

**CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF  
THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND  
CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
OF COLORADO**

**PREAMBLE**

Whereas, this Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is chartered by the Most Excellent General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, and is organized not for profit. It is a Fraternal Order founded upon the basic principle of the Brotherhood of Man and its aims and objectives are charitable and educational. Monies received from Constituent Chapters and otherwise are to pay the operating expenses and to promote and to perpetuate the existence of Royal Arch Masonry in the State of Colorado.

And whereas, each Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons possesses the inherent power to form a constitution as the fundamental law of its actions; and to regulate and control the actions of all Royal Arch Masons, as such, under its jurisdiction, which power is derived from its Constituent Chapters through their legally-constituted representatives.

Therefore, upon these principles, The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado does hereby ordain, establish, and promulgate the following Constitution, and does hereby enact, make, and prescribe the following Laws, for the government of itself and all Royal Arch Chapters and all Royal Arch Masons under its jurisdiction.

**NAME**

**SECTION 1. NAME.** The name of this Grand Chapter shall be "The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal

Arch Masons of Colorado", and hereafter referred to as the Grand Chapter.

## **POWERS**

**SECTION 2. POWERS.** This Grand Chapter is a body of Royal Arch Masons in which is inalienably vested the sole government and superintendence of Royal Arch Masonry within the territorial limits of the State of Colorado, and within which it is the supreme power and authority in Royal Arch Masonry, possessing all the attributes of sovereignty and government—legislative, executive, and judicial—limited only by the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry, and by the provisions of its own Constitution or the laws and regulations enacted there under.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 3. MEMBERS.** The Grand Chapter shall be composed of the following named, each of whom is hereby constituted a member thereof:

1. Its officers who shall be, and whose rank and titles shall be:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest.  
Right Excellent Grand King.  
Right Excellent Grand Scribe.  
Right Excellent Grand Treasurer  
Right Excellent Grand Secretary.  
Excellent Grand Chaplain.  
Excellent Grand Lecturer.  
Excellent Grand Captain of the Host.  
Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner.  
Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain.  
Excellent Grand Master of the Third Veil.

Excellent Grand Master of the Second Veil.  
Excellent Grand Master of the First Veil.  
Excellent Grand Sentinel.

2. The Representatives of its Constituent Chapters, who shall be: The High Priest, the King, and the Scribe of each chartered Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter.

3. Its Permanent Members, who shall be: Each Past Grand High Priest, Past Grand King, Past Grand Scribe of this Grand Chapter, and each Past High Priest of each chartered Chapter, so long as each of them shall remain a member in good standing of a Chapter under its jurisdiction.

4. The members of its Standing and Special Committees, who shall be: Each member of any standing or special committee of this Grand Chapter, provided for by its laws.

## **CONVOCATIONS**

**SECTION 4. ANNUAL.** The annual convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado shall be held at such time and place as the Time and Place Committee might recommend and as designated by a resolution adopted at the preceding Annual Grand Convocation.

**SECTIONS. SPECIAL.** Special Convocations of the Grand Chapter may be held upon call of the Grand High Priest, at such times and places and for such purposes as he may designate in due and timely notice to all its chartered Chapters; provided, that he may call a special convocation for the purpose of ceremony only without giving such notice.

**SECTION 6. REPRESENTATIVES OF CHAPTERS.** Each chartered chapter shall be entitled to

representation in the convocations of the Grand Chapter by its High Priest, King and Scribe, or any such officers, who, as members of the Grand Chapter, shall constitute its legal representatives therein; and each chartered Chapter shall be entitled to three votes in the convocation of the Grand Chapter, through such representatives, subject to the conditions hereinafter prescribed.

**SECTION 7. PROXIES.** The High Priest, King, and Scribe of a Chartered Chapter may appoint in writing any member of his own Chapter to represent him as his proxy in any convocation of the Grand Chapter. No other member of the Grand Chapter shall be represented by proxy.

**SECTION 8. QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES.** No High Priest, King, or Scribe of a chartered Chapter shall be entitled to a seat or a vote, either in person or by proxy, as a representative of his Chapter in any convocation of the Grand Chapter unless all of the returns of his Chapter have been made, and all its dues and fees have been paid to the Grand Chapter, as required by the laws of the Grand Chapter.

**SECTION 9. CONSTITUTIONAL NUMBER.** The Grand Chapter shall not be opened at any convocation, or shall any business be transacted therein, without the presence of representatives of at least one-third of its chartered Chapters, except at a convocation called for the purpose of ceremony only.

**SECTION 10. DECISION OF QUESTIONS.** Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution or Laws of the Grand Chapter, all questions coming before the Grand Chapter shall be decided by a majority vote of its members, or their legally-appointed proxies present and voting.

**SECTION 11. METHOD OF VOTING.** Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution or Laws of the Grand Chapter, the method of voting shall be by a show of hands, unless three or more members demand a secret ballot, in which case a ballot shall be taken.

**SECTION 12. VOTING BY SHOW OF HANDS.**

When the method of voting is by show of hands, the individual members and holders of proxies of members of the Grand Chapter shall each be entitled to one vote; and each such individual, so voting, shall be counted as one vote.

**SECTION 13. VOTING BY BALLOT.** When a question is voted upon by ballot, and in the election of officers, each member of the Grand Chapter present shall be entitled to one vote, in his own right and in one capacity only; and each individual present who holds the proxy of a representative of his Chapter shall be entitled to one vote for each such proxy that he holds; provided, that one who is a member of the Grand Chapter by virtue of his being an officer, a permanent member or a member of a standing or special committee thereof, and who is also present as a representative or proxy of a representative of his Chapter, may cast one additional vote as a representative of his Chapter, and one additional vote for each representative whose proxy he holds; and, provided further, that if any representative of a Chapter is not present in person, or represented by a proxy, his vote may be cast by the ranking representative of his Chapter present or if no actual representative be present by the proxy of the ranking representative present.

**OFFICERS**

**SECTION 14. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.** At each annual convocation of the Grand Chapter the following officers shall be elected

from among the constitutionally eligible: a Grand High Priest, a Grand King, a Grand Scribe, a Grand Treasurer, and a Grand Secretary. All other officers of the Grand Chapter shall then be appointed by the Grand High Priest, after consultation with the Grand King and Grand Scribe so elected.

**SECTION 15. ELIGIBILITY.** No one shall be eligible to election or appointment to, or continue to hold, any office in the Grand Chapter who is not a member in good standing of a Chapter under its jurisdiction; nor shall any one be eligible to election or appointment to any office in the Grand Chapter, except the offices of Grand Chaplain and Grand Sentinel, who has not been duly elected and installed High Priest of a regular and duly-constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

**SECTION 16. MANNER OF ELECTION.** A majority of all the votes cast at any election of officers of the Grand Chapter shall be necessary to elect. The method of voting shall be by the use of written ballots, and blanks shall not be counted. No one shall solicit votes for himself or another for any office, no nomination for any office shall be made, and no officer shall be elected by motion or resolution.

**SECTION 17. INSTALLATION.** The officers of the Grand Chapter shall be installed annually, in person, by the Grand High Priest or his duly-authorized deputy, at the annual convocation at which they are elected or appointed, unless the Grand Chapter shall otherwise order; and they shall perform the duties of their respective offices until their successors are duly elected, or appointed, and installed.

**SECTION 18. SUCCESSION.** In the case of death or disability of the Grand High Priest, the Grand King,

and the Grand Scribe shall, in the order named, succeed to the prerogative, power, and duties of the office of Grand High Priest for all purposes; provided, that if such vacancy occurs by death within the first half of the term of the Grand High Priest, the succeeding officer shall become in fact, by operation of law, Grand High Priest; in all other cases he shall be merely acting Grand High Priest. In case of death or disability of all three of the principal officers of the Grand Chapter, the junior Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter shall be empowered to call a special convocation of the Grand Chapter for the election of a Grand High Priest. In the absence of the Grand High Priest from any convocation of the Grand Chapter, the Grand King, and the Grand Scribe shall, in succession, be empowered to preside; and in the absence of all three of the principal officers of the Grand Chapter, the junior Past Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter present shall be empowered to preside. There is no succession to any other office of the Grand Chapter than that of the Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 19. VACANCIES.** If any office of the Grand Chapter other than that of Grand High Priest shall become vacant by the death, resignation, permanent removal from the jurisdiction, or disability of the incumbent, that vacancy in any office or in any committee of the Grand Chapter shall be filled by appointment by the Grand High Priest.

## **POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST**

**SECTION 20. POWERS.** The Grand High Priest shall have and enjoy all the rights and prerogatives conferred upon him by the established usages of Royal Arch Masonry, and by the Constitution, laws, and regulations

of this Grand Chapter. His powers shall include but not be limited to the following:

To preside at all convocations of the Grand Chapter. To exercise and discharge all the executive and judicial functions of the Grand Chapter when it is not in session, except the granting of charters; and his official decisions and edicts shall have all the force of law until the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, and no longer, unless approved by the Grand Chapter.

To command at any time all other officers of the Grand Chapter, touching the duties and administration of their several offices, or for advice and assistance in all business relative to the Grand Chapter.

To constitute new Chapters chartered by the Grand Chapter, either in person or by deputy.

To convene any Chapter, and in person or by deputy to preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and require its conformity to the laws of the Grand Chapter.

To grant or refuse dispensations for the formation of new Chapters, and such other dispensations as are in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Grand Chapter, except during the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.

To arrest the charter of any Chapter, or to suspend the High Priest or any elective officer of any Chapter from the function of his office, until the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.

To appoint representatives of this Grand Chapter near other recognized Grand Chapters, and to receive and accredit representatives from such Grand Chapters.

**SECTION 21. DUTIES.** The Grand High Priest shall perform all the duties imposed upon him by the established usages of Royal Arch Masonry, and by the Constitution, laws,



and regulations of this Grand Chapter, to which usages, laws, and regulations he shall require a strict conformity by all Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. He shall present at each annual convocation of the Grand Chapter a written address setting forth all his official acts, and such other matters as he may deem necessary for the consideration of the Grand Chapter, with such recommendations for action as may seem desirable.

## **OTHER OFFICERS**

**SECTION 22. GRAND KING AND GRAND SCRIBE.** The Grand King and Grand Scribe shall assist the Grand High Priest in the convocations of the Grand Chapter, and perform such other duties as traditionally appertain to their respective offices.

**SECTION 23. GRAND TREASURER.** The Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds and securities belonging to the Grand Chapter. He shall give his receipt for all moneys received from the Grand Secretary, and shall deposit all funds under his control as Grand Treasurer in a National Bank as approved by the Finance Committee in the name of "Grand Treasurer of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado." He shall not loan out any of the funds of the Grand Chapter in his possession except as ordered by the Grand Chapter or on approval of the Grand High Priest. He shall pay all warrants drawn on him by authority of the Grand Chapter, and signed by the Grand Secretary, which warrants he shall cancel when paid.

