

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS
of the
M.: E.: GRAND COUNCIL
of
CRYPTIC MASONS
of
KANSAS



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**INDEX TO
GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Figures immediately following entries refer to sections, articles or chapters of the Laws. References to the Constitution are prefixed by the letter C. For example, C-VI 3 refers to Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution. References without such prefixes are to the By-Laws.

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**CONSTITUTION
Of the**

**M.: I.: GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS
OF KANSAS**

ARTICLE I

NAME--ASSEMBLIES--MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. NAME AND JURISDICTION – This Grand Body shall be known as THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF KANSAS, and has exclusive jurisdiction and authority over all Cryptic Masons who are members of a Council subject to it. (1999)

Sec. 2. ALLEGIANCE – This Grand Council acknowledges as the ONE SUPREME AUTHORITY-THE ALMIGHTY GOD, THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. It also recognizes its dependence upon Ancient Craft Masonry and Royal Arch Masonry. It further acknowledges its affiliation with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. (1980)

Sec. 3. ASSEMBLIES – The Annual Assemblies of this Grand Council shall be held at such times and places as may be designated by law. Special Assemblies may be called by the Grand Master, and shall be called by him upon the request of three councils, duly submitted in writing.

Sec. 4. MEMBERSHIP – The membership of the Grand Council shall consist of: (1) the Past Masters, Masters, Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work of the councils; (2) the Past and Present Elective and Present Appointive Grand Officers; (3) the representatives by proxy of the Present Masters, Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work of the councils; PROVIDED, however, that such proxy can be given only to the Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work and of that council, or a Past Master who has served such council as its Master.

Sec 5. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS – Every member of this Grand Council must be affiliated with some council in this jurisdiction, and upon dimission, suspension, or expulsion his name shall be dropped from the roll of membership. Any member who shall have been dropped from the roll shall be restored or reinstated upon producing evidence of affiliation, restoration, or reinstatement to his Cryptic rights.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS—REPRESENTATIVES—DEGREES

Sec. 1. GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS – The officers of the Grand Council shall be: (1) Grand Master; (2) Deputy Grand Master; (3) Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; (4) Grand Treasurer; (5) Grand Recorder; (6) Grand Chaplain; (7) Grand Captain of the Guard; (8) Grand Conductor of the Council; (9) Grand Marshal; (10) Grand Custodian of the Work; (11) Grand Steward; (12) Grand Sentinel.

Sec. 1a ARCH MASTERS.--The M.:I.:Grand Master may at his discretion appoint Arch Masters, who shall have served as Illustrious Master in Kansas, or another recognized jurisdiction. The boundaries of the districts and any changes therein shall be fixed by the M.:I.:Grand Master. Such Arch Masters shall receive no compensation for their services. The Arch Masters shall be the personal representative of the M.:I.:Grand Master in his district; shall make visitations and reports as required by the M.:I.:Grand Master; and shall be addressed as Right Illustrious during his term of office and on an official visitation shall be entitled to the reception of a personal representative of the M.:I.:Grand Master. (2021)

Sec. 2. ELIGIBILITY – Any Kansas Cryptic Mason member of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Principal Conductor of the Work who has previously been elected and installed as Master of a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. Any Cryptic Mason of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to the progressive line of officers who is a current dais officer of a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. All officers, both elective and appointive, shall be members of a Council of this Grand Jurisdiction and actual residents within this State or within fifty (50) miles of the State during the entire term of his office. (2017)

Sec. 3. ELECTION AND TERMS – The Grand Master shall be chosen by ballot by a majority of all votes cast therefor at each Annual Assembly, and serve one year as Deputy Grand Master and the following year shall be installed as Grand Master and shall hold office until his successor is installed. The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder shall be chosen by ballot by a majority of all votes cast therefor at each Annual Assembly and shall hold their offices until their successors are installed. The other officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master, after his installation, and shall hold their offices during his pleasure. (1991)

Sec. 4. VACANCY AND SUCCESSION – If a vacancy occurs in the office of Grand Master, or in case of his absence or inability to perform his duties, the order of succession thereto shall be: (1) Deputy Grand Master; (2) Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; (3) the junior Past Grand Master present. If a vacancy occurs in any other office, it shall be filled by the Grand Master by appointment.

Sec. 5. GRAND REPRESENTATIVES –The Grand Master may appoint a Grand Representative to reside near each Grand Council in correspondence with this Grand

Council, whose duty it shall be to report on the condition of Cryptic Masonry in the jurisdiction to which he is accredited.

