

Grand Masters Recommendations 2017

(~~Strike through~~ text is language to be deleted. Underscored text is language to be added.)

GMR-1-2017

Code 44. RESPONSIBILITY IN LODGES.

Excluding the New Mexico Monitor and Ceremonies, ritual material in the possession of each constituent Lodge shall be the direct responsibility of the Master for its use, safeguarding, accounting requirements and all related administrative details. The Master shall also have the direct responsibility for ensuring that only approved ciphers are used and only in accordance with Code 43 (c).
2012

The newly elected Master of each lodge shall sign and submit in the Annual Returns Packet each year (Code 132) the Annual Inventory and Receipt of Lodge Ritual Books. Failure to do so shall subject the delinquent lodge to a fine of One Hundred Fifty (\$150) dollars. The Grand Master may waive this fine, at the Lodge's request, for cause. 2017

Lodge Ritual Books shall be inventoried each year by the DDGM. Missing or lost booklets (13 total) shall subject the delinquent lodge to a fine of Fifty (\$50) per booklet and/or Six Hundred Fifty (\$650) dollars for the complete set. The Grand Master may waive this fine, at the Lodge's request, for cause. 2017

Purpose: New Ritual Books were supplied to the lodges in 2016. During the exchange of the books it was found that numerous lodge and/or officers were not in possession of their rituals or had no knowledge of their existence. This change will ensure that Worshipful Masters are aware of their responsibility in regard to the Ritual Books.

GMR-2-2017

Code 50. APPOINTMENT.

At or before each Annual Communication the Grand Master shall appoint:

(f) **A Committee on Investment Advisory** composed of not less than five (5) Brethren, all of whom are experienced in securities and investments, to advise the Board of Directors in the investment of Grand Lodge Funds. Three Members shall serve a minimum of three year terms. Vacancies arising shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be ex-officio members of the Committee. 2017

Purpose: to maintain continuity in the Investment Advisory Committee.

GMR-3-2017

Code 60. REVENUE.

This Grand Lodge shall receive revenue as follows:

(a) For every dispensation granted to form a new Lodge \$50.00

(b) From Lodges U.D.:

Upon return of dispensation for each Master Mason returned: \$1.50

(c) For each charter granted: \$50.00

(d) Chartered Lodges shall pay annually such amounts as may be recommended for the several funds by the Committee on Accounts, Ways and Means and adopted by this Grand Lodge, together with the following stipulated amounts:

| | |
|---|--|
| For each initiation: \$20.00 | <u>Fee will be equal to Per Capita</u> |
| <u>For each Reinstatement</u> | <u>Fee will be equal to Per Capita</u> |
| For each dispensation for election of officers: \$5.00 | <u>\$10</u> |
| For each dispensation for installation of officers: \$5.00 | <u>\$10</u> |
| For each dispensation not otherwise provided for: \$5.00 | <u>\$10</u> |

2017

Purpose: To bring fees back into compliance with their initial purpose of matching up with per capita fee and with operating cost.

GMR-4-2017

Code 62. GRAND LODGE FUNDS.

- (2) The principal of this fund shall never be transferred to any other fund. ~~nor expended.~~
- (3) From the earnings and principal if required of this fund each year the following distribution shall be made:
 - a. There shall be returned to an Endowed Member's constituent Lodge a sum equal to that Lodge's dues effective in his Lodge on the first day of January of the year he initially became an Endowed Member.
 - b. There shall be returned to the Grand Lodge a sum equal to the Per Capita Charge effective in his lodge on the first day of January of the year he initially became an endowed member.
 - c. The balance of excess earnings, if any, shall be retained in the endowment fund and credited to the member's Lodge account in direct proportion which the total of this Lodge's principal bears to the sum total of all invested principal.

~~(4) Should the average rate of earnings fall for one year such that there are insufficient funds to meet the distribution needs, the matter shall be reported to the Board of Directors by 31 December so that corrective action can be taken.~~

Purpose: To implement a full distribution each year to both Lodges and Grand Lodge. With a full distribution no Board action is necessary for distribution even if earnings are insufficient.

~~(5) (4) Although the principal of Endowed Membership Fund is inviolable, all or any part may be commingled with other funds of this Grand Lodge for investment purposes. Nevertheless~~ The assets of the Endowed Membership Fund shall always be credited to and accounted for as though they were separate funds of the constituent Lodges from which the funds were derived or to which they were transferred.

~~(5)~~ (5) The cost of investing, accounting for and administering this fund shall be borne by the accounts of each participating constituent Lodge in direct proportion to which its percentage of the assets bears to the total. 2013, 2017

Purpose: renumber the code accordingly and not allow endowed funds to be commingled with other Grand Lodge funds.