He shall keep a just and accurate account of all his receipts and disbursements as Grand Treasurer; and shall attend upon the Grand Chapter, and upon the Grand High Priest, or any committee of the Grand Chapter whose duty it may be to act in relation to its fiscal concerns, with the books and documents relating to his office.

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He shall at each annual convocation of the Grand Chapter submit an accurate report of his receipts and disbursements as Grand Treasurer, in such form as the Grand Chapter may require, which shall be accompanied by the vouchers for all moneys paid out by him during the year, and satisfactory evidence that the cash balance as shown by such report is deposited in the bank in the name of the "Grand Treasurer of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado," and that the securities representing the invested funds of the Grand Chapter are in his possession.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and by order of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, he may invest and reinvest such funds in obligations of the United States of America, or in funds or securities guaranteed or insured by the United States of America, or in such funds and securities consistent with the Standards for Investments under the Colorado Uniform Prudent Investor Act, Colorado Revised Statutes 15-1-304.1 and 15-1.1-101, et esq., as the same may from time to time be amended.

He shall give bond to "The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado" from some surety company as approved by the Finance Committee, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office as herein specified, in amount to be determined annually by the Grand High Priest, which amount shall not be less than five thousand dollars. The premium for such bond shall be paid by the Grand Chapter, and shall be subject to the approval of the Grand High Priest, and as to form by the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Chapter, shall be deposited with the Grand High Priest for safe keeping.

He shall pay and deliver to his successor in office, or to such person as may be designated by the Grand Chapter

or Grand High Priest, all funds, securities, evidences of debt, books, writings, and property of the Grand Chapter, under his control, making all proper assignments when necessary.

**SECTION 24. GRAND SECRETARY.** The Grand Secretary shall attend the convocations of the Grand Chapter and duly record its proceedings. He shall receive all moneys due to the Grand Chapter from every source, keep a correct account thereof, and pay them over promptly to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore.

He shall at each annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, submit a faithful report of the moneys received by him, together with a statement of any other facts that may be proper for the information or action of the Grand Chapter.

He shall receive and preserve all petitions, applications, appeals, returns of Chapters, and all other documents addressed or belonging to the Grand Chapter.

He shall keep a register of all Chapters and of their members, of all charters and dispensations for Chapters, and the returns of Chapters.

He shall conduct the correspondence of the Grand Chapter, under the direction of the Grand High Priest. He shall keep the seal of the Grand Chapter, and shall sign, certify, and seal all official documents emanating from that body.

He shall have made and printed any books or blanks, which the Grand Chapter may require the Chapters to obtain from him, and any other books and publications ordered by the Grand Chapter, which shall be paid for by warrant of the Grand Chapter. He shall have charge of all such books and blanks, and the printed copies of the

Constitution, and other publications of the Grand Chapter, and shall dispose of them for the Grand Chapter at such prices and upon such terms, as it shall prescribe. He shall compile a list of all suspensions, expulsions, and reinstatements of members of Chapters, which shall have been reported to him by the several Constituent Chapters, together with any information that may be of value or interest to the officers or members of Chapters.

He shall give bond to “The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado,” from some surety company as approved by the Finance Committee, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office as herein specified, in the amount to be determined annually by the Grand High Priest, which amount shall not be less than five thousand dollars. The premium for such bond shall be paid by the Grand Chapter, and shall be subject to the approval of the Grand High Priest, and as to form by the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Chapter, and shall be deposited with the Grand High Priest for safe keeping.

**SECTION 25. GRAND LECTURER.** The Grand Lecturer shall impart to the officers and members of Chapters, the work, lectures, forms, and ceremonies as adopted by the Grand Chapter. He shall require from all Chapters and their officers a strict conformity to the established standard work of the Grand Chapter; and may convene any Chapter or Chapters for the purpose of giving instruction in regard thereto.

The Grand Lecturer shall inspect the condition of any Chapter, and examine its records, books, and accounts with a view of ascertaining whether such Chapter is complying with the laws of the Grand Chapter, and shall report the facts to the Grand High Priest in such form and detail and at such times as the Grand High Priest may direct.

The Grand Lecturer shall be under the direction and control of the Grand High Priest and shall make a detailed report of his acts and expenses to the Grand Chapter at its annual convocation. He shall furnish a copy of such report to the Grand High Priest at least 60 days before the annual convocation.

**SECTION 26. OTHER OFFICERS.** All other officers of the Grand Chapter shall perform such duties as by tradition or established customs appertain to their respective offices, or as may be assigned to them by the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest.

### **SEAL**

**SECTION 27. SEAL.** The Grand Chapter shall have a seal bearing such devise and inscription as by it may have been heretofore, or may be hereafter, determined, which shall be affixed to all instruments issued by its authority.

### **AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 28. TO CONSTITUTION.** This Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Grand Chapter, or their legally-appointed proxies, present and voting at an annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, after the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Grand Secretary by a member of the Grand Chapter by April 1st, and a copy thereof shall have been mailed by the Grand Secretary to each officer of the Grand Chapter and to each chartered Chapter by April 15th. It may be further amended by the unanimous vote of the members of the Grand Chapter or their legally appointed proxies, present and voting at an annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, after the proposed amendment or

amendments shall have been presented in writing to the Grand Chapter by a member thereof; provided further, that changes in any proposed amendment may be made by a three-fourths vote of the members of the Grand Chapter, or their legally appointed proxies, present and voting at such annual convocation, before voting on such amendment or amendments with such changes, at such annual convocation.

**LAWS OF THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND  
CHAPTER  
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF COLORADO**

**LAWS PERTAINING TO THE GRAND CHAPTER**

**ANNUAL CONVOCATION**

**SECTION 29. DELETED (9/7/2006)**

**SESSION COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 30. APPOINTMENT.** At each annual convocation, and at each special convocation for the transaction of business, as soon as practicable after the opening of the Grand Chapter, the Grand High Priest shall appoint the following named committees of three members each, who shall be a member of some Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, to serve during such convocation:

1. On Visitors, whose duty it shall be, by order of the Grand High Priest, to examine all visitors not properly vouched for, and to report their respective names and Masonic connection to the Grand Chapter.
2. On Division and Reference, to which shall be referred the annual address of the Grand High

Priest, and such reports of other officers of the Grand Chapter as the Grand Chapter may determine, and which shall report with all convenient dispatch its recommendations for division and reference thereof to appropriate committees of the Grand Chapter.

## **STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 31. APPOINTMENT.** Before the close of each annual convocation the Grand High Priest shall appoint the following named standing committees of three members each, who shall be a member of some Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, to serve for the ensuing year; the Grand High Priest may also appoint any special committees he may deem advisable to serve for he ensuing year:

1. **On Jurisprudence**, to which shall be referred all decisions, edicts, and rulings of the Grand High Priest; all proposed legislation affecting the Constitution or Laws of the Grand Chapter; and all other matters of legal significance; and whose duty it shall be to report thereon to the Grand Chapter.

2. **On Finance**, whose duty it shall be to examine all accounts and financial matters to it referred, and to report thereon to the Grand Chapter; and to make a full report before the close of the annual convocation on the financial condition of the Grand Chapter. All motions or resolutions calling for the appropriation of any of the funds of the Grand Chapter, excepting such appropriations as are provided for by its Constitution or laws, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance for report and recommendation thereon before final action is

had thereon by the Grand Chapter. Also prepare the Annual Budget.

**3. On Dispensations and Charters**, to which shall be referred the work, records, and proceedings of Chapters under dispensation, and all petitions for Charters; and whose duty it shall be to report thereon to the Grand Chapter.

**4. On Appeals and Grievances**, whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon all appeals, and petitions in relation to any matters of complaint that may come before the Grand Chapter.

**5. On Correspondence**, to which shall be referred all the printed proceedings of other Grand Chapters received by this Grand Chapter; and whose duty it shall be to present a general report at each annual convocation, containing such facts pertaining to Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world, and such opinions of the committee as it may deem of interest to the Royal Arch Masons of Colorado; but this Grand Chapter shall not be responsible for, or bound by, such facts or opinions unless it shall expressly concur therein. All requests for recognition by other Grand Chapters shall be referred to this committee.

**6. On Memorials**, whose duty it shall be to report suitable resolutions and memorials on deceased Companions of this grand jurisdiction and other grand jurisdictions with which this Grand Chapter has fraternal relations.

**7. On Credentials**, whose duty it shall be at the convocations of the Grand Chapter to examine



the credentials of those claiming the right of membership, or to seats in the Grand Chapter, and to report their names and qualifications to the Grand Chapter.

8. **On Capitular Information**, whose duty it shall be to keep the Companions informed on Royal Arch activities and assist in Royal Arch advancement, publicity, and educational work ordered by the Grand Chapter.

9. **Custodians of the Work**. There shall also be a standing committee of the Grand Chapter, which shall be entitled the "Custodians of the Work," which shall consist of the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter, and two or more other members appointed annually by the Grand High Priest. This committee shall be invested with the custody, preservation, and interpretation of the esoteric work, lectures, forms, and ceremonies of Royal Arch Masonry in the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; and its decisions on all questions in regard thereto shall be final, and not subject to alteration or review, except by the Grand Chapter. This Committee shall keep a record of such of its proceedings and rulings as may with Masonic propriety be written, and shall make an annual report to the Grand Chapter of its official actions.

10. **Special Committees**, whose duty it shall be to perform any special work as outlined and ordered by the Grand High Priest.

## **REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**SECTION 32. REPORTS.** The report of every committee, and also every resolution or proposition

offered for the consideration of the Grand Chapter, shall be submitted in writing allowing sufficient time for reproduction and distribution.

### **REVENUES AND FUNDS**

**SECTION 33. SOURCES OF REVENUE.** The revenues of the Grand Chapter shall be derived from the dues and fees of its constituent Chapters; from fees charged for charters, dispensations, certificates, and other instruments issued by its authority; from the funds, uncollected dues, and proceeds of property of defunct Chapters; from the sale of publications; from the interest and income from its investments or any other source; and from any other source as may be provided in these laws.

**SECTION 34. DUES AND FEES.** Revised - September 7, 2000. The following named dues and fees shall be paid to the Grand Chapter:

Every chartered Chapter shall pay annually, as dues, for each of its members, as shown on its annual returns the sum of \$ 15.00

Every Chapter working under dispensation shall pay annually, as dues, for each Companion exalted to the Royal Arch Degree by its authority the sum of \$10.00.

Every Chapter, whether chartered or working under dispensation, shall pay as a fee, for each Companion exalted to the Royal Arch Degree by its authority the sum of \$10.00.