Grand Representatives of other Grand Councils near the Grand Council of Kansas shall be addressed as Right Illustrious (unless as a Grand Master or Past Grand Master, he is entitled to be addressed as Most Illustrious), and on being presented at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, shall be saluted with the Grand Honors of Cryptic Masonry, as a mark of courtesy to the Grand Councils they represent. (2021)

Sec. 6. DEGREES OF CRYPTIC MASONRY – The degrees of Cryptic Masonry are three, to-wit: (1) the degree of Royal Master; (2) the degree of Select Master; (3) the degree of Super Excellent Master. The degrees of Royal Master and Select Master are required for membership in a council. The degree of Super Excellent Master should be conferred in each council, but this degree is OPTIONAL and its conferral is not required. PROVIDED, Cryptic Masons who have not received this degree may be healed by vote of the Council. No council in this Grand Jurisdiction shall ever assume to confer any other degree, and these only in the order given. (1992)

Sec. 7. DEGREE FOR BUSINESS – The Grand Council and its constituent councils shall be opened on the Select Master's degree for the transaction of all business.

ARTICLE III

TITLES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. TITLE OF OFFICERS – The elective officers of this Grand Council shall be addressed as follows: The Grand Master of the Most Illustrious or Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in Kansas and all others as Right Illustrious. The appointive officers of this Grand Council shall be addressed as Illustrious. Past officers shall be addressed as present officers of like rank. (1978)

Sec. 2. DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS –The duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Grand Officers shall be such as by immemorial usage have been required of, exercised by, and accorded to corresponding officers in Ancient Craft Masonry.

Sec. 3. COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION – The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work shall constitute a Council of Administration, whose duties shall be such as may be provided by law. Report of their proceedings shall be made to the Grand Council at its Annual Assembly.

ARTICLE IV

OPENING—VOTING—COMMITTEES—WORK

Sec. 1. OPENING—QUORUM—To authorize the opening of the Grand Council at any Annual Assembly there must be not less than three councils represented by their

Masters in person, and if at any time after the Grand Council has been opened, a less number than three councils be represented, the Grand Master shall suspend business until a quorum shall be present, any may in his discretion enforce the attendance of three Masters by summons or declare the Grand Council at refreshment or closed.

Sec. 2. OPENING—ROLL CALL—At the time and place designated for the meeting of the Grand Council, the Grand Master shall assemble the members and direct the Grand Recorder to call the roll of councils, and if it shall appear that a quorum is present the Grand Council shall be opened; but if a quorum shall not be found present, the Grand Marshal shall make proclamation of adjournment to some hour certain, when it like manner the roll of councils shall be called, and so from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

Sec. 3. VOTING—Every member of the Grand Council at any election by ballot, or upon any question under consideration shall have one vote; PROVIDED, in case of a tie, the Grand Master shall have one additional or casting vote. All voting in the Grand Council, except as otherwise provided by law, shall be by a show of hands; but if a division be called for by three or more members the vote shall be taken by rising, when the count shall be made by the Grand Captain of the Guard.

Sec. 4. STANDING COMMITTEES—The Standing Committees of the Grand Council shall be: (1) On Credentials; (2) On Reports of Grand Officers; (3) On Finance and Property; (4) On Jurisprudence; (5) On Chartered Councils and Councils Under Dispensation; consisting of three members each; (6) On Ritualistic Work (consisting of three members);(7) On Correspondence; and (8) On Necrology consisting of one member each. The Grand Master shall appoint the members of the above committees as soon as practicable after his installation, and they shall serve during the term of office, subject to such changes as he may deem expedient. (1973)

Sec. 5. RITUAL AND CEREMONIES—The work of the three Degrees of Cryptic Masonry adopted and promulgated by the General Grand Council, and consisting of the Rituals of Royal Master, Select Master and Super Excellent Master Degrees (including the Charge to the Royal Master omitted in the 1922 edition), together with the MANUAL OF FLOOR MOVEMENTS authorized by the Grand Council of Kansas at its Annual Stated Assembly held in the City of Salina, on April 9, 1999, is the adopted Work of this Grand Jurisdiction and SHALL BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED AND PRACTICED by the Councils when conferring the several Degrees or when engaged in any other ceremony or procedure covered therein, and no changes shall be made to the publications herein named except on a recommendation of the Ritualistic Committee at an Annual Assembly of the Grand Council and a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. PROVIDED: that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Illustrious Grand Master from exercising his prerogative to preside in ample form as he sees fit, and PROVIDED FURTHER that the Grand Council shall prescribe the rules and forms for conducting the private and public ceremonies of the Cryptic Rite not covered by the above publications, and that these may be changed at any Grand Assembly on recommendation of the Ritualistic Committee and by a majority of the members present

and voting. In this Grand Jurisdiction, the MANUAL OF FLOOR MOVEMENTS shall have precedence over any conflicting Work of Instructions found in the Rituals of the General Grand Council. (1999)

ARTICLE V

COUNCILS U.D. – COUNCIL OFFICERS

Sec. 1. COUNCILS U.D. – AUTHORITY—The Grand Master may grant Letters of Dispensation to nine or more Cryptic Masons, authorizing them to assemble from time to time at such place as may be designated, and open and hold a council, and therein confer the degrees of the Cryptic Rite upon such candidates as they may accept, subject to the regulations governing in such cases, and discharge all their duties according to the prescribed form. The authority so granted shall continue in force until it shall expire by express limitations, unless sooner surrendered by the petitioners, or revoked by the Grand Master.

