Constitution

AND

GENERAL REGULATIONS

OF THE

GRAND COUNCIL

OF

Cryptic Masons

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

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THE GRAND COUNCIL of CRYPTIC MASONS
of the STATE of NEW YORK

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, by their Grand Officers and Representatives in Grand Council assembled, at an Annual Assembly thereof, in accordance with existing Constitutions and General Regulations, do establish in accordance with ancient Masonic usage, the Constitution and General Regulations which include collectively the Laws, Rules, Regulations and Declarations of this Sovereign Body.

ARTICLE I

THE GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1 — Name

This body shall be known as the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

Section 2 — Power and Authority

The Grand Council is a sovereign body of the State of New York. It acknowledges the existence of General Grand Council International, as an advisory body. This Grand Council has original and exclusive jurisdiction over the Masonic degrees of Royal and Select Masters, Super-Excellent Master and Thrice Illustrious Master in the State of New York. It has the sole government and supervision of the several Councils in the State of New York, with power to assign their limits, prescribe the fees for admission and settle controversies that may arise between them. It has sole power to grant charters to new Councils within its jurisdiction. It shall also possess authority over any unaffiliated or non-affiliated Royal and Select Master residing within its territory.

Section 3 — Of Whom Composed

The Grand Council shall be composed of the following officers:

Grand Master; Deputy Grand Master; Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; Grand Treasurer; Grand Recorder; Grand Captain of the Guard; Grand Conductor of the Council; Grand Marshal; Grand Standard Bearer; Grand Steward; Three Grand Trustees; Grand Chaplains; Grand Lecturer; A District Deputy Grand Master, for each Cryptic District; Judge Advocate; Grand Historian; Grand Archivist, Grand Musician; Grand Sentinel. [Amended 2018]

Together with all Masters, Deputy Masters and Principal Conductors of the Work of the several Councils under its jurisdiction, and all Past Masters of such Councils, so long as they shall remain members of a Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council.

Section **4** *— Assemblies*

(a) The Grand Council, at each Annual Assembly, shall fix the time and place for holding the next Annual Assembly, provided that the time for holding the Annual Assembly be fixed between August 1 and September 28, both inclusive.

(b) A Special Assembly may be called whenever the Grand Master may deem it necessary; and also whenever it shall be requested by five Councils under this jurisdiction, provided such request be made in writing to the Grand Master.

(c) In the event of a State or National emergency, or where the Annual Assembly shall be impossible, dangerous or unhealthy to hold "in person", the Grand Council may meet instead of "in person" by any other electronic means upon the direction of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and upon the method and rules by which he shall Order. Voting shall be implemented by Order of the Grand Master on the basis of secure electronic means as the Grand Master shall detail. Quorum requirements shall be the same as for an "in person" Assembly. [Added 08/20/2022]

Section **5** *— Quorum*

A quorum of the Grand Council shall consist of one of the first three elective officers of this Grand Council and the Representatives of ten Constituent Councils.

Section 6 – Constitution of Grand Lodge Applicable

This Grand Council and its Constituent Councils shall be governed in all matters not specifically set forth herein by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, insofar as they are not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution and General Regulations nor with the intent thereof.

Section 7 - Code of Procedure of Grand Lodge Applicable

This Grand Council and its Constituent Councils shall be governed by the Code of Procedure of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, in the matter of Trials, Appeals and Restorations.

Section 8 – Amendments, How Made

The Grand Council is competent at any time to alter or amend this Constitution, on the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at any Annual Assembly; provided the proposed alteration shall have been submitted in writing at one Annual Assembly and laid over until the next for consideration, and provided, further, such amendment may be adopted by unanimous consent at the same Annual Assembly at which it is proposed.

Section 9 – Government of Constituent Councils

The Constituent Councils shall be governed by this Constitution and these General Regulations and their respective By-Laws for conformity hereof.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I

THE GRAND COUNCIL

Section I — Definition

These laws and other designations shall be known as the General Regulations.

Section 2 — Titles

The title of the Grand Master and of all Past Grand Masters shall be Most Illustrious; of all other Grand and Past Grand Officers, the District Deputies Grand Master, all Representatives and Past Representatives of this Grand Council or of other Grand Councils to this Grand Council shall be Right Illustrious. That of Assistant Grand Lecturer shall be Very Illustrious. That of Masters and Past Masters of Councils shall be Illustrious. That of all those who have received a Certificate of Merit shall be Meritorious Companion.

Section 3 — Grand Officers, How Selected

(a) The officers of this Grand Council, excepting the Grand Chaplains, Grand Lecturer, District Deputies Grand Master, Judge Advocate, Grand Historian, ***Grand Archivist,*** Grand Musician, and Grand Sentinel shall be elected at the Annual Assembly by ballot, and by a majority of the votes cast. [Amended 2014, ***2018,*** *2023*]

There shall also be elected at each Annual Assembly, one Trustee who shall serve for three years, but a vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

The Grand Chaplains, Grand Lecturer, District Deputies Grand Master, Judge Advocate, Grand Historian, Grand Archivist, Grand Musician, Grand Sentinel and Assistant to the Grand Recorder shall be appointed by the Grand Master to hold office during his pleasure**.** [*Amended* ***2023,*** *2025*]

Every officer must be a member in good standing of a Council under this jurisdiction, and none but Masters or Past Masters of Councils shall be eligible to any elective office.

(b) The Grand Master shall appoint an assistant to the Grand Recorder from recommendations submitted by the Grand Recorder.

(c) The Grand Master shall appoint an assistant to the Grand Treasurer from recommendations submitted by the Grand Treasurer.

Section 4 — Voting Rights and Proxies

(a) Each officer of this Grand Council and the Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, and all past Masters of the Constituent Councils in good standing shall be entitled to one vote, and the Grand Master or acting Grand Master to an additional vote in case of an equal division of votes.

(b) Each Council of fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three votes, and an additional vote for each additional fifty members. Each representative of a Council present shall be entitled to cast one vote, and the other votes to which the Council is entitled shall be cast by the senior elective officer present.

(c) Each chartered Council within this jurisdiction shall be entitled to be represented in this Grand Council by its first three elective officers, but in case any of them cannot attend, the Council (or in the event of its failure to do so, its Master, or acting Master) may appoint in the place of the absent officer, a proxy, who shall be a member of such Council. A proxy shall be appointed over the signature of the Master (or acting Master), attested by the Recorder and under the Seal of the Council.

(d) Blank or undecipherable ballots are not votes and shall not be counted.

Section **5** *— Duties of Grand Officers*

It shall be the duty of the Grand Officers, except such as are hereinafter specified, to discharge such functions as by ancient usage pertain to their respective offices.