For each dispensation to form new Chapter there shall be paid a fee of the sum of \$90.00

For each charter issued to a new Chapter there shall be a fee paid of the sum of \$10.00

**SECTION 34A. SPECIAL FEES.** The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado shall subscribe to and pay for The Royal Arch Mason Magazine, official publication of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International, for one hundred percent of its members, including an eight page Colorado Section which will be inserted in the center of the magazine of each publication.

**SECTION 35. COLLECTION OF REVENUES.** Fees for dispensations shall be paid to the Grand High Priest, and when received by him shall be turned over to the Grand Secretary. All other revenues of the Grand Chapter shall be paid directly to the Grand Secretary. The Grand High Priest shall have the power to waive the fee for any special dispensation if, in his judgment, such a meeting is for the promotion of Royal Arch Masonry.

**SECTION 36. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.** The funds of the Grand Chapter shall be disbursed only through warrant signed by the Grand Secretary upon the Grand Treasurer for such amounts and such purposes as are specified in the Constitution or Laws of the Grand Chapter, or as may be designated in a duly-adopted resolution of the Grand Chapter.

#### **ALLOWANCES**

**SECTION 37. FOR THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST.** The Grand High Priest shall be allowed such sums Per Annum toward his traveling expenses incurred in the necessary discharge of the duties of his office, as recommended by the Finance Committee and adopted in the annual budget, for which a warrant upon the Grand Treasurer shall be drawn by the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION 38. FOR THE GRAND SECRETARY.** The Grand Secretary shall be paid for his services such

sums as the Grand Chapter may from time to time prescribe and provide for in the annual budget, and he shall be allowed additional sums for his contingent expenses as the Grand Chapter may from time to time appropriate for that purpose in the annual budget.

**SECTION 39. GRAND LECTURER.** The Grand Lecturer shall be reimbursed for his services his actual expenses incurred in the discharge of the duties of his office by warrant of the Grand Chapter on the Grand Treasurer which have been approved by the Grand High Priest.

## **DEGREES**

**SECTION 40. JURISDICTION OVER DEGREES.**

The Degrees in Masonry over which this Grand Chapter possesses sole jurisdiction are: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason. No other body, or no person, save this Grand Chapter and the Chapters authorized and warranted by it, possesses any power or authority over such degrees within the State of Colorado.

**SECTION 41. DEGREES RECOGNIZED.**

This Grand Chapter recognizes no degrees in Masonry except those conferred under the authority of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Colorado, or by the authority" of the various Grand Lodges with which that Grand Lodge is in fraternal relations; and the degrees conferred under the authority of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or under the authority of the various Grand Chapters with which the Grand Chapter of Colorado is in fraternal relations.

**SECTION 42. MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS.** This Grand Chapter admits that only organizations that are

regular and duty-constituted Masonic Bodies are those that are admitted to be such by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Colorado, as set forth in The Book of Constitutions of that Grand Lodge.

**SECTION 43. LAWS AND REGULATIONS.** The laws and regulations of The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado pertaining to Chapters under its jurisdiction are hereby declared to be contained in: The Book of Constitution containing laws; The Royal Arch Ritual, containing ceremonies and lectures; The Book of Forms and the Royal Arch Guide, containing ceremonies for the use of Chapters. All such Books and Regulations shall be approved by the Grand Chapter at an annual convocation before they become effective.

**SECTION 44. FORMS.** Each Chapter shall use the books of record and account as prescribed by the Book of Forms. Any petition, report, or other document required by law to be used by a Chapter or a Royal Arch Mason for any particular purpose for which a form is prescribed by the Book of Forms, shall be in such form.

## **LAWS PERTAINING TO CHAPTERS**

### **GENERAL**

**SECTION 45. AUTHORITY.** Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction shall be held by virtue of either a charter from this Grand Chapter or a dispensation to hold a Chapter issued by the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest. No Chapter shall become incorporated under the laws of any state.

**SECTION 46. CONSTITUTION OF CHAPTER.** Every chartered Chapter shall be duly constituted and its

officers shall be installed by the Grand High Priest or his duly appointed deputy, before proceeding to work or to transact any business.

**SECTION 47. MEMBERSHIP OF CHARTERED CHAPTER.** A chartered Chapter shall be composed of those Royal Arch Masons to whom the charter is granted, and such Royal Arch Masons as such Chapter shall thereafter admit to membership by regular affiliation; together with those who, having been duly elected therein to receive the degree of Royal Arch Mason, shall be exalted to that degree by the authority of such Chapter; each of whom shall, by the virtue of any one of such procedures, become a member of such Chapter, and who shall remain a member, entitled to all the rights and benefits as such, until his membership shall be terminated either by his death, or by the dissolution of such Chapter, or by his voluntary withdrawal from membership as provided for in these laws, or by his suspension or expulsion from membership.

**SECTION 48. CHAPTER UNDER DISPENSATION.** A Chapter under dispensation shall be composed of those Royal Arch Masons to whom such dispensation is granted, together with those who, having been duly elected therein to receive the degree of Royal Arch Mason, shall be exalted to that degree by the authority of such Chapter; each of whom shall be entitled to vote in such Chapter and participate in its transactions.

**SECTION 49. OFFICERS OF CHAPTER.** The elected officers of each Chapter consist of a High Priest, a King, a Scribe, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an appointed Captain of the Host, a Principal Sojourner, a Royal Arch Captain, a Master of the Third Veil, a Master of the Second Veil, a Master of the First Veil,

and a Sentinel. The title of the High Priest shall be "Excellent", and that of every other officer "Companion".

**SECTION 50. DEGREES OF CHAPTER.** Every Chapter shall have the right to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, which shall be conferred in the respective Lodges of such degrees; and the degree of Royal Arch Mason which shall be conferred in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; which degrees shall always be conferred in the order here named. Except that by a Special Dispensation of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest the order of presentation may be altered.

**SECTION 51. DEGREES OF CHAPTER.** Every Chapter is authorized to open and hold Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters; and therein to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, respectively. The High Priest of the Chapter shall be the presiding officer in each such Lodge, and his title therein shall be "Right Worshipful Master", however the High Priest may designate any competent Royal Arch Mason to preside over such Lodges. The other officers of such Lodges shall be such officers as are provided for by the work of the Grand Chapter, and the title of each in the Lodge shall be "Brother". (Revised Sept 4, 2003)

**SECTION 52. WORK.** Every Chapter shall use the system of work and lectures adopted by this Grand Chapter, as interpreted by the Custodians of the Work, and taught by the Grand Lecturer. The delivery or teaching of any Masonic work or lectures not so authorized, or the buying, selling, giving, or having possession of any book or work purporting to be the standard work of Royal Arch Masonry, that is not approved by this Grand Chapter, or any paraphrase of

the work of Royal Arch Masonry, shall be a Masonic offense.

## **CHAPTERS UNDER DISPENSATION**

**SECTION 53. DISPENSATION FOR NEW CHAPTER.** A dispensation for the formation of a new Chapter may be granted by the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest, upon the petition of at least twelve Royal Arch Masons in good standing, each of whom shall be a resident within the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed Chapter.

### **SECTION 54. PETITION FOR DISPENSATION.**

The petition for dispensation for a new Chapter shall be in the form required by the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest. Each petitioner shall sign his full name to the petition, and state the name of the Chapter of which he is a member or from which he holds a demit, and the name, number, and jurisdiction of the Lodge of Freemasons of which he is a member.

**SECTION 55. REQUISITES OF PETITION.** A petition for a dispensation for a new Chapter shall be accompanied by the following: A demit from, or a certificate of membership in, a regular and duly constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, certified by the Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction from which issued for each of the petitioners; a recommendation from three Chapters nearest the place where the new Chapter is located; provided, that should there be more than three Chapters within a radius of fifteen miles, the recommendation of three Chapters shall be sufficient. Should there be objection from any Chapter, it shall be made to the Grand High Priest in writing stating the objection. He shall investigate and determine which action would be to the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry and report to the Grand Chapter at its next



annual convocation. The Grand Chapter shall then decide by two-thirds vote whether or not to issue a dispensation; a certificate from the Grand Lecturer that the proposed High Priest, King and Scribe are each able to open and close the Chapter on each of the degrees, and that among them they are able to confer all the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry in full; and a fee of Ninety Dollars.

**SECTION 56. CERTIFICATES WITH PETITION.**

Any member, not an officer, of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, may join in a petition for a dispensation for a new Chapter, without withdrawing from membership in his Chapter; and in lieu of a demit may furnish a certificate from his Chapter that he is in good standing with his dues paid up to at least the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter. If such dispensation should be granted, and the new Chapter thus formed should be subsequently chartered by the Grand Chapter with such petitioner as a charter member thereof, his membership shall cease in his former Chapter and begin in the new chartered Chapter as of the date when the new Chapter is chartered.

**SECTION 57. DATE OF DISPENSATION.** No dispensation for a new Chapter shall be granted by the Grand High Priest within three months next preceding the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.

**SECTION 58. JURISDICTION.** The territorial and personal jurisdiction, except for discipline, of a Chapter under dispensation shall be that of a chartered Chapter.

**SECTION 59. GOVERNMENT.** A Chapter under dispensation shall be governed by the provisions of the dispensation under whose authority it is held, and by the laws of the Grand Chapter pertaining to Chapters, except as otherwise provided herein. No election of officers

shall be held by a Chapter under dispensation, nor shall its officers be installed, nor shall it make any by-laws for its government. No petition for affiliation shall be received or acted upon by such a Chapter, nor shall it demit or discipline any of the Royal Arch Masons who compose it, or any of its unfinished material. If discipline becomes necessary, the charges shall be preferred in and tried by such Chapter as the Grand High Priest shall designate.

**SECTION 60. TERMINATION OF DISPENSATION.** The dispensation for a new Chapter shall remain in force until the 1st. day of September immediately preceding the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, unless sooner revoked by the Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 61. RETURNS.** On or before the fifteenth day of July a Chapter under dispensation shall forward to the Grand Secretary its dispensation, returns of work, books of record, and the sum of \$10.00 for each Royal Arch Mason made by the authority of such Chapter: and if a Charter is desired it shall at the same time present a petition for a Charter, in the form provided by the Grand Chapter, accompanied by three copies of its proposed code of by-laws, and a Charter fee of \$10.00.

**SECTION 62. DISPOSITION OF DISPENSATION.** The Grand Chapter may continue or revoke the dispensation for a new Chapter, or grant a charter for such new Chapter.

**SECTION 63. PETITION FOR CHARTER.** A charter for a new Chapter shall be granted only by the Grand Chapter at an annual convocation, and upon the written petition of at least three-fourths of the total number of Royal Arch Masons composing the Chapter under dispensation the number required for such petition

in no event to be less than twelve; provided the Chapter shall have worked under dispensation to the satisfaction of the Grand Chapter and shall have regularly conferred all the degrees.