Sec. 2. COUNCILS U.D.—PETITION—The Letters of Dispensation mentioned in the preceding section shall be granted only upon the petition of the Companion who are to be authorized to open and hold the proposed council and to work therein. In such petition there shall be nominated one companion for Master, one companion for Deputy Master, and one companion for Principal Conductor of the Work. Every petitioner shall produce satisfactory evidence of membership in, or dimission from, a regular council, or show that such council has ceased to exist.

Sec 3. COUNCILS U.D.—POWERS AND DUTIES—The Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work appointed by the Grand Master require no other authority than that contained in the Letters of Dispensation to assemble the petitioners and commence their labors. The Master shall appoint the officers subordinate to the Principal Conductor of the Work and may fill any vacancy in their stations. Within ten days after the expiration of his authority to work, the Master shall report to the Grand Recorder a transcript of his proceedings and a return of his work. The powers of a Council Under Dispensation are limited to the transaction of such necessary business and the payment of such necessary bills as required for the purpose of its temporary organization, making a record of its proceedings, accepting candidates, and conferring the degrees on such candidates.

Sec 4. WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION--The Grand Council may at any Annual Assembly grant a Warrant of Constitution to nine or more Cryptic Masons, who shall petition therefor, or who shall have been acting under Letters of Dispensation, to organize a new council at any place within this Grand Jurisdiction. The authority so granted shall not be in force until the new council shall be regularly constituted, and the Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work appointed in the Warrant are installed by the Grand Master or his representative.

Sec 5. OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL--The officers of a council shall be: (1) Master; (2) Deputy Master; (3) Principal Conductor of the Work; (4) Treasurer; (5) Recorder; (6) Captain of the Guard; (7) Conductor of the Council; (8) Steward; (9) Sentinel; (10) Chaplain. The first five officers in the order named shall be chosen annually by ballot at the Annual Assembly which shall be held in December of each year, and installed on or before the 27th day of the same month, and shall hold their offices until their successors are installed; PROVIDED, no one shall be eligible to the office of Master until he has been installed and served as Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work in this Grand Jurisdiction, except by Dispensation of the Grand Master. All other officers shall be appointed by the Master immediately after his installation and shall hold their offices during his pleasure. The duties of the officers shall be such as are appropriate to their several stations. (1999)

Sec 6. TITLES OF OFFICERS--The Masters and Past Masters of councils shall be addressed as Illustrious. All other officers of councils shall be addressed as Companion, the address common to all Cryptic Masons.

Sec 7. ASSEMBLIES-QUORUM--The Assemblies of a council are either Stated, which are required to be held at certain times fixed by regulation, or Special, which may be called for some specified purpose by order of the council or its Master at any time. The ordinary business of a council must be transacted at a Stated Assembly and at the usual place of meeting of the council.

At the time and place for holding a Special Assembly the Master shall open a council on such degrees only as may be required for lawfully doing the work for which it shall be called, which must be receiving and balloting on petitions, conferring degrees, conducting trials, or performing some ceremony.

Each council shall provide for not less than one Stated Assembly in each quarter. A Council may open and transact business, if there shall be present at least five or more Royal and Select Masters who are members of such council and entitled to vote therein.

Sec 8. BY-LAWS--Any Council may enact such By-Laws as may be necessary for the proper transactions of its business, and may amend or repeal the same, whenever the proposition therefor shall be agreed to by two-thirds of all the members present and voting, at some Stated Assembly subsequent to the time of its submission; PROVIDED, that none of such By-Laws shall be inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Council.

ARTICLE VI

JURISDICTION - MEMBERSHIP - PETITIONS

Sec 1. JURISDICTION OF COUNCILS.--The territorial jurisdiction of a council shall extend to the boundaries of the State. All councils shall have concurrent jurisdiction over candidates within this Grand Jurisdiction.