Section 6 — Grand Master

It shall be the duty of the Grand Master:

(a) To convene any Council within this jurisdiction, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and require conformity to Masonic rules.

(b) To require the attendance of, and information from, any Grand Officer respecting his office.

(c) To suspend any elective officer of a Council from the functions of his office for just cause.

(d) To request the resignation from an Elective line officer of the Grand Council from the functions of his office for just cause. The resignation only to take place after all necessary steps have been exhausted to correct any issues that said Grand Council line officer may be doing to use such action to be taken. The reconciliation process to include the advice and assistance of all the Grand Council line officers and at least three Past Grand Masters. Only after failure to comply to this reconciliation process will the Grand Council line officer be requested to resign, and if he refuses to resign, may be suspended from any function of his office by the Grand Master. *[added 2006]*

(e) The Illustrious Grand Master has the authority to temporarily suspend a Companion for failure to follow New York Cryptic duties required under the Constitution and General Regulations as well as any direct order by the Illustrious Grand Master, or his designee, until the time the Companion becomes compliant. The reason for the suspension must be provided to the Companion together with the required actions needed to lift the suspension. Should further disciplinary actions become warranted. [**Added 2026**]

(f) To appoint a Grand Treasurer or Grand Recorder to fill an unexpired term of such officer.

(g) To suspend the charter of any Council for just cause until the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

(h) To grant dispensations to a Council to elect and install its officers, when such Council may have failed to elect or install its officers at the proper time or has given the Grand Master satisfactory proof that it will be impossible or inconvenient to do so at the proper time, and also for an election to fill vacancies in office as hereinafter provided.

(i) To grant dispensations for the formation of new Councils under the restrictions of this Constitution and General Regulations

(j) To grant dispensations to Councils to hold special assemblies for the transaction of all regular business at other locations and/or times than their regular stated assemblies. *[amended 2013]*

(k) Special Assemblies for the purpose of instituting, constituting or performing other ceremonies in connection with a Constituent Council or a member thereof may be called by the Grand Master at such time and place and in such manner as the Grand Master shall desire. It shall be presided over by the Grand Master or a Representative duly appointed by him, and shall consist of the Grand Master or his Representative, such Officers of the Grand Council as may be present, together with such Royal and Select Masters as the Grand Master or his Representative may designate. Such Assembly may be opened and closed informally and in such manner as the Grand Master or his Representative may wish.

(l) To create a sufficient number of Royal and Select Masters (not less than nine nor more than twenty-seven) at any convenient place, only to enable such Companions to form a new Council or revive an old one.

(m) To appoint Representatives of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils, and to receive and accredit Past Illustrious Masters as Representatives of such other Grand Councils near this Grand Council; provided, however, that no Companion shall be accredited as Representative of more than one Grand Council at the same time. Any Grand Representative to this Grand Council who shall fail to attend, or make a report in writing to the Grand Recorder, at two out of three Annual Assemblies of this Grand Council without acceptable excuse shall be considered as resigning his position as such Grand Representative, and the Grand Master is authorized to recommend to the Grand Council from which the Grand Representative received his commission, the name of some other Companion to fill the vacancy thus created. *[amended 2004,2018]*

(n) To do and perform such other things as are inherent in, and pertain to his office, and are *not* in conflict with this Constitution and General Regulations.

(o) To preside in the Grand Council, to exercise all the executive functions of the Grand Council when it is not in session, and to make a report in writing to the Grand Council at its Annual Assembly, containing a statement of his official acts during the recess, together with such recommendations as he may deem expedient and for the benefit of the Cryptic Rite. The Grand Master shall be allowed reimbursement for necessary traveling or other expenses appertaining to the term of office. His certificates of expenditure shall be the authority for the Grand Treasurer to reimburse him as allocated in the approved annual budget for such expenses. Expenses in excess of an approved budget amount must be approved by majority vote of the Companions present at the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. *[amended 2006]*

Section 7—Deputy Grand Master

In the event of the death, removal from office or if the Grand Master shall become unable to perform the duties of his office, the duties of that office shall devolve upon and be discharged by the Deputy Grand Master. At all other times, he shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Master. *[Amended 2016]*

Section 8 — Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

In the event of the death, removal from the State, removal from office, or inability of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall discharge the duties of Grand Master. At all other times he shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Master.

Section 9-1 — Grand Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer:

(a) To take charge of all funds, property, securities, and vouchers of the Grand Council, except as otherwise provided.

(b) To deposit all moneys received by him for the General Fund, in such bank or trust company as shall be approved by the Grand Master as a depository for said General Fund; said funds to be deposited in the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

(c) To attend on the Grand Council, or its presiding officer, when requested, with the books and all necessary documents relating to his office, and to attend when required the meeting of any committee whose duty it may be to act in relation to the fiscal affairs of the Grand Council.

(d) To report annually to the Grand Council the amount of his receipts and expenditures, by items, from whom received and to whom paid, together *with* proper evidence or proof of all funds and securities in his hands.

(e) To execute and file with the Grand Trustees at the beginning of his term of office, a surety bond in a sum of not less than ten thousand dollars, to be approved by the Grand Master, the premium of which bond shall be paid by the Grand Council, conditioned that he will pay or deliver on demand to the Grand Council, or to his successor in office, all funds and property of the Grand Council that shall come into his possession as Grand Treasurer.

(f) To pay and deliver, at the expiration of his term of office, to his successor, or such person as shall be designated by the Grand Council, all moneys, securities, evidences of debt, books, writings and property of the Grand Council under his control, with all proper assignments when necessary.

Section 9-2 — Assistant To The Grand Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the Assistant to the Grand Treasurer:

(a) To familiarize himself with procedures of the Grand treasurer's office.

(b) To familiarize himself to know where different funds of the Grand Council are, the account numbers of such funds, and where the handbooks and ledgers are kept.

(c) How checking and escrow accounts are used..

(d) What records are kept in file cabinets or in computer.

(e) What programs are in computer and how to get into computer.

(f) Be able to inform the new Grand Treasurer of the above.

(g) Make a written report to the Grand Master within forty five (45) days following the Annual Assembly that he has complied with the above. *[added 2006]*

Section 10-1 — Grand Recorder

It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder:

(a) To record the transactions of the Grand Council.

(b) To register the members of Councils under this jurisdiction, returned to him for that purpose, with the particulars set forth in such returns.

(c) To receive, duly file and safely keep all papers and documents of the Grand Council. To receive all requests for dispensations, prepare and submit same to the Grand Master for his review and approval. *[amended 2013]*

(d) To sign and certify all instruments from the Grand Council.