**SECTION 64. FORM OF PETITION FOR CHARTER.** Only those to whom the dispensation for a new Chapter was issued and those exalted by its authority shall be eligible to sign the petition for a charter. The petition for a charter shall be signed by the petitioners with their names in full, and shall propose a name for the Chapter and the names of those recommended for appointment as High Priest, King and Scribe; but the Grand Chapter may substitute another name for the Chapter or other names for appointment as officers. Any one of the Royal Arch Masons to whom the charter is granted may be appointed and installed as High Priest of a newly chartered Chapter.

**SECTION 65. GRANTING CHARTER.** A charter for a new Chapter shall be granted only to those who signed the petition for the charter and were eligible to do so; provided, that the Grand Chapter may refuse to include in the charter the name or the names of any such petitioner or petitioners; and that the number to whom a charter may be granted shall not be less than twelve.

**SECTION 66. OFFICERS UNDER CHARTER.** The charter shall name the High Priest, King and Scribe of the new Chapter, and before such Chapter is constituted the High Priest so named shall appoint the remaining officers; and all the officers shall be installed by the Grand High Priest, or his duty-appointed deputy, at the time of constituting the Chapter.

**SECTION 67. CERTIFICATES OF STANDING.** If the dispensation for a new Chapter shall be revoked, or if the Grand Chapter shall refuse to grant a charter to a

Chapter under dispensation, the demits or certificates of good standing which accompanied the petition for a dispensation shall be returned by the Grand Secretary to those who submitted them; and each Brother or Companion in good standing, and against whom no charges are known to be pending, who may have received any degree or degrees by the authority of such Chapter while working under dispensation, shall be entitled to a certificate of the fact from the Grand Chapter, upon application in writing to the Grand Secretary, which certificate shall have the force and effect of a demit. Any companion in good standing, and against whom no charges are known to be pending, who was exalted to the Royal Arch degree by the authority of a Chapter under dispensation, and who failed or refused to sign the petition for a charter for such Chapter, or whose name was omitted from the charter, shall upon like application be entitled to a similar certificate.

## **CHARTERED CHAPTERS RELATION WITH GRAND CHAPTER**

**SECTION 68. ANNUAL RETURNS.** Every Chapter shall make annually full returns to the Grand Chapter, showing all changes in membership; all work done; and such other facts as the Grand Chapter may require; for the year ending June 30.

**SECTION 69. FORM OF RETURNS.** The returns of each Chapter shall be made on blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary. Such returns shall show the names of the officers and number of members of the Chapter as of June 30th; and shall also show the full names of all those who received any degree by the authority of such Chapter, the names of those admitted to membership by affiliation or reinstatement, also the names of those whose membership was terminated by death, demission, suspension, or expulsion, with the dates of the respective

facts, for each Capitular Year ending June 30th; together with a list of the stated and special convocations held by the Chapter for the same period.

**SECTION 70. DELIVERY OF RETURNS.** The annual returns shall be signed by the High Priest and attested by the Secretary, under the seal of the Chapter, and shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>

**SECTION 71 A. ANNUAL DUES AND FEES.** Each charter Chapter shall pay annually to the Grand Chapter the sum of fifteen dollars, as dues, for each member reported in the annual returns; and the further sum of ten dollars, as fees for each Companion exalted to the Royal Arch Degree by the authority of such Chapter during the year. Dues and fees shall be paid to the Grand Secretary on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SECTION 71B.** The Grand Chapter will remit to each Chartered Chapter for each of its living Life Members an amount equal to the difference between the current dues per member and the dues per member for the year in which his Life Membership contribution was made. The Colorado York Rite Life Memorial Fund will send with its annual distribution a statement for each Chartered Chapter and for the Grand Chapter showing Life Members, year of contribution, and the amount to be remitted, which amount shall be known as an adjustment to the total Dues in the chartered Chapter's annual return. For a deceased member the Colorado York Rite Life Memorial Fund shall continue to make payment to the Chartered Chapter the amount of the dues of the Chapter when the deceased member's Life Membership contribution was made and make payment to the Grand Chapter the amount of the per-capita when the deceased member's Life Membership contribution was made,

beginning with the year following his death. Revised -  
September 7, 2000.

**SECTION 72. REPORTING MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.** The Secretary of each Chapter shall report to the Grand Secretary each suspension or expulsion from membership, and each reinstatement to membership, in his Chapter, on or before the end of the current month.

**SECTION 73. REPORTING NAMES OF OFFICERS.** Immediately after the annual election of officers in each Chapter the Secretary shall report to the Grand Secretary the names and addresses of the newly elected and appointed officers.

**SECTION 74. CONSOLIDATION OF CHAPTERS.** Two or more Chapters may, with the consent of the Grand High Priest and subject to the approval of the Grand Chapter, consolidate and form one Chapter, if two-thirds of the members of each Chapter present at a convocation, after at least thirty days notice to all members, shall vote to do so, and there are less than nine dissenting votes in each Chapter. Such consolidation may be either under the charter of one of the Chapters, or under such charter with amendment as to name or number or both name and number.

**SECTION 75. DUPLICATE CHARTER.** When the charter of a Chapter shall have been destroyed, stolen, or surreptitiously taken or detained, or shall have become defaced or illegible, rendering unfit for use, the Grand High Priest may order a duplicate charter to be issued by the Grand Secretary, for a fee of \$20.00, which duplicate will show on its margin the reason why it was issued.

**SECTION 76. ARREST OF CHARTER.** The charter of a Chapter may be arrested or suspended by the Grand

High Priest or Grand Chapter at any time should the interests of Royal Arch Masonry require it. When the charter of a Chapter has been arrested by the Grand High Priest, the rights, privileges and jurisdiction of the Chapter, and the Chapter standing of its members remain in abeyance until the Grand Chapter passes upon the arrest. Immediately upon the arrest of a charter the person or persons having in custody the property of such Chapter shall forward to the Grand Secretary the funds, books of record and account, papers, seal and jewels of the Chapter, and hold all other property of the Chapter subject to his order.

**SECTION 77. REVOCATION OF CHARTER.** The Grand Chapter may revoke the charter of a Chapter for disobedience to the Grand Chapter constitution, laws, rules, edicts and orders; or whenever in the judgement of the Grand Chapter the condition of the Chapter as to discipline or otherwise is such that its longer existence is detrimental to the interests of Royal Arch Masonry. If a chapter shall fail to make its annual returns, or to pay its dues and fees to the Grand Chapter at the time specified in these laws; or if it shall fail to meet for twelve consecutive months, or if for two consecutive years it shall fail to be represented in the annual convocations of the Grand Chapter, its charter shall be subject to arrest and revocation.

**SECTION 78. SURRENDER OF CHARTER.** A Chapter may surrender its charter; provided, that at a stated convocation, after at least thirty days notice to all its members, a majority of the members present vote to do so, and there are less than nine negative votes.

**SECTION 79. DISSOLUTION OF CHAPTER.** A Chapter can be dissolved only by the surrender or revocation of its charter, which shall be conclusive upon the Chapter; and its members shall therefore become

non-affiliated; and all property of the Chapter shall thereupon become the property of the Grand Chapter subject to its absolute disposal, and must on demand be surrendered to the Grand Chapter, or its authorized agent, by the person or persons having it in its custody. The Grand Chapter shall in no case be liable for any indebtedness of a defunct Chapter beyond the net amount received from the sale of the property of the Chapter, and from the unpaid dues collected, after paying all expenses attending the settlement of the affairs of such Chapter.

**SECTION 80. CERTIFICATES OF STANDING.**

Immediately upon the surrender or revocation of the charter of a Chapter its Secretary shall forward to the Grand Secretary a certified list of all the members and unfinished material of such Chapter in good standing at the time, with a statement of the amount of dues owing by each. Any Companion or Brother so reported as in good standing at the time the Chapter ceased to exist shall, upon application in writing to the Grand Secretary, be entitled to a certificate from the Grand Chapter setting forth the facts in relation to the dissolution of the Chapter and his standing; provided, that his dues to the Chapter have been paid up to the date of surrender or revocation of the charter or provided that he pay such dues to the Grand Secretary, which certificate shall have the force and effect of a demit. One who was suspended from membership in such a Chapter prior to its dissolution shall be restored to the standing of a non- affiliated Royal Arch Mason only by the action of the Grand Chapter, upon his written application, accompanied by a recommendation of the Chapter within whose jurisdiction he is residing.

**JURISDICTION**



**SECTION 81. AUTHORITY.** The sole authority for fixing or changing the jurisdictional limits of a Chapter is vested in the Grand Chapter.

**SECTION 82. TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.**

All Chapters in the state shall have concurrent jurisdiction over the territory included in the boundaries of the state of Colorado.

**SECTION 83. PERSONAL AND PENAL JURISDICTION.**

A Chapter shall have personal jurisdiction over its members, its unfinished material and its elected petitioners for the degrees, wherever residing; and it shall have penal jurisdiction over any Royal Arch Mason residing or sojourning within its territorial jurisdiction. Except as otherwise specified in these laws, penal jurisdiction over Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters shall be governed by the same rules as provided for Royal Arch Masons.

**SECTION 84. UNFINISHED MATERIAL.**

Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters shall remain the material of the Chapter which elected them to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, unless such Chapter shall waive jurisdiction over them, as elsewhere provided for in these laws.

**SECTION 85. WAIVER OVER UNFINISHED MATERIAL.**

A Chapter may waive jurisdiction over any of its unfinished material, that is to say, a Mark Master, Past Master or Most Excellent Master, who has permanently removed from its territorial jurisdiction, and against whom no objection to advancement is standing or against whom no charges of unmasonic conduct are pending, at the request and in favor of another Chapter under the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter with which the Grand Chapter of Colorado is in fraternal relations. Any Chapter may request another

Chapter located within the state of Colorado to confer any degrees for any of its unfinished material. The conferring of such degrees shall be at such time and place and under such conditions as may be mutually agreed to by the Chapters involved.

## **OFFICERS**

**SECTION 86. ANNUAL ELECTION.** The High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer and Secretary of each Chapter shall be elected annually at the first stated convocation in either May or June; and all other officers shall then be chosen as each Chapter may determine by its by-laws.

**SECTION 87. ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE.** Membership in a Chapter is necessary to constitute eligibility to election or appointment to any office in such Chapter; provided, that any Royal Arch Mason in good standing may be appointed Sentinel. Any member of a Chapter shall be eligible to any office therein, except that of High Priest, but no one shall hold more than one office. No one shall be eligible to the office of High Priest of a Chapter unless he shall have been previously elected and installed the High Priest, King or Scribe of some regular and duly constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

**SECTION 88. MANNER OF ELECTION.** The method of voting for officers shall be by the use of written ballots. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect, and blank ballots shall not be counted. No one shall solicit votes for any office for himself or for another; no nomination for any office, other than Secretary or Treasurer, shall be made; and no officer shall be elected by motion or resolution.