Waiver of Jurisdiction: The Most Illustrious Grand Master may, at his discretion, and after investigation of the facts as to accessibility and facility of travel between the points involved, and finding no objections from the council nearest the residence of any Royal Arch Mason desiring to petition for the Council Degrees in an adjoining Grand Jurisdiction, waive jurisdiction over candidates residing in Kansas Grand Jurisdiction who can conveniently receive the Council Degrees in another Grand Jurisdiction adjoining this Grand Jurisdiction. He may also waive resident requirements for this Grand Jurisdiction adjoining this Grand Jurisdiction. He may also waive resident requirements for this Grand Jurisdiction on non-resident Royal Arch Masons who desire to petition for Council Degrees in a council of this Grand Jurisdiction, provided there is reciprocity for such waivers in the Grand Jurisdiction in which such petitioner resides. Such waivers as are granted must be reported in the Most Illustrious Grand Master's address and report at the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. (1986)

Sec 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF PETITIONERS FOR THE DEGREES.--A petitioner for the Cryptic degrees shall be an affiliated Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason in good standing, and a resident within this Grand Jurisdiction.

Sec 3. ACTION ON PETITIONS--All Petitions for the Cryptic degrees, or for membership, shall be submitted at a Stated or Special Assembly and referred to a Committee of Investigation, only when requested by a member in good standing in the Council acting upon the petition, whose report may be made and the ballot spread at the same Assembly at which it is presented if the petitioner be found worthy. Petitions for the degrees may be received from members of a Masonic Lodge in conjunction with a petition for the Capitular degrees, but the work shall not be conferred upon petitioners until they have received the Royal Arch Degree. (1998)

Sec 4. MEMBERSHIP AND DIMISSION.--A Council may receive the petition of an applicant for membership from any Royal and Select Master in good standing, without regard to his place of residence, who shall produce satisfactory evidence that he has been regularly dimitted from the council with which he was last affiliated; or when such petition is accompanied by a Certificate for Transfer issued by the council with which he is affiliated; or by a Grand Recorder's Certificate; or when the applicant is petitioning for dual membership. Any member of a council against whom no charges are pending, and who is not under any pecuniary liability to his council, shall be granted a dimit or Certificate for Transfer upon application therefor at a Stated Assembly. (1993)

Sec 5. PROCEEDINGS UPON PETITIONS--A unanimous ballot shall be required for the acceptance of a candidate for the Cryptic degrees, or of an applicant for membership; PROVIDED, if but one negative ballot appears, the Master shall order a second ballot, when if one or more negative ballots appears, the petitioner shall be rejected. The petition of a rejected candidate may be renewed after six months; but the petition of a rejected applicant for membership may be renewed at any time. If two or more petitions shall be acted upon at the same time, a collective ballot may be taken; PROVIDED, that should one or more negative ballots appear in such collective ballot, then a separate ballot shall be taken on each petition.

ARTICLE VII

REMOVAL--AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP--REVENUE

Sec 1. REMOVAL OF A COUNCIL--Any Council may be removed from the place of its location to another place when it shall appear to the Grand Master that such removal will be for the best interest of Cryptic Masonry. The proposition for such removal may be submitted at any Stated Assembly and within ten days thereafter all resident members shall be notified of the proposition, and if at the next Stated Assembly a majority of all members present shall agree thereto, the proceedings shall be certified to the Grand Master, who shall issue his edict for the removal.

Sec 2. SURRENDER OF WARRANT--Any Council may surrender its Warrant of Constitution whenever a less number than nine resident members are desirous of continuing the organization. The proposition for such surrender shall be submitted at a Stated Assembly, and all resident members shall have due and ample notice of the pendency of such a proposition and of the date of the Assembly when the same will be considered. Upon the determination of a council to surrender its Warrant of Constitution, the proceedings shall be certified to the Grand Master, who shall issue his edict of dissolution and order the Master to transmit to the Grand Recorder the Warrant, seals, jewels, furniture, records, funds, and other property of the council.

Sec 3. ARREST OR REVOCATION OF WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION-- The Warrant of Constitution of any council may be arrested by the Grand Master, or revoked by the Grand Council, for cause. The declaration of forfeiture shall vest all the property of such council in the Grand Council, and shall be conclusive upon the Council and its members.

Sec 4. PROCEEDINGS AFTER SURRENDER OR REVOCATION--When a council has surrendered its Warrant of Constitution, or when such Warrant has been revoked, the Master and Recorder shall make a report to the Grand Recorder for the period commencing with the date of the last annual report, and ending with the date of such surrender or revocation. This report shall be made in the same form as an annual report, and shall include an inventory of the property of the council, and a statement of the balances due from the members on account of annual dues, or otherwise. The Grand Recorder shall collect all such balances, and give to each member in good

standing a certificate showing the date of such surrender or revocation, which shall have the force and effect of the usual certificate of dimission from a council.