(e) To prepare for the Annual Assembly a correct list of the officers, past officers and members of the Grand Council entitled to vote, together with the names of members of all Constituent Councils entitled to representation in this Grand Council.

(f) To receive and keep a proper account of all moneys belonging to the Grand Council, and pay the same without delay to the Grand Treasurer.

(g) To report annually to the Grand Council the amount of moneys received by him, by items, and the specific sources from which they were received, also the Councils that have neglected to render proper returns of their elections, members and dues, and such general information as to the state of the Council as may be proper for the information or action of the Grand Council.

(h) To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Council under the direction of the Grand Master, and in a Masonic manner.

(i) To attend, with all necessary writing, papers, and documents under his control, on all assemblies of the Grand Council, and also to attend upon the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master on Masonic business, when required. To have the custody of all rituals, and to distribute same to the Councils in accordance with the vote of Grand Council or by direction of the Grand Master.

(j) To transmit to the several Grand Councils in correspondence with this Grand Council, a certificate of the election of the Grand Officers immediately thereafter under his hand and the seal of the Grand Council.

(k) To attend to all such matters and duties as, by Masonic usage, appertain to his office.

(l) To execute and file with the Grand Trustees, at the beginning of his term of office, a surety bond in a sum of not less than ten thousand dollars, to be approved by the Grand Master, the premium of which bond shall be paid by the Grand Council, conditioned that he will pay or deliver on demand to the Grand Council, or to his successor in office, all funds and property of the Grand Council that shall come into his possession as Grand Recorder.

Section 10-2 — Assistant to the Grand Recorder

It shall be the duty of the Assistant to the Grand Recorder:

(a) Familiarize himself with the procedures in the Grand Recorder's Office.

(b) Where the Handbook and Ledger Books are kept.

(c) What records are kept in file cabinets, or in computer.

(d) What programs are used in computer, and how to get into computer.

(e) What equipment belongs to Grand Council that is housed in Grand Recorders Office.

(f) What bank is used, how checking and escrow accounts are used, who the Grand Treasurer is.

(g) What vendors are used in purchasing supplies, equipment, aprons, insurance and bonds, warranty repairs, who printer is, etc.

(h) Know where Annual Returns and Affidavit of Elections of Councils and other printed matter are kept.

(i) Be able to inform the new Grand Recorder of the above.

(j) Make a written report to the Grand Master within forty-five (45) days following the Annual Assembly that he has complied with the above.

(k) Receive an honorarium of fifty dollars each year for his services.

Section 11 — Grand Trustee

The Grand Trustees shall have the custody and management of the Permanent Fund. It shall be their duty to take the best measures for the security and increase of said Fund, and all of the invested funds of this Grand Council, and they shall have power to invest and reinvest such funds, from time to time, as they shall decide by a majority vote. All funds for investment shall be invested only in such securities as are legal for savings banks in the State of New York. Each Trustee shall have a surety bond of not less than $10,000.

Section 12 *— Grand Lecturer*

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer: To impart the Standard Work, which is the ritual of the degrees of Royal, Select, and Super-Excellent Master, to the constituent Councils. He shall have the power to appoint one or more competent assistants in each District subject to the approval of the Grand Master. He shall make an annual report to the Grand Council of the proficiency in the work of the Councils visited and shall receive the necessary traveling expenses incurred in the performance of his duties.

Section 12-A – Judge Advocate

It shall be the duty of the Judge Advocate to be the legal adviser to the Grand Master in matters affecting the Grand Council or its subordinate councils, and shall perform such other duties as the Grand Master may direct. When authorized by the Grand Council in Annual or Special Assembly, he may be requested to act as its attorney in law or in fact. The Judge Advocate shall be an attorney admitted to the practice of law in New York**.** *[added 2010]*

Section 13 — District Deputies Grand Master

(a) The Districts of this Grand Council shall remain as now organized, but may be re-divided by the Grand Master into suitable Districts, with such boundaries as shall be approved by a majority of the elective Grand Council officers; and for each District the Grand Master shall appoint a District Deputy Grand Master, who shall be appointed to hold office during the pleasure of the Grand Master, and until his successor is appointed. The District Deputy shall be a present or a Past Master of a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction and a member in good standing in a Council in the District for which he is appointed.

(b) It shall be the duty of the District Deputy:

1. To visit each Council in his District at least once in each Grand Council year.
2. To keep in contact with all Councils in his District and to counsel with and advise the Council Officers.
3. To promote and advance the interests of the Cryptic Rite and to encourage closer fellowship throughout the Jurisdiction.
4. To represent the Grand Master in such matters as may be committed to him.
5. To inspect the records of the Recorder, Treasurer and Trustees of the Councils in his District and make a report to the Grand Master as to the manner in which such records and funds are kept and safeguarded.
6. To inspect and impart, under the direction of the Grand Lecturer, the ritualistic work of the Rite, and to make a report to the Grand Lecturer immediately following the inspection.
7. To arrange for and hold a convention in his District at least once in each year for the exemplification of the work of the Ritual and promotion of the interests of the Rite.
8. To arrange and assist the Grand Officer assigned to his District or Councils therein, in making his Official Visit.
9. To hold a caucus of all Most Illustrious, Right Illustrious and Very Illustrious Companions in his District yearly prior to April 30. Such caucus shall have the responsibility of selecting the District Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Lecturer for recommendation and appointment by the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, A written report of the caucus to be submitted within 15 days of the caucus. [Amended 2018]

Section 14 — Grand Officers — Visits, Etc.

(a) In addition to the visits provided to be made by the District Deputies Grand Master the Councils may be apportioned by the Grand Master to the elective officers of the Grand Council And Past Grand Masters (excepting the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer) for official visits. It shall be the duty of the several Grand Officers when so designated, to visit on behalf of the Grand Council during the year the Councils or District that shall be assigned to them, for the purpose of encouraging closer fellowship and advancing the interests of Cryptic Masonry throughout the Jurisdiction.

Each Grand Line Officer will visit each Council in the district(s) assigned to him in order to receive any expense money appropriated for such in the budget. *[added 2012]*

(b) It shall be the duty of the Grand Officers whose duties have not been hereinbefore specifically set forth, to discharge such functions as by ancient usage pertain to their offices, or as shall from time to time be directed by the Grand Master.

(c) Such Grand Officers may make the same inspection of Records and report of their visit as is required of a District Deputy Grand Master.

Section 15 — Assemblies

(a) The requirements for Annual and Special Assemblies of the Grand Council and for quorum are contained in Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution.