**SECTION 89, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.** All officers of a Chapter, elected or appointed, shall be installed in person and as soon as practicable after the annual election, and not later than June 27th., unless by special dispensation of the Grand High Priest. None but a present or Past High Priest shall be qualified to install the officers of a Chapter. The installation may be "open" by invitation at the discretion of the newly elected High Priest.

**SECTION 89a.** An installation which is open by invitation at the discretion of the newly elected High Priest must conform to the rules and be conducted in a form and manner as prescribed by the Custodians of the Work of the Grand Chapter.

**SECTION 90. TERM OF OFFICE.** The officers of a Chapter are elected or appointed to serve for a term of twelve months, except when chosen to fill vacancies; and in all cases they shall hold their offices, unless vacated by resignation or disability, until their successors are regularly elected or appointed, and installed.

**SECTION 91A. VACANCIES IN OFFICE.** Any officer of a Chapter, other than the High Priest, King or Scribe, may resign his office; and the permanent removal of any officer from the State shall vacate his office. The High Priest shall have the power to remove any appointive officer for cause, and thereby create a vacancy. A vacancy in the office of Treasurer or Secretary shall be filled by election and installation at a stated convocation after at least five days notice to all resident members; but except as otherwise herein provided, no election shall be held to fill a vacancy in any other office. A vacancy in an appointive office may be filled at any time by the High Priest.

**SECTION 91B.** In the event of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Excellent High Priest, the King shall act as High Priest. In case of like disability of both High Priest and King, the Scribe shall act, In the case of the death, permanent removal from the Jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the High Priest, the King shall succeed to the office and be installed, hi case of like disability of the King or his advancement as above provided, the Scribe shall succeed to the office and be installed, hi case of the like disability of the Scribe, or his advancement as above provided, the office shall be vacant and the Grand High Priest shall issue a Dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In case of like disability of all three officers, a dispensation may be issued for a special election to fill the vacancies and any others which may result there from, pending which the Junior Past High Priest able to serve shall act as High Priest.

**SECTION 92. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.** The duties of the officers of a Chapter are such as appropriately attached hereto, as set forth at their installation; and as required by the established usages of Royal Arch Masonry, and prescribed by the laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

## **TRANSACTIONS**

**SECTION 93. GOVERNMENT.** Every Chapter shall be governed by the Constitution, laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter, and by its own by-laws; no Chapter shall do any work or transact any business contrary thereto, except by the authority of the Grand High Priest, through his special dispensation issued in case of emergency.

**SECTION 94. BY-LAWS.** Every Chapter shall adopt a proper set of by-Laws, and shall have the right to amend its bylaws in the manner provided in such by-laws; provided, that no such amendment shall become effective until approved by the Grand High Priest. A Chapter shall not suspend its by-laws, or any part there- in, or adopt a motion or resolution nullifying or diminishing any of its by-laws.

**SECTION 95. SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.** A request from a Chapter to the Grand High Priest for a special dispensation shall set forth fully the emergency, and shall be accompanied by a fee of five dollars. A Chapter receiving a special dispensation, and acting upon it, shall enter it fully upon its records, and return it to the Grand High Priest, with an endorsement of the action had there under. (See Section 35).

**SECTION 96. PLACE OF MEETING.** Every Chapter shall have a regular place of meeting in a building and hall designated as such by action of the Chapter, furnished and arranged according to requirements as shown in the Book of Forms, and approved by the Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 97. CHANGE OF PLACE OF MEETING.** A Chapter shall not change its regular place of meeting, or hold any convocation in any other than its regular place of meeting, without the consent of the Grand High Priest; provided, that when two or more halls in the same building shall have received the approval of the Grand High Priest, any Chapter whose regular place of meeting in such building may hold its convocation in any one of such halls.

**SECTION 98. REMOVAL OF CHAPTER.** A Chapter may change its regular place of meeting from one hall or

building to another hall or building in the same or another town or city if two-thirds of its members present at a convocation, after at least fifteen days notice to all resident members, shall vote to do so; and if the action of the Chapter shall be approved by the Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 99. HALLS.** No Chapter shall become a joint owner or occupant of a hall with any other than exclusively moral or benevolent associations, nor with any body of so-called Masons not recognized as regular by this Grand Chapter. No Chapter shall hold a convocation and confer any degree in a hall on any floor of a building where any society or organization not recognized as Masonic by this Grand Chapter may be meeting at the same time in another room or hall on the same floor.

**SECTION 100. STATED CONVOCATIONS.** The stated convocations of each Chapter shall be held at the times specified in its by-laws. Except as otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of the Grand Chapter, all the business of a Chapter shall be done at its stated convocations, and while the Chapter is opened on the Royal Arch Degree; provided, that the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master shall be conferred in the Lodges of those respective degrees; and that the trial of a Brother of any such degree shall be conducted in the Lodge of the highest degree he has attained.

**SECTION 100A.** No stated convocations will be dispensed without dispensation from the Grand High Priest except when a quorum is not present. Should a stated convocation occur on the date of a national holiday, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve or during the period of the Annual Grand York Rite Sessions of this Grand Jurisdiction, the Constituent Chapters may hold

such stated convocations on any convenient date within the month without a special dispensation. However, the membership shall be duly notified of such change thirty days in advance.

**SECTION 101. SPECIAL CONVOCATION.** Special convocations of a Chapter may be called by the High Priest for the purpose of conferring the Royal Arch Degree; for installing the officers of a Chapter; for performing deeds of charity; for receiving a visit from an officer of the Grand Chapter; for receiving or imparting Masonic instruction; or for the transaction of any special business permitted by the laws of the Grand Chapter to be acted upon at either a stated or special convocation. Special meetings of Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters or Most Excellent Masters may be called by the High Priest for the purpose of conferring degrees or for the trial of a Brother. The object of each special convocation or meeting shall be distinctly stated by the High Priest, or presiding officer, immediately after the opening of the Chapter or Lodge; and no other business shall be transacted, or work done, at such convocation or meeting than that for which it was so called. No such convocation or meeting shall be held on Sunday.

**SECTION 102. CONSTITUTIONAL NUMBER.** A Chapter shall not be opened, nor shall any business be transacted therein, unless there be present nine or more regular Royal Arch Masons, one of whom shall be its High Priest, or King or Scribe, and at least four of whom shall be members of such Chapter; provided that a Chapter may be opened, at either a stated or Special convocation, and the Royal Arch Degree be conferred therein, if there be present nine or more Royal Arch Masons, including the High Priest, or King or Scribe of such Chapter.

**SECTION 102A.** A chapter shall not be opened, but a business meeting may be held as long as five or more regular Royal Arch Masons; one of whom shall be its High Priest or King or Scribe and at least four of whom shall be members of such Chapter. (Revised September 7, 2000)

**SECTION 102B.** That once a combined Chapter/Council opening is developed by the Grand Lectures and Custodians of the Work of both bodies, and it is received in writing from the Grand York Rite Office, it may be implemented immediately thereafter on an OPTIONAL basis as determined by said Chapters/Councils.

**SECTION 103. DEPENDENT LODGES.** Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters may be opened separately, without opening the Chapter, and degrees may be conferred in such Lodges, if there be present at least nine brethren who have received the degree in which the work is to be done, one of whom shall be High Priest or King or Scribe of the Chapter under whose authority the Lodge is held.

**SECTION 104. PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.** No Chapter shall appear in public procession; nor shall any Chapter clothing or jewels of its officers be worn in public, without a special dispensation from the Grand High Priest for that purpose.

**SECTION 105. VOTING.** Except as otherwise provided by these laws of the by-laws of the Chapter, all questions coming before a Chapter shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present and voting. Every member of a Chapter shall be entitled to a vote therein and to participate in its transactions.



**SECTION 106. DUTIES OF THE HIGH PRIEST.**

The High Priest of a Chapter shall be responsible to the Grand Chapter for the government of his Chapter and for the transactions thereof and it shall be his duty to declare out of order any motion or resolution which, if carried, would violate the Constitution, laws or regulations of the Grand Chapter; the by-laws of his Chapter; or any edict or order of the Grand High Priest. It shall be the duty of the High Priest to suspend from office any appointed officer of his Chapter for cause or unmasonic conduct, pending charges and trial for such conduct. From the decision of the High Priest there shall be no appeal to the Chapter; but an appeal may be taken to the Grand High Priest, subject to the final approval of the Grand Chapter; or an appeal may be taken directly to the Grand Chapter.

**SECTION 107. KING AND SCRIBE.** In the absence of the High Priest from any convocation of his Chapter, the King shall preside; and in the absence of both the High Priest and the King, the Scribe shall preside; and the officer presiding in the absence of the High Priest shall be responsible for the transactions of such convocation.

**SECTION 108. PRESIDING OFFICER.** The High Priest or the King or Scribe presiding in his absence, may, if he shall continue to remain in the Chapter, request any competent Royal Arch Mason to preside over the Chapter, or any dependent Lodge, or to confer degrees.

**SECTION 109. REPORT OF OFFICERS.** The Treasurer, Secretary and any other officer or member whose duty it is to receive, collect or have charge of any of the funds of the Chapter, shall each separately, at least once a year make a written report to the Chapter showing his receipts and disbursements of such funds in

detail. The accounts and reports of such officers and members shall be examined at least once a year by a competent committee, appointed by the authority of the Chapter for that purpose, and said committee shall make a written report thereon to the Chapter, and the fact that such reports have been made shall be entered in the minutes.

**SECTION 110. BOOK OF CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.** Each Chapter shall keep a copy of the Book of Constitutions and Laws in its hall. The High Priest, King and Scribe of each Chapter shall read or listen to the reading of the Book of Constitutions and Laws within two months after its annual election in the Chapter, and report to the Grand High Priest their compliance with this law within that time.

**SECTION 111. INDEBTEDNESS.** No Chapter shall incur an indebtedness beyond the amount of fifteen dollars per member, without the consent of the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 112. FUNDS.** A Chapter shall not appropriate or donate any of its funds for any other than strictly Masonic or charitable or educational or philanthropic purposes. No Chapter shall at any time dispose of its funds, or any part thereof, by general distribution among its members.