Sec 5. CRYPTIC RITE AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP--When the Warrant of Constitution of a council has been surrendered or revoked, its members in good standing shall be considered members of the Cryptic Rite at Large in this Grand Jurisdiction, and their names shall be carried by the Grand Recorder upon a separate roll for such membership. All members of the Cryptic Rite at Large in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be liable for per annum dues consisting of the Grand Council per capita tax and assessments, and such other allowances as may be determined by the Council of Administration. The issuance of a Grand Recorder's certificate of good standing shall terminate the Cryptic Rite At Large Membership of such companion. (1993)

Sec 6. SUSPENSION OF CRYPTIC RITE AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP--When a companion who is a member of the Cryptic Rite at Large shall fail to pay to the Grand Recorder, upon proper notice and demand, the amount of his indebtedness found due his former council, or shall fail to pay the amount of the Grand Council per annum dues on his Cryptic Rite at Large membership, he shall be liable to suspension from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry, and upon report to the Grand Council by the Grand Recorder of the facts of indebtedness, notice and demand, and failure to pay such indebtedness, the delinquent companion shall be so suspended by a majority vote of the Grand Council. (1993)

Sec 7. ANNUAL REPORT AND DUES – Every Council shall make an Annual Report in such form as the Grand Recorder may prescribe showing: (1) the full name of the Officers of the Council; (2) all changes in membership during the year; (3) the work done since the last report, and such other information as the Grand Recorder may require. This report shall be made as of the last day of December in each year, and transmitted with any special assessments to the Grand Recorder on or before the date provided by law. No Council shall be represented at any Annual Assembly of the Grand Council until such report is made or until it's Annual Per Capita and any Special Assessments are paid. (2021)

Sec 8. REVENUES OF THE GRAND COUNCIL--The revenues of the Grand Council shall be derived from: (1) an annual per capita tax on the members of the councils; (2) fees for Letters of Dispensation and Warrants for new Councils; (3) Such other sources as may be provided by law. The per capita tax shall be assessed against members plus the local dues by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. No rebate shall be allowed to any Council by reason of the neglect of any of its members to pay dues, or by reason of any member being borne on its rolls as exempt from dues. The Grand Council has authority from time to time to make special assessments on the Council ratably on their membership, to meet its current or any extraordinary expenses. Funds received in excess of per capita and other monies due to the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas by the local Councils shall be remitted to the local

Council quarterly starting on January 20th each year or more frequently at the discretion of the Grand Recorder, provided the annual report is received by January 15th each year. (2021)

ARTICLE VIII

LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

Sec 1. MASONIC LAWS--The laws relating to the several branches of the Masonic system are so nearly similar, that, in the absence of written regulation for the government of one branch, recourse may be had to the written regulations for the government of the others, and when these fail, the Common Law of Masonry will furnish the correct rule of action.

Sec 2. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS--This Constitution or any Article or Section thereof or any By-Law or any subheading or any form, may be amended, repealed or added thereto in the following manner. Any proposed amendment or repeal or addition shall be submitted to the Grand Recorder in writing at least 45 days before the Stated Grand Assembly, and at least 30 days prior to such Annual Assembly the Grand Recorder shall transmit a copy of each such proposal to the Recorder of each constituent Council and it will also be printed in the Advance Report for presentation at the Annual Assembly. If the proposal is approved as to form by the Jurisprudence Committee, and is carried by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided, however, that any proposal properly submitted may be amended from the floor if germane to the question under discussion and carried by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, it shall then become law with the printing of the Annual Proceedings or 120 days after the Stated Grand Assembly, whichever event comes first, at which time the Grand Recorder will notify each constituent Council, all Grand Officers, all Past Grand Illustrious Masters and all Grand Council Committee Chairmen of all newly enacted legislation concerning this Constitution and By-Laws. (1998)

Sec 3. BY-LAWS--The Grand Council shall have power to enact By-Laws in aid of the provisions of this Constitution for the proper government and regulation of Cryptic Masonry, and shall also prescribe forms for the transaction of business. (1998)

ARTICLE IX

OPENING—VOTING—COMMITTEES—WORK

Sec.1. OPENING—QUORUM – To authorize the opening of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas at any Annual Assembly, a least nine representatives from not less than three Councils represented by Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work in person or their proxies, and if at any time after the Grand Council has opened, a quorum not being represented, the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall suspend business until a quorum shall be present, and may, at his discretion, enforce the attendance of a quorum by summons; declare the Grand Council at refreshment, or closed. (2021)

Sec. 2. OPENING—ROLL CALL—At the time and place designated for the meeting of the Grand Council, the Grand Master shall assemble the members and direct the Grand Recorder to call the roll of councils, and if it shall appear that a quorum is present the Grand Council shall be opened; but if a quorum shall not be found present, the Grand Marshal shall make proclamation of adjournment to some hour certain, when in like manner the roll of councils shall be called, and so from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

Sec. 3. VOTING—Every member of the Grand Council at any election by ballot, or upon any question under consideration shall have one vote; PROVIDED, in case of a tie, the Grand Master shall have one additional or casting vote. All voting in the Grand Council, except as otherwise provided by law, shall be by a show of hands; but if a division be called for by three or more members the vote shall be taken by rising, when the count shall be made by the Grand Captain of the Guard.