(b) Special Assemblies for the purpose of instituting, constituting or performing other ceremonies in connection with a Constituent Council or a member thereof, shall not be subject to the foregoing regulations. Such an Assembly may be called by the Grand Master at such time and place and in such manner as the Grand Master shall desire. It shall be presided over by the Grand Master or a Representative duly appointed by him, and shall consist of the Grand Master or his Representative, such Officers of the Grand Council as may be present, together with such Royal and Select Masters as the Grand Master or his Representative may designate. Such Assembly may be opened and closed informally and in such manner as the Grand Master or his Representative may wish.

Section 16 — Funds

(a) The funds of this Grand Council shall consist of a General Fund and a Permanent Fund.

(b) The General Fund shall consist of the revenues of this Grand Council as set forth in Section 17 of these General Regulations.

(c) No money or moneys shall be drawn or paid from the General Fund of the Grand Council, deposited in any bank or trust company, except on a voucher signed by the Grand Recorder and approved by the Grand Master. Such checks shall be signed by the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Master or the Grand Recorder.

(d) The Permanent Fund shall consist of all funds of this Grand Council which are invested in securities or deposited in banks approved by the Grand Master, together with such moneys as shall be transferred from the General Fund to the Permanent Fund by vote of the Grand Council.

(e) The Charitable and Benevolent Funds of this Grand Council shall be paid to, held by, and disbursed by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, Inc., Charity Fund, an affiliate of this Grand Council, incorporated for that purpose.

(f) A Grand Master's Fund shall consist of monies designated to said fund when raised by a Grand Master for his projects. Donations may be received by said fund. Expenditures from said fund shall be at the discretion of the Grand Master and shall be for charitable or fraternal purposes excluding personal but including travel expenses of the Grand Master. The Grand Master may appoint a committee consisting of a member of his Council and to include a member of the advancing Grand Council line of officers to assist him in the operation of said fund. Monies not expended at the end of his term as Grand Master shall constitute the initial fund of the succeeding Grand Master.

The Grand Master's Fund shall be subject to audit in the same manner as the General Fund of the Grand Council but shall not be accounted for by the Grand Recorder nor in the charge of the Grand Treasurer. [added 2007]

Section 17 — Fees and Dues

The revenues of this Grand Council shall be such as may be set by this Grand Council at an Annual Assembly and shall be derived from the following sources:

For every Charter issued.
For every Dispensation to form a new Council.
And if a Charter is afterwards granted, an additional sum.
For every other Dispensation, or Certificate issued.
For every Companion received and greeted in a Constituent Council.
For every Council, a Per Capita Fee annually.

The annual assessment of the Grand Council shall be remitted as to all members whose dues have been remitted by their respective Councils because of indigence.

~~Section 18 - Mileage and Per Diem~~ [RESCINDED]

ARTICLE II

CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

Section 19 — Organization

(a) A Constituent Council shall consist of at least nine members assembling and working under a charter granted by this Grand Council, at a place designated in the charter, or by the Grand Council, or by virtue of a dispensation issued by the Grand Master.

(b) Each Council shall provide a regular assembly room approved by the Grand Master or by his duly appointed designee.

(c) Each Council shall have a seal.

(d) A Council may hold an Assembly in Masonic premises anywhere within its jurisdiction for the purpose only of conferring the degrees.

(e) No Council can be lawfully opened unless there be present at least nine regular Select Masters, including an Officer empowered to preside, three of whom are members of the Council. No business shall be transacted at any assembly unless there be present at least five members of the Council.

Section 20 — Powers and Privileges

The powers and privileges of a Constituent Council are such as are described in its Charter, by this Constitution and General Regulations, and by the Ancient Landmarks.

Section 21 — Jurisdiction

(a) Every Council shall have concurrent jurisdiction through-out the state.

(b) Any Council may confer the Cryptic Rite degrees, or any one of them, upon a candidate of any other Council within this Jurisdiction, upon the receipt of a request therefore in writing from the Recorder of the candidate's Council, bearing the seal of that Council.

(c) Any Council may confer the Cryptic Rite degrees, or any one of them, upon a candidate of a Council of another Grand Jurisdiction, upon receipt of a request therefore, in writing, from the Grand Master or Grand Recorder of said Grand Jurisdiction, and with the approval of the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Section 22 — Officers — How Elected and Appointed

(a) The elective officers of a Constituent Council consist of a Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer and Recorder, all of whom shall be elected by ballot and a majority vote at an Annual Assembly held at the last stated Assembly prior to July 1, to attend which Assembly members of the Council shall be summoned at least ten days previously. No companion shall be elected as Master, unless he shall have served previously as Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work in that or some other Council, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

(b) There may also be elected three Trustees, one of whom shall be elected at each Annual Assembly for a term of three years, except that at the first election they shall be elected for terms of three, two, and one years respectively. A vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term.

(c) At the time of installation, the Master shall appoint a Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Marshal, Chaplain and Sentinel, all of whom shall hold office during his pleasure. The installation of officers of a Council shall take place at the time of election or at the first subsequent Assembly.

(d) The Recorder and Treasurer of a Constituent Council should be bonded in such sums as the Council shall deem adequate.

(e) All officers, elective or appointive, shall be members in good standing in the Council.

Section 23 — Vacancies — How Filled

A Master may fill all vacancies in office, except those of Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, at any stated Assembly; in case of vacancy in the offices in this section mentioned, an election can only be held by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand Master, which is to be applied for by the Master (or acting Master) and certified by the Recorder. Vacancies in the first three elective offices can only occur by death, or by removal after election beyond the jurisdiction of the Grand Council, by promotion at an election to fill vacancies and by suspension or expulsion.

Section 24 — Annual Returns

(a) Each Council within this jurisdiction shall make an Annual Return to the Grand Council for the term ending June 30th in each year, on blanks provided for that purpose, and cause the same, together with the dues of the Council to be transmitted to the Grand Recorder on or before July 10th following. For a failure to transmit said return and to pay said dues by said date, the Council will not be allowed to vote.

(b) Any Council neglecting or refusing to make returns and pay dues for two years shall be subject to forfeiture of its Charter, and may only be restored by paying all back dues, unless modified by action of the Grand Council.

(c) Every Council shall be accountable to the Grand Council for the dues of each of its members embraced in its returns.

Section 25 — Charters and Dispensations

(a) No Council of Cryptic Masons in this State shall be legal unless it has a Charter from this Grand Council, or a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

(b) The Grand Master is authorized upon receipt of the proper credentials to grant a dispensation to form a new Council at any time. The Council under Dispensation must qualify for a Charter within one year of the dispensation or cease to work. The Grand Master or his successor may, in his discretion, invalidate the dispensation.