GMR- 5-2017

Code 133. GRAND LODGE PER CAPITA.

Every chartered Lodge shall annually pay to the Grand Lodge, for each Master Mason returned as an active nonendowed member in its Annual Return, such amounts as may be recommended for the several funds by the Committee on Accounts, Ways and Means and adopted annually by this Grand Lodge at the Annual Budget Communication and such additional sums as may be ordered by the Grand Lodge. 2017

Purpose: To require a vote on per capita amounts annually at the Annual Budget Communication. All Grand Lodge budget items, including both revenue and expenses, should be determined and finalized at the Annual Budget Communication each year. Fixed per capita rates for long periods of time are not feasible given the changes our Fraternity faces for the foreseeable future.

GMR-6-2017

Code 157. COMMUNICATIONS DURING GRAND LODGE.

During sessions of the Grand Lodge no constituent Lodge ~~located at the place of meeting of such Grand Lodge~~ shall hold a communication without the consent of the Grand Master. 2017

Purpose: Masons should not be placed in a position of choosing between lodge communications and attending Grand Lodge sessions. Only the Grand Master can determine the purpose and potential impact of any Grand Lodge communication on constituent lodges and thus the necessity of their

attendance. Likewise, he can grant permission should the purpose of the session not require all to attend.

GMR-7-2017

Code 304. PRESENTATION OF PETITION.

The petition shall be presented at a regular or properly called special communication as allowed under Code 153 and shall be received and referred, without a vote being taken, to a committee of three (3) members of the Lodge, to be named in open lodge, whose duty it shall be thoroughly to investigate the character of the applicant. 2017

GMR-8-2017

Code 305. REPORT OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

- (a) The committee shall report in writing to a regular or properly called special communication as allowed under Code 153 occurring not less than twenty eight (28) days nor more than seventy (70) days from the date when the petition is received, unless a time extension is granted by the Master. Upon the presentation of such report the petition shall be balloted upon whether the report be favorable or unfavorable.

- (b) If the committee finds the candidate disqualified for any reason other than one affecting his moral character, it shall so report and the Lodge shall return the fee without actually rejecting the candidate by balloting. The petition shall remain the property of the Lodge. 2017

Purpose: To allow ballots on petition during properly called special communications. The current code allows receiving and referring of petitions. The Worshipful Master of a lodge should be allowed to call a special meeting for any legitimate purpose, including balloting on degrees. This change clarifies the code and gives the Worshipful Master flexibility in scheduling degree work while preserving proper notice and investigation requirements.

Grand Masters Recommendation (to be withdrawn if changes to codes 304 and 305 above are approved)

GMR-9-2017

Code 153. SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Special Communications may be called at the pleasure of the Master but at such communications no business shall be transacted other than that specified in the call. ~~including No~~ presentation and referral of ~~, or balloting on~~, Petitions will be allowed at special communications. 2017

Purpose: This change is recommended to clarify no action on petitions can be taken at a special communication should the changes to Codes 304 and 305 not be approved.

GMR-10-2017

Code 395. ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP.

(c) **FEE SCHEDULE.** The fee applicable shall be equal to:

(1) The product of the single payment multiplier of ~~20~~ **30** times the sum of Lodge Dues and Grand Lodge Per Capita.

(2) The product of the five (5) year payment multiplier of ~~5~~ 7.5 times the sum of Lodge Dues and Grand Lodge Per Capita as determined in (1) above. Example: On January 1, 1997 the sum of Lodge Dues and Grand Lodge Per Capita in your Lodge is one hundred dollars. The fee would be \$100 times ~~20~~ 30 or \$3000.00.

Had you selected the installment option with all other factors the same, the fee would be \$100 times ~~5~~ 7.5 = \$500.00 \$750.00 each year for five (5) successive years for a total cost of ~~\$2,500.00.~~ \$3,750.00. 1982, 2017

Purpose: to make the purchase of an endowed membership consistent with current investment returns.

HOLD OVER LEGISLATION RECEIVED FROM THE 139TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

(Strike through text is language to be deleted. Underscored text is language to be added.)

CL-1-2017

Motion to Amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico to Add Code 32: Grand Orator:

The Grand Orator shall deliver an address at the Annual Communication, at dedications, and at such other times as the Grand Master shall direct.

Purpose: To establish the position and duties of a Grand Orator, to be appointed by the Grand Master, as many other state Grand Lodges have done.