Sec. 4. STANDING COMMITTEES—The Standing Committees of the Grand Council shall be: (1) On Credentials; (2) On Reports of Grand Officers; (3) On Finance and Property; (4) On Jurisprudence; (5) On Chartered Councils and Councils Under Dispensation; consisting of three members each; (6) On Ritualistic Work (consisting of three members);(7) On Correspondence; and (8) On Necrology consisting of one member each. The Grand Master shall appoint the members of the above committees as soon as practicable after his installation, and they shall serve during the term of office, subject to such changes as he may deem expedient. (1973)

Sec. 5. RITUAL AND CEREMONIES—The work of the three Degrees of Cryptic Masonry adopted and promulgated by the General Grand Council, and consisting of the Rituals of Royal Master, Select Master and Super Excellent Master Degrees (including the Charge to the Royal Master omitted in the 1922 edition), together with the MANUAL OF FLOOR MOVEMENTS authorized by the Grand Council of Kansas at its Annual Stated Assembly held in the City of Salina, on April 9, 1999, is the adopted Work of this Grand Jurisdiction and SHALL BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED AND PRACTICED by the Councils when conferring the several Degrees or when engaged in any other ceremony or procedure covered therein, and no changes shall be made to the publications herein named except on a recommendation of the Ritualistic Committee at an Annual Assembly of the Grand Council and a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. PROVIDED: that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Illustrious Grand Master from exercising his prerogative to preside in ample form as he sees fit, and PROVIDED FURTHER that the Grand Council shall prescribe the rules and forms for conducting the private and public ceremonies of the Cryptic Rite not covered by the above publications, and that these may be changed at any Grand Assembly on recommendation of the Ritualistic Committee and by a majority of the members present and voting. In this Grand Jurisdiction, the MANUAL OF FLOOR MOVEMENTS shall have precedence over any conflicting Work of Instructions found in the Rituals of the General Grand Council. (1999)

**By-laws
Of the**

**M.: I.: GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC
MASONS OF KANSAS**

**Adopted March 6, 1961
Reprinted July, 2007
Revised July, 2013
Revised May 2018
Revised May 2019
Revised July 2021**

CHAPTER ONE

Relating to the Grand Council

ARTICLE I

GREAT SEAL--ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

1-101. GREAT SEAL.--The Great Seal shall be of brass, circular in form, not more than two inches in diameter, bearing the device of a crypt, surrounded by the words, "GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS KANSAS". Over the Crypt the words. "DEAFAVENTE"; on the left side, "A. DEP." On the right "2867"; underneath, "INST. DEC. 12th". It shall remain as it is now designed, and shall be impressed upon all orders, summonses, commissions, Letters of Dispensation, and Warrants of Constitution. It shall be used to authenticate official documents, issued by the Grand Master in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Council, and when so used, such writings shall be attested by the Grand Recorder. Acts of the Grand Master, performed in the exercise of his prerogatives, and his ordinary correspondence with councils and companions require no other authentication than his signature. (1980)

1-102. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY--The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council shall be held each year at such place as may be designated at the preceding Annual Assembly and at such hour as the Grand Master may order. (1996)

1-102a. The annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas shall be held jointly with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas, such meetings will conclude on the first Saturday of May each year. If it is impractical to hold the Assembly on the above date it may by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the dias officers of each body, meeting jointly, change the date and place of such joint session. The Grand Recorder shall then notify all councils in this jurisdiction of such change at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of such Assembly. (2019)

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS--COMMITTEES--AND THEIR DUTIES

1-201. DUTIES, POWERS, AND PREROGATIVES OF THE GRAND MASTER--
The duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Grand Master are those which by immemorial usage have been required of, exercised by, and accorded to this high office. It shall be his duty to preside over the Grand Council, to require strict conformity to Cryptic law and usage in the Grand Jurisdiction, and to perform all acts as he may deem best for the interest of the Cryptic Rite. He shall have power:

- (a) To preside over every Assembly of the Rite;
- (b) To arrest the Warrant of any council;
- (c) To authorize the installation of a Master-elect who has not been installed and served as Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work of a council in this Grand Jurisdiction;
- (d) To authorize or ratify the performance of acts, the doing of work and the transaction of business in an irregular manner or at irregular times, which, by the laws and regulations, may be done in regular order;
- (e) To preside as Chairman, ex-officio, in all Committees;
- (f) To exercise such other powers and prerogatives as properly pertain to the office.