(c) In order to qualify for a Charter the Council under dispensation shall forward to the Grand Recorder its dispensation, together with the following:

1. **(First)** A certificate from the Grand Lecturer, or in case of his inability to act, someone especially designated by the Grand Master that its work has been inspected and that the officers are qualified to confer the degrees of Royal and Select Master.

2. **(Second)** All of the books which it has used in conducting the business of the Council while under Dispensation, and copy of its By-Laws.

3. **(Third)** A complete return of the petitioners for the Dispensation, and the Companions upon whom the degrees have been conferred, with dates, thereof, names written in full, with place of residence, occupation, date of birth and birthplace. No members shall be received by affiliation while a Council is working under dispensation.

4. (**Fourth)** A statement of the Master and Recorder that the Council is clear of all indebtedness, that they have secured and prepared a suitable and safe place of meeting as a Council, that they have a record book for the proceedings of the Council, a cash book, a ledger, a treasurer receipt and draft book, also a register, which shall be provided with spaces for recording the names of every member, Council number, Grand Council number, dates of Royal and Select Master degrees, Super-Excellent Master degree, affiliation, name, number and location of Council, dates of non-affiliation by demit, honorable discharge, suspension, expulsion, death, date of restoration to membership, and followed by a space for the member's signature.

5. **(Fifth)** The charter fee.

(d) No charter shall be granted to any Council until it shall have given proof of its skill by labor under Dispensation and shall have furnished a certificate from the Grand Lecturer of its ability to confer the degrees of Cryptic Rite, and Masonic Communication is hereby forbidden between any Council under this jurisdiction or any member thereof, and any Council Assembly that may be working without such Charter or Dispensation, or with any Companion received or greeted therein, until such Council or Councils, person or persons, shall have been regularly healed.

(e) Every Council is required to procure a Dispensation to change a date or place of meeting to hold its stated Assembly on a date or at a place other than the date or place specified in its By-Laws.

Section 26 — How Dissolved

(a) A Council can only be dissolved by the act of the Grand Council; a Council shall be declared dissolved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master if its membership shall fall below nine (9) members; or by a voluntary surrender of its Charter, pursuant to a vote of its members present when duly summoned for that purpose, but no Charter shall be surrendered unless the minority vote on the question of surrender shall be less than nine. *[amended 2006]*

(b) No Charter of a Council can be forfeited for cause other than mentioned in Section 24(b), except upon charges regularly made in the Grand Council and an opportunity of being heard in defense, and then only for disobedience to this Constitution and General Regulations, ceasing to meet for one year or more, or for contumacy to the authority of the Grand Master or Grand Council, but a Charter may be suspended by the Grand Council or the Grand Master at any time, upon proper cause, which suspension shall not stand beyond the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.

(c) The surrender· of a Charter, when offered, or the forfeiture of a Charter when declared by the Grand Council, shall be conclusive upon the Council and its members, and all books, papers, and other property of the Council, shall become the property of the Grand Council and must, on demand, be surrendered to the Grand Council, or its authorized agent, by the person or persons having its custody,

(d) Members in good standing of a Council whose Charter has been, or may hereafter be surrendered, or forfeited, on application to the Grand Recorder, shall be furnished by him with such evidences of good standing as will enable them to affiliate with other Councils, provided their dues have been paid to the Council, or to the Grand Recorder, to the date of such surrender or forfeiture.

(e) When a Council surrenders its Warrant, either voluntarily or involuntarily, a member of that Council may affiliate as a Member at Large. The application is made to the Grand Recorder. The Prescribed dues shall be six dollars ($6.00) per annum plus Grand Council per capita dues. A Companion in arrears in the Council in which he held membership must pay such arrears plus the current years dues as indicated above. The Grand Recorder shall issue a membership card entitling the Member at Large to all privileges of a membership in a Council, except that he shall not be allowed to vote or hold office in any Council. A Member at Large in good standing may secure a demit from the Grand Recorder and make application for affiliation with any Council. A Member at Large can remain in this status for a period of no more than three (3) years at which time he must affiliate with a Council of Cryptic Masons.

Section 27 — Procedure for Merger

(a) Each Council, after due notice to the membership, shall vote at a summoned Assembly called for that purpose, but no merger shall be considered unless the minority vote on the question is less than nine.

(b) Thereafter, each Council shall petition Grand Council for approval of the merger.

Section 27.5 — Procedure forming a Cryptic Council of Research

(a) Nine or more Cryptic Masons may unite to form a Council for the purposes of Cryptic study and research, and a dispensation and Warrant may be issued therefor without compliance with the requirements of the provisions of Article II, Sections 19 through 25 of this Constitution. At the option of the Illustrious Master, a Council of study and research, created pursuant hereto, may limit its Installation ceremonies to the elected Officers of the Council. The territorial jurisdiction of such Council when formed shall be co-extensive with the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Council.

(b) A Council formed under the provisions of this Section shall be without power or authority to confer degrees upon candidates or to receive members other than by affiliation.

(c) A Council formed under the provisions of this Section shall not be entitled to either representation nor a vote in Grand Council as provided in Article I Section 4 of this Constitution, A council formed under the provisions of this Section shall not be required to pay any of the fees specified in Article I Section 17 of this Constitution.

(d) A Council formed under the provisions of this Section may provide in its by-laws for different categories of Membership, including Corresponding and Active Membership and Fellowship, and may therein specify the rights, benefits, and limitations of each category. Such Council may accept as Corresponding Members, only such Cryptic Masons or Councils of Cryptic Masons in Good Standing in this or other Grand Jurisdictions in Masonic affiliation with this Grand Council, or organizations recognized as Masonic by this Grand Council and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, including Masonic libraries, as the by-laws of such Council may provide.

(e) No Companion shall be eligible for election and installation as Illustrious Master of a Chapter of Study and Research unless he shall be or have previously been a duly Elected and Installed as Illustrious Master of a regular Council of Cryptic Masons. [Added 2023]

Section 28 — Charter, Possession of

The Charter of a Council must be kept in the possession of the Master, must be delivered to an officer of

the Grand Council, with the gavel when making his official visit, and be transmitted to the new Master at the time of his installation.

Section 29 — Government Powers

All government powers, whether executive, legislative, or judicial, not expressly delegated by the Grand Council, are inherent in and reserved to it as supreme governing body.

Section 30 — Duties of Officers

(a) The Master shall not be responsible for his official acts, or otherwise, to the Council over which he presides; but shall be at all times subject to discipline from the Grand Master.

(b) The Master of a Council shall at all times be responsible for the safekeeping of its Charter, and such Charter shall be preserved in a safe and secure place. No assembly of a Council can be held unless the Charter or a photostat or certified copy thereof is present.