**SECTION 113. PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS.** In all discussions or debate in a Chapter personal reflections and all allusions to political or sectarian topics are strictly prohibited. A Chapter, as such, shall not present a petition to the civil authorities, or take part in municipal, state, or national affairs; nor shall any Royal Arch Mason do so in an official Masonic capacity. No Royal Arch Mason shall circulate in any Chapter or in the rooms adjacent to where a Chapter is being held,

any petition concerning any matter not strictly Masonic. No Chapter shall sponsor or endorse any organization not strictly Masonic. A Chapter shall not conduct or engage in any entertainment or form of amusement for profit, or for which a charge is made; nor shall it endorse any public entertainment for the purpose of influencing public patronage. No Chapter shall issue, or officially endorse, any letter or document to any person or organization, to be used for business or begging purposes; nor in writing or otherwise solicit pecuniary assistance from any Mason or Masonic organization, or from the general public; nor entertain begging letters from any source; unless authorized to do so by the Grand Chapter or Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 114. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.** A Chapter shall have every official communication from the Grand High Priest, Grand Secretary, or other officer of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, read in open Chapter at the next stated convocation following its receipt, and shall acknowledge all official communications unless otherwise instructed.

**SECTION 115. ANSWERING COMMUNICATIONS.** Chapters and their Secretaries are authorized to answer communications from any recognized Masonic body concerning the standing of a member of a Chapter.

**SECTION 116. NOTICES.** Any notice required by these laws to be sent to all the members, or all the resident members of a Chapter, may be in either written or printed form; but if any such general notice shall specify any proposed action by the Chapter in relation to balloting upon petitions, advancement after objection, trial for unmasonic conduct, reinstatement to membership, or recommendation for restoration, it shall not include the name of the person concerning whom the

proposed action is to be taken. If such notice is in written form it shall be sent under the seal of the Chapter

**SECTION 117 VISITORS.** No visitor shall be admitted to a Chapter until his Masonic qualifications have been ascertained by due examination or lawful information. The examination of a visitor shall be made by a competent committee of two Royal of two Royal Arch Masons, appointed by the High Priest.

**SECTION 118. OBJECTION TO VISITOR.** No visitor shall be admitted to any Chapter if a member of such Chapter who is present objects to the High Priest, either privately or in open Chapter, but such objection shall not extend beyond convocation at which it is made and shall not be recorded; provided, that no such objection shall be valid against the Grand High Priest, or one specially deputed by him to visit such Chapter; nor against any officer of the Grand Chapter visiting in an official capacity; nor against a Royal Arch Mason in good standing who is acting as counsel for a Companion on trial.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 119. MEMBERSHIP IN CHAPTER.** It shall be the duty of every Royal Arch Mason to be a member of some Chapter. No non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason who has continued as such for twelve months, without petitioning some Chapter for affiliation, shall be permitted to visit any Chapter in this jurisdiction, except for the purpose of qualifying himself for petitioning for affiliation therewith; nor shall he be entitled to any of the rights or benefits of Royal Arch Masonry.

**SECTION 120. DUAL.** A member of a Chapter who is in good standing, in a Jurisdiction legally recognized by Colorado, may be admitted to Dual Membership in any

Chapter in this Jurisdiction. The petition for membership must be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Chapter in which the petitioner is currently a member and shall be acted upon in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws of the Chapter being petitioned. When elected, he shall have all the rights and privileges, and be subject to all the rules and regulations, of the Colorado Chapter.

**120A. PLURAL MEMBERSHIP.** A member of a Colorado Chapter, who is in good standing, may be admitted to Plural Membership in any other Chapter in this Jurisdiction. The petition must be accompanied by documentation of good standing from the Chapter in which the petitioner is currently a member and shall be acted upon in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws of the Chapter being petitioned. When elected, he shall have all the rights and privileges, and be subject to all the rules and regulations, of each Chapter, except he shall not be eligible to hold the office of High Priest in more than one Chapter at the same time. He shall be required to pay such amounts, as is required to be paid to the Grand Chapter as Per Capita, only in the Chapter that is considered his primary Chapter. (Revised September 8, 2001)

**SECTION 120B. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.** Honorary Membership, which shall give the right to speak but not to vote, may be conferred upon a member in good standing of another Chapter, by the vote of the Chapter at a stated Convocation at which the petitioner is not present.

**SECTION 121. MEMBERSHIP IN LODGE.** Membership in a Chapter shall be dependent upon, and coexistent with, membership in a regular Lodge of Freemasons, held under the jurisdiction of either the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and

Accepted Masons of Colorado, or of a Grand Lodge with which such Grand Lodge of Colorado is in fraternal relations. Every member of a Chapter shall be required to have evidence of Lodge membership.

**SECTION 122. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION BY LODGE.** Whenever any Chapter shall have received official information of the suspension or expulsion of one of its members from membership in a Lodge of Freemasons, the High Priest shall, at the next stated convocation thereafter, order the fact to be entered in the minutes of the Grand Chapter; and such member shall stand suspended or expelled from membership in the Chapter from the date of his suspension or expulsion in the Lodge. Upon receipt of official information of the reinstatement of such former member to membership in the Lodge of Freemasons, the High Priest shall order the fact to be entered in the minutes of the Chapter at the next stated convocation thereafter; and such former membership shall be reinstated to membership in the Chapter as of the date of such action by the Lodge.

**SECTION 123. NON-AFFILIATION IN LODGE.**

Voluntary non-affiliation with a Lodge of Freemasons for a consecutive period of twelve months by a Royal Arch Mason shall be cause for his suspension from membership in the Chapter of which he is a member; and it shall be the duty of each member of a Chapter who shall have withdrawn from membership in a Lodge to notify his Chapter of his subsequent affiliation with some Lodge.

**SECTION 124. SUSPENSION FOR NON-AFFILIATION.** Whenever a Chapter shall be in possession of official information that a member of such Chapter has withdrawn from membership in a Lodge of Freemasons, and has recessed no official information of his subsequent affiliation with some Lodge, the

Secretary of the Chapter shall, on or after the expiration of one year from the date of withdrawal, send to such member, by registered mail to his last known address, a notice requiring him to furnish within sixty days satisfactory evidence that he is not a voluntary non-affiliated Master Mason. If at the expiration of sixty days after the sending of such notice such evidence is not furnished to the Secretary, he shall report the facts to the Chapter at its next stated convocation; whereupon the High Priest shall declare such member suspended from membership in the Chapter; the facts shall be entered in the minutes of the Chapter; and such member shall stand suspended from membership in the Chapter from the date when the declaration of suspension was made in the Chapter. Upon receipt of official information that such suspended member has affiliated with a Lodge of Freemasons, the High Priest shall at the next stated convocation thereafter order the fact to be entered in the minutes of the Chapter; and such suspended member shall thereby be reinstated to membership in the Chapter as of the date of such action by the Chapter.

**SECTION 125. NOTICES REGARDING MEMBERSHIP.**

Whenever a member of a Chapter shall have been suspended, expelled, or reinstated by a Chapter by reason of like action by a Lodge, or shall have been suspended for non-affiliation with a Lodge, or reinstated after such suspension for non-affiliation, the Secretary shall promptly notify him of such action; and in each such case the Secretary shall report the action of the Chapter to the Grand Secretary as in the case of suspension, expulsion, or reinstatement for other cause.

**SECTION 126. WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP.** Any member of a Chapter, other than an installed officer, may upon proper application by himself and not by another, and by complying with

requirements of these laws, withdraw from membership in a Chapter. Such application shall be in writing, signed by the member; shall be presented to the Chapter at a stated convocation; and shall be laid over until at least the next stated convocation; when, if the dues of a member shall have been paid or remitted to the date when his application was presented to the Chapter, and if he is not otherwise indebted to the Chapter; and if no charges are pending against him in the Chapter, and none are known to be pending against him in a Lodge of Freemasons; and if no objections are offered the application shall be granted by order of the High Priest, without vote of the Chapter; the fact shall be entered of record, and the membership of such applicant in such Chapter shall thereupon terminate; and the Secretary' shall issue to him a certificate to that effect, which certificate shall be termed a dimit.

**SECTION 127. DIMIT. UNFINISHED MATERIAL.**

A Chapter may issue a dimit to a Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master, for the purpose of completing work in another Chapter and becoming a member thereof, against whom no written objection to advancement is in force. If such dimit is issued, any fee for degrees unconferrred shall be returned.

**SECTION 128. DUPLICATE DIMIT.** A duplicate dimit shall not be issued, but the secretary may, upon application, issue a certificate to the effect that the records show that a dimit was granted.

**SECTION 129. OBJECTION TO GRANTING A DIMIT.** No objection to the granting of a dimit shall be entertained unless the objector shall prefer charges against the applicant, or give notice that he will do so at the next stated convocation of the Chapter, at which time, if no charges are preferred, the dimit shall be granted.



## **DUES**

**SECTION 130. ANNUAL DUES.** Each Chapter shall designate in its by-laws the amount to be paid annually by each of its members as his dues to the Chapter; and it shall not assess its members beyond such amount. Dues begin to accrue from the date membership is acquired; and, in the absence of any exemption by the provisions of the by-laws, or remission by action of the Chapter, continue until membership shall have been terminated. Dues of a Chapter shall fully cover fixed charges and shall not be less than the per capita assessment to the Grand Chapter per annum. Dues to a Chapter are payable at the time provided therefor by its by-laws, or in the absence of such provision on the first day of each calendar year, and shall be in arrears unless paid by the 31st. day of December following.

**SECTION 131. CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.** Life Memorial/Membership as passed at the Annual Convocation held in Grand Junction, Colorado September 5, 1986.

**SECTION 132. REMISSION OF DUES.** The accrued dues of any member of a Chapter may be remitted in whole or in part, for good cause, by a majority vote of the members present at any stated convocation of the Chapter.

**SECTION 133. NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.** Whenever a member of a Chapter shall be in arrears for dues for a period of one year, the Secretary shall notify him of such delinquency by mail, in a sealed envelope addressed to his last known place of residence. Should the delinquent refuse or fail to pay the amount in arrears within twenty days after the issuance of such notice, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the High Priest of such refusal or failure who shall, at the next

stated convocation, order the Secretary to serve notice on the delinquent to appear at the designated subsequent stated convocation and show cause why he should not be suspended for the non-payment of dues. The Secretary shall serve notice to appear by delivering, or causing to be delivered by a Royal Arch Mason, a copy thereof at least ten days before the convocation at which the delinquent is required to appear; or by sending such copy of notice to appear; by registered or certified mail to the last known place of residence of the delinquent at least twenty days before the date on which he is required to appear. If at the convocation designated in the notice the dues of the delinquent have not been paid, or remitted for good cause, or the time of payment thereof extended by vote of the Chapter, the High Priest, upon proof of service of notice, and the fact of indebtedness as shown by the books of the Secretary, shall put the question: "Shall Companion\_be suspended from membership in this Chapter for the non-payment of dues?", which shall be determined by vote of the members present; and if a majority of the members of the Chapter present vote "Yes", such Companion shall thereby be suspended from membership; but if a majority of the members present vote "No", no further action shall be taken in the case for a period of one year thereafter.