He shall make full report of his actions to the Grand Council at its Annual Assembly.

1-202. DUTIES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION--The Council of Administration shall meet at such times and places as the Grand Master may order, and shall render such assistance to the Grand Master as may be in its power.

It shall prescribe the amount, security, and conditions of the official bonds required of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder.

It shall designate the depository or depositories in which the funds of the Grand Council shall be deposited.

It shall invest, from time to time, the surplus of the funds in approved securities, making all investments in the name of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas.

It may order publication, under the authority of this Grand Council, of the adopted rituals of the Cryptic Degrees.

It may approve the designation by the Grand Recorder of an Official Printer to furnish the approved Forms and Record Books.

It shall make an annual report to the Grand Council of its official acts, particularly specifying transactions relating to funds and property of the Grand Council, and of all

matters as may come within the scope of its duties, or may be referred to it for advice or action. (1993)

1-203. DUTIES OF THE GRAND TREASURER-- The Grand Treasurer shall perform the duties which devolve upon him by usage or are required by law. He shall have custody of all funds of the Grand Council, rendering a formal receipt to the Grand Recorder for all money received, and accounting for the same annually and at such times as the Grand Master or Grand Council may order. All funds of the Grand Council shall be deposited and kept by him in the name of the Grand Council in a depository or depositories designated by the Council of Administration, and shall be paid out only on the standard form of warrant authorized by the Grand Council, after it shall have been signed by the Grand Recorder and countersigned by the Grand Master. He shall execute a bond in such sum and with such securities, and upon such conditions, as the Council of Administration may prescribe.

1-204. REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER--The Grand Treasurer shall include in his annual report a statement showing receipts and expenditures during the year, and a statement showing the investments of the funds, giving the character of the securities, the rate of interest, and date of maturity. His report, books, vouchers, and securities shall be made available to the Committee on Finance and Property for its examination.

1-205. DUTIES OF THE GRAND RECORDER--The Grand Recorder shall perform the duties which devolve upon him by usage or are required by law. He shall:

(a) Collect all moneys due the Grand Council, rendering a formal receipt therefor when requested, and with proper endorsement immediately transmit them to the Grand Treasurer, who shall receipt for the same;

(b) Render an account of all financial transactions of his office annually and at such times as the Grand Master or Grand Council may order;

(c) Record the proceedings, conduct the correspondence, issue the orders, and have custody of the books, papers, records and seal of the Grand Council;

(d) Prepare checks covering any amounts due the Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters and Committees for their attendance at the Annual Assembly and submit them to the Committee on Finance and Property together with a payroll setting forth the amounts thereof;

(e) Cause the reports of the Grand Officers to be printed several days before the Annual Assembly and distribute copies to the chairmen of the standing committees for use in the preparation of their reports;

(f) Publish the Annual Proceedings as soon as practicable after the close of the Annual Assembly, including therein all reports and resolutions and the action taken thereon and the customary statistical tables;

(g) Execute a bond in such sum and with such securities, and upon such conditions, as the Grand Council of Administration may prescribe;

(h) Perform such other duties as may be provided by law or ordered by the Council. (1993)

1-205a. DUTIES OF THE GRAND RECORDER – At least thirty days prior to the Annual Assembly, the Grand Recorder shall serve each member with a notice of his indebtedness, if any, to the Council. The notice may be served in person, email, or by mail in a sealed envelope to his last known address.

At the Annual Assembly, the Grand Recorder shall have submitted to the Council Recorder, a list of the names of all members whose dues are unpaid for the current year. The Illustrious Master, Council Recorder, or the Grand Recorder shall certify that each member has been served with the proper notice or that same has been mailed to his last known address. The Illustrious Master shall, upon affirmative vote of the Council declare any or all such members suspended from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry for non-payment of dues. The decree will become final at the close of the calendar year unless the amount of dues owing is paid. The record date of such suspension to be December 31st.

A Council may, at the Annual Assembly, by a majority vote, remit the dues of any member. (2021)

1-206. REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER--The Grand Recorder shall include in his annual report a record of the receipts and disbursements of his office, the warrants drawn and a tabulation of the statistical reports of the councils for the preceding year. (1993)

1-207. STANDING COMMITTEES--The Standing Committees shall be composed of Present or Past Illustrious Masters and current subordinate Council Dias Offices, and shall make reports from time to time upon all matters referred to them, including questions submitted for their opinions by any officer or member of the Grand Council, and upon all matters referred to them during the recess of the Grand Council by any elective Grand Officers, advisory as to his official duties.(2025)

1-208. COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS-- The Committee on Credentials shall report the members present as follows: (1) Present Grand Officers; (2) Past Grand Masters; (3) Past Masters; (4) Masters, Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work. The name of a member shall not be included more than once in the report, except as a Grand Representative.

