Dais Officers and Sealed and attested by the General Grand Recorder.
- B. The General Grand Council may grant a Charter for a Grand Council provided the petition for Charter meets the following qualifications:
  1. Is signed by at least **twenty-seven (27)** Select Masters who were named in the Dispensation or were greeted by its authority together with such others as shall have received the unanimous consent of the Council to join the petition and submit their demits.
  2. Proposes a name for the New Grand Council.
  3. Is accompanied by a fee as specified in Section 502 B. 2.

4. The Petition for Charter is signed in the full name of each petitioner.
  5. Gives the names and corresponding offices of the Companions selected for all required Grand Offices.
- C. When a Charter has been issued to a Grand Council under Dispensation, such Grand Council cannot lawfully meet as such until it has been duly constituted, and the officers named in the Charter shall have been installed in accordance with the procedure stated in the *“Manual for Cryptic Masons.”*
- D. Expenses incurred by the Most Puissant General Grand Master or his proxy in constituting a Grand Council and installing its officers shall be paid by the Grand Council receiving the services.

### **SECTION 703 CHARTERED GRAND COUNCILS**

- A. GRAND COUNCIL SOVEREIGNTY - Every Grand Council shall be sovereign in its own jurisdiction and shall determine the legal status of the Cryptic Masons (or Royal and Select Masters) of their jurisdiction and shall have absolute authority over and control of the Cryptic Rite within their Grand Jurisdiction; including the form and substance of the rituals used in conferring the Cryptic Rite of Masonry, to wit; Royal Master, Select Master, together with the degree of Super Excellent Master.
- B. CHARTER OR DISPENSATION REQUIRED - Every Council of Cryptic Masons (or Council of Royal and Select Masters) must have a charter or dispensation from either the General Grand Council or from a chartered Grand Council to be deemed legal. Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Council, or Assembly so illegally formed, held or opened without such dispensation or charter issued or with any member of it, or any person assumed to be received or greeted therein. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to apply to the jurisdictions of Virginia or West Virginia.
- C. ANNUAL RETURNS - The Grand Recorder of each Grand Council shall be required to transmit to the General Grand Recorder an official notice of the election of its Grand Officers within thirty (30) days thereafter with Per Capita being paid within ninety (90) days, and also transmit to the General Grand Recorder an electronic copy of their proceedings as soon as the same are printed.
- D. GRAND COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY.
1. WITHDRAWAL –
    - a. Any Affiliated Grand Council may withdraw from General Grand Council, will revert to their previous Charter, and will maintain their recognition among Grand Councils as long as the conditions of d. below are met.
    - b. U.S. Constituent Grand Councils may withdraw from General Grand Council and maintain their regularity and recognition as long as the conditions of d. below are met.
    - c. Non-U.S. Constituent Grand Councils, whose chartering was approved before October 1, 2020, may surrender their Charter and cease operations as long as the conditions of d. below are met. Their Constituent Councils will revert to Subordinate Council status under the supervision of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International. Non-U.S. Constituent Grand Councils, chartered or restored from suspension or revocation as of August 31, 2023, may withdraw as stated in b. above and maintain recognition and amity with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, provided that the Landmarks of Cryptic Masonry adopted by the General Grand Council are continued in full-force in that Grand Council thereafter.

- d. Withdrawal shall be effective when a certified copy of the resolution of withdrawal so adopted by the Affiliated or Constituent Grand Council shall be filed with the General Grand Recorder, signed and certified by the Grand Master and Grand Recorder of the Grand Council so withdrawing; and provided further, that all indebtedness to this General Grand Council shall have been paid.
  - e. At the time of the withdrawal, any companion of the withdrawing or non-functioning Grand Council holding a General Grand Office or membership on a General Grand Committee will forfeit such Office or Membership.
2. AFFILIATION/RE-AFFILIATION - Any Affiliated or U.S. Grand Council may affiliate/re-affiliate at any time after the introduction of an appropriate resolution to accomplish such. A certified copy of the resolution for affiliation/re-affiliation so adopted by the Grand Council shall be filed with the General Grand Recorder. This resolution shall be signed and certified by the Grand Master and Grand Recorder of said Grand Council. The Grand Council will be immediately subject to the requirements to file an Annual Return and subject to per capita. The current Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work are to be considered members of the General Grand Council and all living Past Grand Illustrious Masters are to be considered permanent members of the General Grand Council.
3. RECHARTER OF NON-U.S. GRAND COUNCILS – Non-U.S. Grand Councils that have surrendered their Charter must comply with Section 701. above to receive a Dispensation to form a Grand Council.
- E. DUPLICATE CHARTERS - When a Charter of a Grand Council chartered by the General Grand Council shall become lost, destroyed, or defaced and unfit for use, it shall be lawful for the Most Puissant General Grand Master to order a duplicate Charter to be issued. It shall set forth the members and officers in the original Charter, the Assembly at which it was granted, and the names of the Grand Council officers attached thereto. It shall be marked as DUPLICATE, signed by the Most Puissant General Grand Master and attested by the General Grand Recorder under the Seal of the General Grand Council.