**SECTION 134. REINSTATEMENT.** A Companion suspended for the non-payment of dues shall be reinstated to membership in the Chapter by the payment within two years after his suspension of all arrearage of dues up to the date of suspension; or the Chapter may, by a majority vote of the members present at any stated convocation, remit the whole or any part of the arrearage, and thereby reinstate him. Upon payment of the arrearage, as above provided, the Secretary shall report the fact to the Chapter at the next stated Convocation, and enter it of record; and the Companion

in question shall be thereby reinstated to membership in the Chapter, as of the date when the payment was made. If a Companion shall remain suspended from membership for more than two years, for the non- payment of dues, he can be reinstated to membership by a majority vote of the members present at a stated convocation, after he has paid all dues he owed to the Chapter at the time of his suspension, and has made proper application in writing; provided that the Chapter may, by a majority vote of the members present at any stated convocation, remit part or all of such dues, and then consider his application for reinstatement.

**SECTION 135. FOR DEGREES.** A petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry shall be for the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason; and one ballot shall elect to all four degrees.

**SECTION 136. QUALIFICATIONS OF PETITIONERS.** No petition for the degrees or for affiliation shall be received by any Chapter unless the petitioner is, at the time the petition is presented to the Chapter, a member in good standing of a Lodge of Freemasons held under the jurisdiction of either The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Colorado, or of a Grand Lodge with which such Grand Lodge of Colorado is in fraternal relations.

**SECTION 137. RECEPTION AND BALLOTING.** A petition for the degrees for affiliation shall be received only at a stated convocation of a Chapter except by special dispensation by the Grand High Priest.

**SECTION 138. PETITION FOR DEGREES.** A petition for the degrees shall state the date and place of birth, the residence, and the occupation of the petitioner;

the length of time he has resided within the jurisdiction of the Chapter he petitions; the name, number, location, and jurisdiction of the Lodge in which he was made a Master Mason, and of the Lodge of which he is at the time a member, together with the date when he received the Master Mason degree and was examined; and whether he has ever previously petitioned any Chapter for the degrees, and, if so, when and where. Such petition shall be signed by the petitioner with his name in full; shall be recommended by two members of the Chapter to which the petition is presented; and shall be accompanied by the fee required by the by-laws of such Chapter.

**SECTION 139. QUALIFICATIONS OF PETITIONER.** A petition for the degrees shall not be received by a Chapter unless the petitioner shall have resided within the state of Colorado at least six months immediately preceding the reception of the petition, nor from one who has failed to comply with the provisions of the Grand Lodge Constitution as to time elapsing before petitioning for the Capitular Degrees. A petition for the degrees shall not be received by a Chapter from one who has been previously rejected by that Chapter until at least six months after the date of such rejection; nor from one who has been rejected by another Chapter until at least twelve months after such rejection.

**SECTION 140. PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS.** The limit of physical qualifications of a candidate for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry shall be simply that he be physically able to conform literally to what such degrees may require of him.

**SECTION 141. AFFILIATION.** A Royal Arch Mason may petition for affiliation with any Chapter in this jurisdiction, regardless of his residence; but no Chapter shall receive a petition for affiliation from a Royal Arch

Mason who has not visited that Chapter, except in the case of a former member of such Chapter. A Chapter shall not require a fee for affiliation, nor require a petitioner for affiliation to pay dues in advance, unless the by-laws of such Chapter provide. When a Petitioner for affiliation shall have been rejected by a Chapter, he may petition that or any other Chapter for affiliation at any time thereafter.

**SECTION 142. PETITION FOR AFFILIATION.** A petition for affiliation shall state the date and place of birth, the residence, and his occupation, of the petitioner; the name, number, location, and jurisdiction of the Lodge in which he was made a Master Mason, and of the Lodge of which he is at the time a member, together with the date when he received the Master Mason degree; and the name, number, location, and jurisdiction of the Chapter in which he received the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry and of his Chapter of which he was last, or is, a member. Such petition shall be signed by the petitioner with his name in full; shall be recommended by two members of the Chapter to which the petition is presented; and shall be accompanied by a demit, or a certificate in due form showing that the petitioner is no longer a member of any Chapter, or by certificate of membership in a regular and duly-constituted Chapter; and by a description of his mark.

**SECTION 143. CONDITIONAL ELECTION.** Any Royal Arch Mason, otherwise qualified, who is a member of a regular and duly-constituted Chapter, may present his petition for affiliation to a Chapter of which he is not a member; and, in lieu of a demit, accompany his petition with a certificate of membership, issued under seal by the Chapter of which he is a member; and such petition shall then take the usual course provided for petitions for affiliation in these laws. If the result of the ballot upon such petition is favorable to the

petitioner, he shall become a member of the Chapter he petitioned for affiliation only by filing with its Secretary, within ninety days after such ballot, a regular demit from the Chapter of which he was a member when he petitioned; and immediately after such ballot the High Priest shall announce that the election of the petitioner is conditioned upon his filing such demit, and shall order the Secretary to notify him accordingly. Upon the filing of such demit within ninety days after the ballot, the fact shall be entered in the minutes; and the petitioner shall become a member of the Chapter, which thus elected him conditionally, as of the date when the demit was filed. If the petitioner shall fail to file such demit within ninety days after the ballot, such conditional election shall be null and void, and shall be so declared by the High Priest; the fact shall be entered in the minutes; and the Secretary shall notify him accordingly, and return to him any certificate that may have accompanied the petition.

**SECTION 144. OBJECTION TO PETITION.** Any member of a Chapter to which a petition for the degrees or for affiliation is presented has the right, before a ballot has been had, to object, either orally or in writing, to the reception of the petition; in which event the High Priest shall order the petition to be returned to the petitioner, without further action on the part of Chapter; and the fact of the objection shall be entered in the minutes, without the name of the objector appearing. If the objection be to a petition for the degrees, the petitioner shall not be permitted to petition again for the degrees to such Chapter within six months after such action; but, if otherwise qualified, he may present his petition for the degrees to any other Chapter at any time thereafter. If the objection be to a petition for affiliation, the petitioner may present another petition for affiliation to the Chapter in which the objection was made, or to any

other Chapter, at any stated convocation held after that at which the objection was made.

**SECTION 145. RECEIVING PETITION.** If no objection to the reception of a petition for the degrees or for affiliation is made, the petition shall be received; a ballot had at the proper time; the fee accompanying the petition shall be turned into the funds of the Chapter; and the petition shall not thereafter be withdrawn, but shall be balloted on for final decision, except as hereinafter otherwise provided.

**SECTIONS 146 & 147** deleted by vote at Grand Chapter (9/8/94).

**SECTION 148. FAILURE OF CANDIDATE TO APPEAR.** If an elected candidate shall fail to present himself to receive the Mark Master degree within twelve months after he shall have been notified to appear for that purpose, his election shall be void, and his fee shall be forfeited; provided, that such candidate shall make a satisfactory excuse to the Chapter for his failure to appear, he may regularly petition again without repayment of the fee; and provided further, that if such candidate shall have permanently removed from the jurisdiction of such Chapter, the Chapter may waive the forfeiture and return of his fee.

**SECTION 149. AFFILIATION UNFINISHED MATERIAL.** A Chapter may receive from a Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master, who is a permanent resident of its territorial jurisdiction, and who is or was the unfinished material of another Chapter, a petition for any Chapter degree or degrees he has not received; provided such petition be accompanied by a dimit, or a waiver of jurisdiction having the force and effect of a dimit, from the Chapter of which he is or was the unfinished material, or by a proper certificate that he

is no longer the material of any other Chapter. Such petition shall take the usual course provided by these laws for a petition for all the degrees. If the petitioner be elected, he shall thereby become the unfinished material of the Chapter so electing him; and his standing and right to advancement in such Chapter shall be that of any other Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master who shall have been elected therein to receive all the degrees; and he shall be required to pay such fee or fees for any unconferrred degree or degrees, as the by- laws of such Chapter shall provide.

## **BALLOTING**

**SECTION 150. BALLOT.** No ballot shall be taken upon a petition for the degrees or affiliation except at a stated convocation of the Chapter, unless by special dispensation of the Grand High Priest. In balloting on such petitions all members of the Chapter present shall vote. Unless the ballot is unanimous in favor of the petitioner he shall be declared rejected.

**SECTION 151. RESULT OF BALLOT.** After the ballot has been examined, first by the Scribe, then by the King, and finally by the High Priest, the result shall be declared by the latter, unless a single negative vote appear, in which event the High Priest may order the ballot once respread; and the result when declared shall be absolutely final and subject to no reconsideration whatever.

**SECTION 152. SECRET BALLOT.** The ballot shall be free and secret, and no member shall divulge the nature of his vote. There shall be no discussion in open Chapter of the character of the petitioner; nor shall there be any discussion at any time of the result of any ballot.

## **OBJECTIONS TO CANDIDATES**



**SECTION 153. REJECTION BY OBJECTION.** Any member of a Chapter shall have the right to object to the conferring of the degrees upon an elected candidate of such Chapter; and, provided the Mark Master degree has not been conferred upon such candidate, such objection shall have the same effect as a rejection by ballot. Such objections may be made privately to the High Priest, either orally or in writing, in which case the name of the objector shall not be divulged; or it may be made in open Chapter, either orally or in writing.

**SECTION 154. OBJECTION TO ADVANCEMENT.** Any member of a Chapter shall have the right to object, either orally or in writing, to the advancement of a Mark Master, Past Master, or Most Excellent Master, who is the material of such Chapter; and, provided the Chapter does not thereafter investigate such objection and declare it insufficient, such candidate shall not be advanced unless the objection shall be withdrawn by the objector or unless the objector shall cease to be a member of such Chapter.

**SECTION 155. INVESTIGATION OF OBJECTION.** A Chapter may, by a majority vote of the members present at a stated convocation, determine to investigate an objection to advancement; in which event it shall at some subsequent stated or special convocation, upon at least two weeks notice to the objecting member, take up and try the sufficiency of the objection. If the Chapter shall, by two thirds vote, by written ballot, of the members present at such trial, hold the objection to be sufficient, all fees received for any degree or degrees unconferrred shall be returned to the candidate, and he shall not be advanced unless the objection shall be withdrawn by the objector shall cease to be a member of such Chapter. If the Chapter shall hold the objection to be insufficient, the candidate may be advanced.

**SECTION 156. OBJECTION BY NON-MEMBER.**

Any Royal Arch Mason in good standing may, in person or in writing, make known to a Chapter of which he is not a member his objection to the conferring of any degree upon a candidate of such Chapter, giving the reasons therefore; and the Chapter of which the candidate is the material shall at some subsequent stated or special convocation, upon at least two weeks notice to the objector, take up and try the sufficiency of the objection, in the manner herein provided for the investigation of an objection by a member of a Chapter. If the Chapter shall hold the objection to be sufficient, such candidate shall not be advanced except by unanimous ballot at a stated convocation of the Chapter, after at least thirty days notice to all the members, and after at least thirty days notice to the objector, delivered to him in person, or sent by registered mail to his last known address.