1) It is also the duty of the Master of each Council to make proper arrangements for inspection by the District Deputy Grand Master or other official visitor.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of a Council:

1) To receive all moneys paid into the Council from the hands of the Recorder.
2) To keep a just and correct account of all such receipts of money.
3) To pay them out by direction of the presiding officer, and consent of the Council.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Recorder of a Council:
   1) To record the proceedings of the Council, under the direction of the presiding officer, which shall be read and approved by the Council before it is closed, except when excused by the Grand Master on his visit to the Council and such proceedings shall be submitted to the Grand Council whenever required.
   2) To receive all moneys paid into the Council, and pay the same to the Treasurer.
   3) To transmit, immediately after every election, a certificate thereof to the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Recorder.
   4) To make a full and complete return to the Grand Council, annually, of all the members of the Council and all changes in membership, in such form and at such time as may be required by General Regulations.
   5) To certify and affix the seal of the Council to all returns and certificates of election rendered to the Grand Council.
   6) To attest the official signature of the Master to all Masonic documents, when necessary.

Section 31 — Summons

A summons must be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, signed by the Master or Recorder of the Council with the seal impressed thereon. The original shall be inserted in the Minutes of the Council, and a true copy thereof must either be delivered to the Companion in person or sent through the post office to his last known address, at least ten days prior to the assembly for which the summons is issued. When a summons is signed by the Recorder alone, it must state by whose authority it is issued.

Section 32 — By-Laws

A Council has full power and authority and shall enact By-Laws for its own government, not inconsistent with this Constitution and General Regulations, but before any By-Laws or any amendment thereto shall become effective, they shall be approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence of this Grand Council. Any such By-Laws or amendments shall become effective on the date specified therein, or in the absence of such a date, then at the stated assembly at which the approval of the said Committee shall be received pending final approval of the Grand Council.

Section 33 *— Petitions* *[amended 2006]*

(a) No Council under this jurisdiction shall confer the degrees for a less sum than ten dollars, nor receive and greet any Companion Royal Arch Mason, without due inquiry into his character, or without being satisfied in a Masonic manner, that such petitioner is in good standing in a regular and duly constituted Chapter and Lodge, and that such petitioner has not been rejected in a duly constituted Council of Cryptic Masons.

(b) A Council shall charge a fee of at least five dollars for affiliation.

(c) Every petition for membership shall state date of birth, occupation, birthplace, residence, Lodge and Chapter or Chapter petitioned of the petitioner, and shall be signed by him with his full name. He shall also be recommended by a member of the Council. If for the degrees, it shall state whether or not he has been rejected in a Council of Cryptic Masons, and if for affiliation, the name of the Council in which the degrees were received, or membership held, and whether dual/plural membership is desired.

(d) A petition for membership, either for the degrees or by affiliation, shall immediately upon its reception be referred to a Committee, for investigation, which shall report to the Council the result in terms of "favorable" or "unfavorable".

(e) A ballot shall then be taken and if less than three (3) unfavorable votes appear the petitioner shall be declared accepted.

(f) A candidate elected for the degrees who fails to appear for the reception thereof within one year after notification of his election, shall forfeit his right thereto, and must petition anew for membership.

(g) A petition for the degrees having been rejected, the petitioner cannot again make application in that or any other Council until the expiration of twelve months.

(h) A petition for affiliation having been rejected, the petitioner may again apply to the same Council without delay, or to another Council without the consent of the rejecting Council.

(i) A petitioner for the degrees must have resided not less than six months within the state. A non-resident may petition for the degrees but no such petition shall be balloted upon until the due waiver of jurisdiction shall have been obtained from or through the Grand Council in whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides; said waiver to be applied for by the Grand Recorder upon certification of the facts by the Recorder of the Council to which a petition has been presented under the seal of the Council.

(j) A petitioner for the degrees having been rejected shall have his fees returned to him.

Section 34 — Membership

(a) Membership in the Council is consummated by signing the By-Laws thereof.

(b) Membership in a Council in this jurisdiction is predicated on the fact that the member is in good standing in a Royal Arch Chapter. *[added 2006]*

(c) If a member demits from his said Chapter and does not become a "member at large", membership in the Council will immediately cease and it will be recorded as such in the minutes of said Council. *[added 2006]*

Section 35 — Dual/Plural Membership

(a) Any Select Master in good standing may become by regular affiliation or by joining as petitioner in the founding of a new Council and may continue a member of two or more Councils in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction if permitted by the laws of such other Grand Jurisdiction.

(b) A Companion holding dual/plural membership in this jurisdiction shall be liable to pay dues in each Council and shall be eligible to hold office therein, except that he shall not be Master of more than one Council at the same time. Involuntary loss of membership in any Council shall work loss of membership in all Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction. When a Companion is granted dual/plural membership in a Council, the Recorder shall immediately notify the Recorder of the other Council or Councils of which he is a member.

(c) A Council, at a Stated Assembly and by unanimous ballot upon a proposition received at its previous stated Assembly, may confer honorary membership upon any Companion who at that time shall be a member in good standing of another recognized Council; but an Honorary Member of a Council shall not be entitled to vote therein.

Section 36 — Withdrawal From Membership

(a) A member of a Council desiring to withdraw from membership may do so under the following conditions:

1. He shall not be holding either of the first three elective offices of the Council.

2. He must be entirely free from debt to the Council.

3. No charges shall be pending against him.

4. He must present a written request therefore, which request shall be read for information at the next Stated Assembly of the Council. The demit shall become effective upon receipt by the Recorder of the Council of the written request therefore, and shall be issued forthwith.

Section 37 — Affiliation

(a) A member of a Council or a non-affiliated Select Master may present his petition for affiliation to any Council to which he is not a member. If a non-affiliate, he shall file with his petition, his demit, an authenticated copy thereof, or his certificate from his former Council that he was in good standing when his membership in that Council terminated and that he is not in arrears for dues or assessments.

(b) A member of a Council of another Grand Council Jurisdiction who desires to affiliate with a Council in this Jurisdiction may present a petition for affiliation, but no such petition shall be balloted upon until a due waiver of jurisdiction shall have been obtained from or through the Grand Council in whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides; said waiver to be applied for by the Grand Recorder upon certification of the facts by the Recorder of the Council to which the petitioner has been presented under the seal of the Council.

Section 38 — Demit to a Non-Resident

A Constituent Council shall grant a demit to a member who shall be a resident within the jurisdiction of another Grand Council without compliance with the foregoing provisions except so far as they relate to “indebtedness”, “charges”, and “requests”

Section 39 — Suspension or Expulsion in Lodge or Chapter

The suspension or expulsion upon charges of a Companion after due trial by a Lodge or a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons having jurisdiction, shall operate as suspension or expulsion from a Council, without action by the Council; and when the Council receives authentic information in writing of such suspension or expulsion, it shall be the duty of the Master to direct the Recorder to make a record on the minutes of the Council that the Companion was suspended or expelled, the time, and by what Lodge or Chapter, and notify the Companion of the action taken by the Council.