Presented by: Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72 Albuquerque, NM WM Kevin L. Fitzwater

Seconded by: Albuquerque Lodge No. 60 Albuquerque, NM WM Robert C. Jones
 Temple Lodge No. 6 Albuquerque, NM WM Anthony L. Sanford
 Hiram Lodge No. 13 Albuquerque, NM WM George E. Moss

By Code this Resolution was presented the first day of the 139th Annual Communication held in Albuquerque, NM, March 18-19, 2016 and held over till the 140th Annual Communication. It is now qualified for discussion and action.

LEGISLATION RECEIVED FROM CONSTITUENT LODGES

CL-2-2017

Submitted by Estancia Lodge No. 33

DIVISION II – REVISED BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE

Motion to Amend the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico Code 62. Grand Lodge Funds.

Insert into Code 62 as (4A)

Currently reads as:

(4) Should the average rate of earnings fall for one year such that there are insufficient funds to meet the distribution needs, the matter shall be reported to the Board of Directors by 31 December so that corrective action can be taken.

Endowed Fund Restoration

1. This Bylaw is enacted with a sunset provision of Four (4) years from the date adopted. At which time it will no longer be in effect the Fund management will be returned to the original Bylaw terms.
2. All payment and dispersals from the Fund to both the Grand Lodge and the Constituent Lodges will immediately cease for a period of Four (4) years.
3. During this period of four years the Grand Lodge of New Mexico will assess each constituent lodge Six (6) dollars per member of that lodge. The individual lodges can at their own discretion pass this along to its members.
4. All interest earned by the fund will be withdrawn and actively reinvested into higher interest yielding investments by the Endowed Fund Investment committee (see Below).
5. The Board of Directors shall appoint a dedicated investment committee whose sole purpose is to oversee the investment of the interest generated by the corpus for the growth of the Endowed fund. The members of which will advise the Board of Directors how to invest those funds.
 - a) The committee shall consist of:

Three (3) master masons from three different lodges who are in good standing with their respective lodges. All of whom are experienced in securities and investments.

One member of the Financial committee from the Grand Lodge of New Mexico.

All committee members shall have one vote. If in the event of an impasse that cannot be resolved within the committee, the Serving Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico will become the deciding vote.

To preserve continuity of the investment and strategies, the members of the committee will serve in this capacity for the entire four years of this bylaw provision.

Reasoning and explanation:

Brethren, the endowed fund in its current state has reached a crucial junction, action is needed to ensure that the fund will survive in perpetuity.

This action will allow the fund to grow exponentially. By utilizing brothers with investment experience, the interest earned annually will be reinvested into high interest yielding investments. At the same time accomplishing multiple goals, the fund grows to a more stable level, the corpus of the fund remains intact and continues to earn interest.

Using the following example:

A \$50,000 investment earning at medium risk earns a potential of 10% over the course of one year that equals out to a return on investment of \$5,000.

Reinvesting that along with the original \$50,000 using the same strategy means that \$55,000 is now invested. A potential of 10% over the course of one year that equals out to a return on investment of \$5,500.

Reinvesting that interest along with the original \$50,000 using the same strategy means that \$60,500 is now invested. A potential of 10% over the course of one year that equals out to a return on investment of \$6,050.

Reinvesting that interest along with the original \$50,000 using the same strategy means that \$66,550 is now invested. A potential of 10% over the course of one year that equals out to a return on investment of \$6,655.

At the end of this total interest paid on the initial investment of \$50,000 is approximately \$23,205 almost a fifty percent return on the investment.

The six dollars per member assessment to the lodges is to assist the Grand Lodge in maintaining an operational budget.

The power to assess the constitute lodges is addressed under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, the Grand Lodge under Article five,

Section 1. ENUMERATION OF.

This Grand Lodge shall be the supreme Masonic authority within its prescribed jurisdiction, and by the Ancient Constitutions and Usages of the Fraternity is, and shall be, invested with all the original essential powers and privileges belonging to the Ancient Craft and shall have power, specially:

FOURTH: To assess and collect from the several Lodges under its jurisdiction which sums of money as may be deemed necessary to appropriate for the benefit of the Craft.

Presented by: Estancia Lodge No. 33 Estancia, NM WM Joseph Behounek

Seconded by: Socorro Lodge No. 9 Socorro, NM WM Clark Brown
 Hiram Lodge No. 13 Albuquerque, NM WM Sean Sullivan
 Bethlehem Lodge No. 56 Albuquerque, NM MWB David L. Baker

By Code 90 (a) (b) changes to the By-Laws will be presented on the first day of the Annual Communication, referred to the proper committee, read again the second day and voted on. Approval must be by two-thirds of the votes present.