**SECTION 157. RECORD OF OBJECTION.** In every case of an objection to the conferring of a degree or degrees upon a candidate the fact of the objection shall be entered in the minutes; but the name of the objector shall not appear in the minutes unless the Chapter should investigate the objection as provided in these laws.

**WORK**

**SECTION 158. FEES FOR DEGREES.** The degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason shall not be conferred by a Chapter for a less aggregate sum than forty dollars. At least one-half of the total amount of fees shall accompany the petition, and the remainder may be divided as the by-laws of the Chapter shall require. No Chapter shall confer any degree until the prescribed fee therefore shall have been paid; nor shall any written or verbal promise to pay be accepted in lieu of a fee; nor

shall any Chapter directly or indirectly refund such fee or any part thereof.

**SECTION 159. CONFERRING PRE-REQUISITE DEGREES.** A Chapter may, without fee, confer the degree of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, or all of them, upon a petitioner for affiliation, or upon a visitor, who was made a Royal Arch Mason in a Chapter under the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter with which the Grand Chapter of Colorado is in fraternal relations, that does not recognize any one or all of those degrees as a prerequisite to receiving the Royal Arch degree.

**SECTION 160. CONFERRING DEGREES BY REQUEST.** When a Chapter shall have elected a candidate to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, it may request another Chapter to confer any one or all of such degrees upon him for the requesting Chapter. A Chapter may, at the request of another Chapter, confer any one or all of the degrees upon a candidate for such requesting Chapter. All requests to confer degrees, either to or from Chapters held outside of the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be made or acted upon only by the authority of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Colorado.

**SECTION 161. JURISDICTION.** When a Chapter shall confer any degree or degrees upon a candidate at the request of another Chapter, it does not thereby acquire jurisdiction over such candidate, who shall remain the material of the requesting Chapter; and the fees for conferring such degree or degrees shall belong to the requesting Chapter, unless it shall see fit to relinquish them.

**SECTION 162. CONFERRING DEGREES.** A Chapter may confer any degree upon a duly-elected candidate at either a stated or special convocation; and

may confer more than one degree upon a candidate at any convocation. A Chapter shall not confer two or more degrees, or pails of one degree, at the same time in different halls or rooms.

**SECTION 163. MARKS.** Each Chapter shall keep a proper Book of Marks in which the mark of each of its members shall be recorded; and no candidate shall be exalted until he has chosen his mark and tendered it to the Secretary of the Chapter for recording.

**SECTION 164. SUBSTITUTES.** The use of substitutes in the Royal Arch degree shall not be permitted for the purpose of rapid advancement or for mere convenience; and under no circumstance shall more than one substitute be permitted.

**SECTION 165. LECTURE.** No section of lecture of the Royal Arch degree shall be given to more than one trio at the same time, except the High Priest's historical lecture, except by special dispensation of the Grand High Priest, granted without fee. (See Section 35.)

## **TRIALS**

**SECTION 166. GENERAL.** As Symbolic Masonry is the foundation upon which Royal Arch Masonry rests, every breach of the general Masonic law is a violation of the duty of a Royal Arch Mason; but at the same time a Chapter has no control over the relations of a Mason to his Lodge or to his Grand Lodge. Every violation of the special obligations and laws of Royal Arch Masonry is an offense for which one is answerable to the Chapter alone. A Royal Arch Mason, a Most Excellent Master, a Past Master, or a Mark Master, therefore, may be proceeded against by a trial in the Chapter for violation of the moral law; or of the general Masonic law if the offense involves moral turpitude; or of the Constitution,

Laws, or regulations of the Grand Chapter; or of the by-laws of his Chapter.

**SECTION 167. JURISDICTION.** A Chapter shall have penal jurisdiction over all its members, and over all its Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters, where so ever residing. It shall also have jurisdiction to bring to trial and punish any other Royal Arch Mason, Mark Master, Past Master or Most Excellent Master, affiliated or unaffiliated, except a member or the material of a Chapter having concurrent jurisdiction with it, for an offense committed within its territorial jurisdiction, subject to the provisions of these laws.

**SECTION 168. PREFERRING CHARGES.** Any Royal Arch Mason in good standing may prefer charges of unmasonic conduct in any Chapter having jurisdiction as defined in these laws. When the High Priest or Chapter orders charges to be preferred it shall be done by the Scribe. A Chapter shall not entertain charges against the High Priest of any Chapter, nor against the Grand High Priest, while he is serving in such office; but after his term of office has expired charges may be preferred against him for any offense committed by him, except for official misconduct.

**SECTION 169. CHARGES.** A Chapter shall not entertain charges against any one for the purpose of adjusting mere legal rights, pecuniary or otherwise, unless such charges specify fraud on the part of the alleged offender, or involve moral turpitude. When the charge against the accused is one, which has been made the basis of an action in the courts, the Chapter may proceed regardless of such pending action.

**SECTION 170. CHARGES.** Charges may be preferred against one who has been disciplined by a Lodge of Freemasons; and upon conviction in the Chapter a

severer penalty may be inflicted than imposed by the Lodge.

**SECTION 171. CHARGES AGAINST NON-MEMBER** When charges of unmasonic conduct shall have been preferred in a Chapter against one who is not a member, or the material, thereof, such Chapter shall promptly notify the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Colorado of such action, and await his order before proceeding further. In such case it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest to determine whether the trial of the accused shall proceed in the Chapter in which the charges were preferred, or whether it shall be transferred to the Chapter of which the accused is a member, or was last a member, or of which he is the material; and issue his order accordingly.

**SECTION 172. PROCEDURE IN TRIALS.** In the absence of any specific laws of this Grand Chapter on the subject, the laws of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Colorado upon the subject of "Trials," with such necessary changes in forms and methods as will render them applicable, shall apply to and govern all actions taken by Chapters upon charges of unmasonic conduct preferred in such Chapters, except as otherwise provided in these laws or by the regulations of the Grand Chapter.

**SECTION 173. PUNISHMENT.** The punishment which may and shall be inflicted by the Grand Chapter, or any of its constituent Chapters, upon conviction of the accused, shall be either reprimand, or definite suspension from membership, or indefinite suspension from membership, or expulsion from all rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry.

**SECTION 174. NOTICES.** Notice of each suspension or expulsion by a Chapter shall be sent by the Secretary of the Chapter to the Grand Secretary, within three days

after such action. No Royal Arch Mason shall make any suspension or expulsion public, nor communicate such information to any person, not a Royal Arch Mason, except by authority of a resolution to make public by the Chapter in which the trial is held, which resolution shall also be reported to the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION 175. APPEAL.** The accused, or any member of the Chapter in which he was tried, feeling aggrieved at the decision of the Chapter in a trial for unmasonic conduct, may take an appeal from the judgement and decision of the Chapter, to the Grand Chapter at its next annual convocation.

**SECTION 176. JUDGEMENT OF GRAND CHAPTER.** The judgement of the Grand Chapter shall be either that the judgement of the Chapter be affirmed, or that it be reversed and the cause be remanded for a new trial or that it be reversed and the cause dismissed; or the Grand Chapter may set aside the judgement of the Chapter, and pronounce judgement upon the record and evidence sent up; or it may make such other disposition thereof as to it may seem proper.

**SECTION 177. ANNOUNCEMENT.** The printed proceedings of the Grand Chapter are the official announcements of its judgements; and when they show that a new trial has been ordered, or other proceedings had in any case, it is the duty of the Chapter to act accordingly.

**SECTION 178. ACTION BY LODGE.** Suspension or expulsion from, or reinstatement to, membership by a Lodge of Freemasons of one who is a member or the material of a Chapter shall automatically have the same effect on his standing in the Chapter without formal trial or other action in the Chapter, except as provided in these laws. When one has been suspended or expelled by direct action of a Chapter, after due trial and conviction

therein, his reinstatement to membership in the Chapter shall be affected only by the direct action of such Chapter, except as otherwise provided in these laws.

**SECTION 179. REINSTATEMENT.** Reinstatement after definite suspension from membership shall take place at the expiration of the time specified in the sentence, without further action.

**SECTION 180. REINSTATEMENT.** Reinstatement after indefinite suspension from membership for unmaasonic conduct shall be by action of the Chapter at a stated convocation, after at least thirty days notice to all the members of the Chapter, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting by written ballot.

**SECTION 181. RESTORATION.** One who has been expelled from the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry by the direct action of a Chapter, or by the Grand Chapter, shall be restored to such rights and privileges only by action of the Grand Chapter. An application for such restoration shall be made to the Grand Chapter by the one who was expelled, and shall be accompanied by a recommendation from the Chapter of which he was a member, or the material, when he was expelled; or if he was not a member or the material of any Chapter at the time of his expulsion, then by a recommendation from any Chapter within whose territorial jurisdiction he resides.

**SECTION 182. RECOMMENDATION FOR RESTORATION.** A recommendation for the restoration to the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry of one who has been expelled therefrom, may be granted by a Chapter at a stated convocation, after at least thirty days notice to all the members, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting by written ballots.



**SECTION 183. EFFECT OF RESTORATION.** One restored to the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry after expulsion, shall not thereby be automatically reinstated to membership in any Chapter. If he was the member, or the unfinished material, of a Chapter at the time of his expulsion, restoration to the lights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry shall qualify him to such Chapter for reinstatement to membership therein, or for reinstatement to such standing in such Chapter as he possessed at the time of his expulsion. Such reinstatement shall be by the unanimous vote of the members of such Chapter present at a stated convocation, after at least thirty days notice to all the members, and voting by written ballot. If the one restored was not a member, or the unfinished material of any Chapter at the time of his expulsion, such restoration shall reinstate him to such standing as he possessed at the time of his expulsion.

**SECTION 184. TO LAWS.** These laws may be amended in one of two ways; First, by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Grand Chapter, or their legally- appointed proxies, present and voting at an annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, after the proposed amendments shall have been presented in writing to the Grand Secretary by a member of the Grand Chapter by April 1st., and a copy thereof shall have been mailed by the Grand Secretary to each officer of the Grand Chapter and to each chartered Chapter by April 15th. Second, by the unanimous vote of the members of the Grand Chapter, or their legally appointed proxies, present and voting at an annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, after the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing by a member of the Grand Chapter, and provided further, that changes in any proposed amendment may be made by a three-fourths vote of the members of the Grand Chapter, or their legally appointed proxies, present and voting at such annual

convocation, before voting on such amendment or amendments with such changes, at such annual convocation.

**SECTION 185. REPEAL.** All laws or parts of laws and decisions in conflict with this Constitution and these Laws are hereby repealed; provided that such repeal shall not affect any right accrued under such repealed laws; and provided, further, that this Constitution and these Laws shall take effect on the day of the annual Convocation.