Section 40 — Suspension/NPD by Lodge, Chapter or Council

If any Companion of a Council shall become suspended by his Lodge or his Chapter, for the non-payment of dues, upon authentic information of this fact, his membership in the Council shall be suspended until such suspension shall cease. If a Companion shall become suspended NPD by his Council, he may be restored to membership by paying his arrears of dues, the current years dues and a majority vote of the Companions present and voting. Constituent Councils shall not charge a fee for restoration.

Section 41 — Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master

(a) It is the imperative duty of every Master-Elect to receive the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, which shall be conferred, under the direction of the Grand Council, at the Annual Assembly, none being present but those who have previously received the Degree; and no Master shall be permitted to exercise any of the duties of his office after the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council next succeeding his election until he shall have received the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, unless the Grand Master shall issue to such Master his dispensation permitting said Master to continue to exercise his duties as such until such time as a special convention to confer said Degree upon said Master shall have been held, pursuant to the dispensation of the Grand Master as hereinafter provided.

(b) No elected and installed Master, who fails to receive the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master as above provided, shall be entitled to rank as a Past Master of his Council upon the expiration of the term for which he was elected.

(c) The Grand Master shall have the power to grant a dispensation for the assembling of a convention of not less than our (4) Thrice Illustrious Masters, to confer said Degree on the newly elected Master of a Council, under such instructions and upon such conditions as said officer may deem proper to impose.

Section 42 — Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters

(a) Nine or more Thrice Illustrious Masters may unite to form a Thrice Illustrious Master Council for the purpose of conferring TIM degrees and to assist the Grand Master in his purposes. A Council thus formed will be without the power to confer the degrees of the Cryptic Rite except that of Thrice Illustrious Master upon authority of the Grand Master, the Constitutional Thrice Illustrious Master of the State of New York.

(b) A Council formed under the provisions of this section shall not be entitled to a representative and a vote in Grand Council as provided in Section 4 of the General Regulations and shall not be required to pay any fees specified in Sections 24 and 25 thereof. The territorial jurisdiction of such Council thus formed shall be coextensive with that of this Grand Council. A Council formed hereunder may accept as members Thrice Illustrious Masters in good standing in this or other Grand Jurisdictions recognized by this Grand Council.

ARTICLE III

RULES OF ORDER

Section 43 — Governing Rules

The usual Masonic Rules of Order and customs of decorum shall govern the Assemblies of this Grand Council.

Section 44 *– Annual Assembly of Grand Council*

(a) Each Annual Assembly of this Grand Council shall be opened in full form in accordance with the ceremony as provided by the Committee on Ritual.

(b) Following the Opening Ceremonies the following shall be the Order of Business and Procedure of the Grand Council at the first session of the Annual Assembly:

1. Calling the Roll of Councils by the Grand Recorder.
2. Reading and approving of the minutes of any previous Special Assembly of the Grand Council not previously read and approved.
3. Appointment of Committees.
4. Report on Credentials of Members.
5. Address of the Grand Master and reference to a committee for sub-division and reference.
6. Reports of Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder and Grand Trustees and action thereon.
7. Report on Unfinished Business of the previous Assembly.
8. Presentation and reference, or other disposition, of Memorials, Petitions and Communications.
9. Motions and Resolutions and reference, or other disposition, of the same.
10. Reports of Standing Committees and action thereon; the Grand Lecturer and Committee on Jurisprudence having preference. [Amended 2018]
11. Reports of Special Committees and action thereon.
12. Special Orders (if any).
13. Consideration of amendments to the Constitution, General Regulations and Rules (if any).
14. Unfinished Business of previous Sessions (if there be any).
15. Miscellaneous Business, not included in the above.
16. Reading and approval of the minutes of the Session.
17. Should the order of business not be concluded at the session at which it is first called, it should be commenced at the succeeding session where it was left off, and so on throughout the Assembly, taking up the Order of Business again when once finished and going through with it in the same manner; provided, nevertheless, that the reading and approving of the minutes shall be the last business in order at each session, and that the appointment of a time for the election and installation of officers shall be in order any time designated by the Grand Council.

Section 45 — Committee Appointments

At the opening session of the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council the Grand Master shall appoint the following committees, whose term of office is for the Annual Assembly at which they were appointed:

1. Committee on Credentials and Returns of Councils.
2. Committee on Grand Master's Address.
3. Committee on Time and Place of next Annual Assembly.
4. Committee on Unfinished Business of the previous Annual Assembly.
5. Such other committees he may deem necessary.

Section 46—Standing Committees

The Grand Master, immediately after his installation, shall appoint the following Standing Committees and Companions to serve for the ensuing year:

1. An Audit Committee, consisting of at least three members, whose duty it shall be to audit the fiscal records of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder and the Grand Trustees; and a Budget Committee to submit a Budget to the Grand Council and perform such other appropriate duties as the Grand Master may require. *[amended 2004]*

2. A Committee on Jurisprudence, to consist of three or five members. To this Committee shall be referred all propositions to amend the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council.*[amended 2013]*

3. Committee on Ritual, consisting of not more than five members, who shall be the custodians of the Standard Work which is the ritual of the degrees, Royal, Select, Super-Excellent and Thrice Illustrious Master, with such modifications as shall be adopted from time to time by this Grand Council.

4. Committee on Condition and Extension of the Rite, whose duty it shall be to assist the Grand Master in acquiring such information as he may desire touching upon the condition of the various Councils and upon the prospect and localities for the formation of new Councils, and to perform such other acts as may be expedient in the placement of new Councils under the direction of the Grand Master.

5. Committee on Necrology, consisting of the Grand Chaplains.

6. Committee on Masonic Education, to consist of five members, whose duty it shall be to formulate and disseminate such programs and to distribute such information as may be beneficial to the Companions for the advancement of Cryptic Masonry.

7. Such other committees deemed necessary and duties described.

8. Approve, if desired, appointment of Assistant Grand Lecturer, whose duties shall be:

   (a) To visit each Constituent Council in his District at least once during each Council Year.