#### **SECTION 704. GRAND COUNCIL DELEGATES**

- A. All member Grand Councils may elect a maximum of two Delegates, at its Annual Assembly immediately prior to the Triennial Assembly, one a Past Grand Recorder and one a Past Grand Treasurer, if a separate office. These Past Grand Officers must have a minimum of five years of service in said office and are not otherwise entitled to a vote in General Grand Council as a Past Grand Master.
- B. Upon registration in advance of a Triennial Assembly, they may attend as a voting delegate at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council.
- C. Upon election, the fee of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars US per Delegate shall be submitted to the General Grand Recorder as the Delegate Registration Fee with information required by the General Grand Recorder on a form approved by the Board of Trustees.
- D. Only one past Grand Recorder and one past Grand Treasurer so elected may serve as a Delegate at any Triennial Assembly.



## **ARTICLE VIII – PROVINCIAL GENERAL GRAND COUNCILS**

### **SECTION 801 FORMATION OF PROVINCIAL GENERAL GRAND COUNCILS**

The Board of Trustees of the General Grand Council may form Provincial General Grand Councils when it feels it will benefit the government and administration of the Cryptic Rite. The formation will use the following procedure:

- F. The Board of Trustees of the General Grand Council, hereafter “The Trustees”, will designate a minimum of three (3) Grand Councils that will form the Province, hereafter “Province”, and will issue a Dispensation for the Province.
- G. The fees of a Grand Council in a Province are specified in Bylaws Article V. Section 502.C.4.
- H. The Trustees will issue a Charter for the Province at its next Triennial/Special Assembly which will be signed by the three (3) General Grand Dais Officers and Sealed and attested by the General Grand Recorder.
- I. The Trustees will appoint a Past Grand Master from these Grand Councils as the Very Puissant Provincial General Grand Master.
- J. The Trustees will appoint Companions from these Grand Councils as the Puissant Provincial General Grand Treasurer and the Puissant Provincial General Grand Recorder.

### **SECTION 802 CHARTERED GENERAL GRAND PROVINCES**

- E. The Province will establish Bylaws which will establish Annual Fees to be paid by the member Grand Councils.
- F. The Province will supervise the operation of its Grand Councils.
- G. The Provincial General Grand Master will attend the Annual Assemblies of the member Grand Councils.
- H. The Province will conduct an Annual Assembly during one of the member Grand Council’s Assembly which will rotate among the member Grand Councils.
- I. The Province does not have the authority to issue Dispensations or Charters to form Constituent Councils of the member Grand Councils.
- J. The Province does not have the authority to issue Dispensations or Charters to form Constituent Grand Councils.

## **ARTICLE IX – SPECIAL SUBORDINATE COUNCILS**

### **SECTION 901 GEORGE C. SELLARS PRESERVATION COUNCIL #1880**

- A. The General Grand Council in 2011 established a holding Council named International Preservation Council #1880 by direction of General Grand Master George C. Sellars. The Council would hold those members of Grand Councils that had withdrawn from General Grand Council and desired to remain active with General Grand Council. In 2014, the name of this Council was changed to honor Most Puissant Companion George C. Sellars.
- B. To become members of this Council, a Companion must pay an affiliation fee of \$25 and obtain a Life Membership in General Grand Council. If their Grand Council reaffiliates with General Grand Council, the Companion’s Life Membership will transfer to the Grand Council.

- C. It was decreed that the General Grand Treasurer and the General Grand Recorder will perform those same duties for the Council.
- D. Companions that were Grand Master before their Grand Council withdrew would retain their vote in General Grand Council.
- E. This Council will not confer the Cryptic Degrees.
- F. This Council is exempt from Annual Per Capita

**SECTION 902 JOSIAH DRUMMOND HOLDING COUNCIL #1872**

- A. The Board of Trustees will form and Charter a new holding Council which will be named Josiah Drummond Holding Council #1872 and will be Subordinate to the General Grand Council.
- B. Members of this Council may be members of Grand Councils that have never been affiliated with General Grand Council, namely Grand Councils of Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Texas, and desire to participate in General Grand Council activities.
- C. Drummond Holding Council #1872 will establish a standard set of Bylaws to be approved by the General Grand Council.
- D. This Council is subject to Annual Per Capita as specified in Article V, Section 502.C.2. of these Bylaws

**SECTION 903 RESEARCH COUNCIL(S)**

- A. Research Council(s) may be formed for the purpose of researching Cryptic Masonry topics.
- B. Research Council(s) shall establish Bylaws that specify the usual Officers, meeting locations and frequency, and paper requirements. Additionally, the Bylaws will define Annual Dues and a Life Membership that is no less than 10 times the Annual Dues.
- C. These funds may be deposited with the General Grand Council Life Membership Fund.
- D. Any Research Council is exempt from Annual Per Capita.

**ARTICLE X – BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any Triennial or Special Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote provided the procedures set forth in the Constitution, Article X, Section 1002, for submitting an Amendment are followed. Amendments will become effective at the close of the Assembly unless moved to take effect immediately by unanimous vote.