(b) To keep in contact with the Constituent Councils in his District to counsel and advise the Council officers in matters appertaining to the Standard Work and the Authorized Manual for Council Officers.
(c) To promote and advance the interests of the Cryptic Rite and to encourage closer companionship throughout the Jurisdiction.
(d) To inspect and impart under the direction of the Grand Lecturer, the ritualistic work of the Rite and to report to the Grand Lecturer on an annual basis.
(e) To arrange for and hold a convention in his District in cooperation with the District Deputy Grand Master at least once a year for the exemplification of the work of the ritual and the promotion of the interests of the Rite.
(f) To encourage each Council within his District to appoint a Council Lecturer and to work with him during the year to promote efficiency with the Ritual of the Cryptic Rite.

ARTICLE IV

STATIONS, INSIGNIA, JEWELS AND HONORS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

Section 47 — Stations

The Station of the Grand Master is in the East; of the Deputy Grand Master, on the right of the Grand Master; of the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, on the left of the Grand Master; of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, at the left of the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; of the Judge Advocate to the left of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer; of the Grand Captain of the Guard, in the West; of the Grand Conductor of the Council, in the South; of the Grand Chaplain(s), on the left and in front of the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; of the Grand Marshal, on the right and in front of the Deputy Grand Master; of the Grand Standard Bearer, on the left of the Grand Marshal; of the Grand Lecturer, on the left of the Grand Standard Bearer; of the Grand Historian, on the left of the Grand Lecturer; ***of the Grand Archivist, on the left of the Grand Historian;*** of the Grand Musician(s), on the right and behind the Grand Marshal; of the Grand Steward, at the door inside; and of the Grand Sentinel, at the door outside. ***[Amended 2018, 2023]***

Section 48 — Insignia of Grand Officers

The insignia of each of the Officers of this Grand Council consists of an appropriate hanging Jewel and Apron.

The Apron shall be white, with gold border on the body of the Apron and the flap. The cords and edges of body and flap of Apron shall be purple and the body embroidered with the Jewel of the office.

The Apron of the Grand Master shall be embroidered with the Jewel of his office, enclosed within a wreath.

Section 49 — Jewels of Grand Officers

The Jewels of all the Officers of this Grand Council are enclosed in a Triangle, which is encircled by a wreath, the whole to be of gold or some metal resembling it in color. In the Triangle worn by the Grand Master is suspended the Square, Compass and Trowel; in that of the Deputy Grand Master, a Level and Trowel (in that of Past Grand Master, the Compasses extended upon an arc of sixty degrees, with the Trowel in the center); in that of the Grand P.C. of the Work, the Trowel and Plumb; in that of the Grand Treasurer, the Trowel and Cross Keys; in that of the Grand Recorder, the Trowel and Cross Pens; in that of the Grand Captain of the Guard, the Trowel and Battle-Axe; in that of the Grand Conductor of the Council, the Trowel and the Baton; in that of Grand Chaplain(s), the Trowel and Holy Bible open; in

that of Grand Lecturer, the Trowel and Scroll; in that of Grand Marshal, the Trowel and Baton crossed upon the Scroll; in that of Grand Standard Bearer, the Trowel and Banner; in that of Grand Steward, the Trowel and Cross Swords; and in that of Grand Sentinel, the Trowel and Sword crossed.

Section 50 — Seal of the Grand Council

The Seal of the Grand Council is in the form of a circle, within which is inscribed "GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS". Within that is an inner circle containing the words "State of New York". Within the inner circle is an equilateral triangle, the right side being missing. In the center of the whole is the Tetragrammaton.

Section 51 — Grand Honors

1. Public Grand Honors, consisting of battery 3x3x3, without reversing hands, shall be given to all Grand Officers when officially received in a Council.

2. Private Grand Honors, consisting of battery 3x3x3, without reversing hands, each battery preceded by the due guard of Select Master, shall be given to the Grand Master only.

ARTICLE V

STATIONS, INSIGNIA, DRESSES AND JEWELS OF OFFICERS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

Section 52 — Stations

The station of the Master is in the East; of the Deputy Master, on the right of the Master; of the Principal Conductor of the Work on the left of the Master; of the Treasurer, at the right of the Deputy Master; of the Recorder, at the left of the Principal Conductor of the Work; of the Captain of the Guard, in the West; of the Conductor of the Council, in the South; of the Chaplain, on the left of P.C. of the Work; of the Marshal, near the South, on the left; of the Steward, at the door inside; and of the Sentinel, at the door outside.

Section 53 — Insignia

The hangings for Jewels are of purple, and may be trimmed with gold; the Aprons are white, trimmed with purple, of rectangular shape approximately 14 inches in depth, and 17 inches in width, having a triangular flap, the point of which shall reach to the center of the Apron, with a purple border on both flap and Apron, which shall be the distinctive Apron for Constituent Councils in the jurisdiction.

Section 54 — Dresses

The Master is clothed in a Robe of royal purple trimmed with ermine, a Crown upon his head, and a Scepter in his hand; the Deputy Master, in a robe of scarlet, trimmed with ermine, a Crown upon his head; the Principal Conductor of the Work, in a robe of yellow, a Turban on his head; and the Captain of the Guard, in the military dress of the Eastern nations 3,000 years ago. All the other officers are clothed in purple Tunics and Turbans.

Section 55 — Jewels

The Jewels of each of the Officers of a Constituent Council are suspended in a Triangle and are as follows, viz: that of the Master, the Square, Compass and Trowel; that of the Deputy Master, the Trowel and Level; that of the Principal Conductor of the Work, a Trowel and Plumb (that of Past Master, a Trowel and the Compasses extended on an arc of sixty degrees); that of the Treasurer, the Trowel and Cross Keys; that of the Recorder, the Trowel and Cross Pens; that of the Chaplain, the Trowel and Open Bible; that of the Captain of the Guard, the Trowel and Battle-Axe crossed; that of the Conductor of the Council, a Trowel and Baton crossed; that of the Marshal, the Trowel, Baton and Scroll; that of the Steward, the Trowel and Cross Swords; and that of the Sentinel, the Trowel and Sword crossed.

Section 56 — Insignia of Members of Councils

The members of a Constituent Council wear a white Apron trimmed with purple, of size and proportions as before described.

ARTICLE VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 57 — Support of General Grand Council

The Grand Council shall pay each year toward the support of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International such sum as may be required by the General Grand Council.

Section 58 — Amendments, How Made

(a) The General Regulations may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any Annual Assembly and no portion thereof may be suspended without unanimous consent.

(b) No general regulation shall be adopted inconsistent with this Constitution, and all former Constitutions and General Regulations heretofore made and adopted are hereby repealed.

Submitted by the Jurisprudence Committee
Aug. 19, 2023

M□I□ Richard C. Fowler, Chairman
M∴I∴ David H. Raymond
R∴I∴ Paul G. Huck
R∴I∴ Steven P. Koch

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