1-209. COMMITTEE ON REPORTS OF GRAND OFFICERS.-- The Committee on Reports of Grand Officers shall review the address of the Grand Master and the reports of the other Grand Officers, making such comments as they may deem for the best interest of the Rite, and distribute all the various subjects embraced in such address and reports to the appropriate standing committees for their consideration.

1-210. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PROPERTY--The Committee on Finance and Property shall examine the accounts of the Grand Council, examine the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, compare them with the original reports of councils, and recommend such appropriations, from the Grand Council General Fund, as may be necessary to meet the current expenses for the ensuing year. It shall properly examine and account for the investments of the Grand Council, and determine that all interest due has been collected and properly recorded.

It shall carefully examine the personal property in the Grand Recorder's office, report its condition, and recommend any needed repairs or replacements.

It shall prepare a report for the Annual Grand Assembly including an estimate of the revenue for the ensuing year, giving the various sources from which it may be derived, and an estimate of the expenses for such year, giving in sufficient detail the purposes for which appropriations should be made.

Meet with the Grand Recorder to ascertain what paraphernalia the Grand Council owns and make sure it is stored in adequate areas to protect it from damage. Work with closed Chapters to return their regalia to the Grand Council. Distribute regalia as it is needed to existing Councils. Make an annual report of the items in the custody of the Grand Council. (2025)

1-211. COMMITTEE ON CHARTERED COUNCILS AND COUNCILS UNDER DISPENSATION--The Committee on Chartered Councils and Councils Under Dispensation shall carefully examine such annual reports of councils as may be referred to it by the Grand Recorder, and make such recommendations as may be necessary or expedient. It shall also examine and report upon any matters relating to chartered councils which may be referred to it by the Grand Master, Grand Recorder, or Grand Council. It shall examine the reports and transcripts from all councils which have been working under Letters of Dispensation, noting particularly the nature and progress of the work, and shall report upon applications for Warrants of Constitution for new councils, and for the restoration of Warrants which have been arrested.

1-212 COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE--The Committee on Jurisprudence shall advise the Grand Officers, Grand Council and Committees upon all questions of Cryptic Law, considering and reporting upon all propositions for the amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Council and upon all proposed standing or other regulations. It shall examine each transcript sent up on appeal, see that it is in proper form, and present to the Grand Council a brief review of the same. It shall likewise consider and report on any other matters referred to it which do not properly come within the scope of the duties of any other committee. Make an annual report on the activities of the Illustrious Grand Master, and the Grand Council, at the Annual Communication. Advise the Illustrious Grand Master on his actions during the Cryptic year. Provide counsel for actions which might not be according to the constitution and bylaws of the Grand Council. (2025)

1-213. COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE-- The Committee on Correspondence shall review and report upon Proceedings of other Grand Councils, gleaned therefrom such matters relating to the proceedings of this Grand Council as may be of general interest to the Rite, and noticing all matters relating to the usages, privileges, and work of such other Grand Councils as may appear at variance with the common law of Masonry; and also the membership and number of councils in each jurisdiction. It shall examine carefully all correspondence with other Grand Jurisdictions with reference to fraternal recognition, and make due report to the Grand Council, with its recommendations.

1-213a. COMMITTEE ON RITUALISTIC WORK-- The Committee on Ritualistic Work shall preserve uniformity in the ritualistic work; shall assist the Grand Master in seeing that the adopted work of this Grand Council is disseminated; shall reconcile any and all differences in the interpretation of the Ritual that may exist or arise; shall schedule such schools of instruction as may be directed by the Grand Master or requested by constituent Councils; and shall consider and recommend upon all matters relating to ritualistic work in this Grand Jurisdiction. All actions and decisions of the committee shall be subject to the right of the Grand Master to modify or disapprove the same. The Committee shall submit a report to the Grand Council at each Annual Assembly. (1978)

1-214. COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY--The Committee on Necrology shall review the memorials issued by this and other Grand Councils, making due report of same, together with appropriate reference and tribute to the memory of those of our own companions who have passed away during the past year.

1-215. LECTURERS--(The office of Lecturer was done away with at the Annual Assembly in 1978. Duties formerly assigned to Lecturers will be handled by Ritualistic Committee.) (1978)

1-216. SUBORDINATE OFFICERS--The following subordinate officers are authorized who shall perform such duties as may be required by the officers appointing them, and shall serve during the pleasure of such appointing officer: Assistant to the Grand Recorder, and an Official Stenographer for the Annual Assembly, to be appointed by the Grand Recorder; and an Assistant Grand Sentinel to be appointed by the Grand Master.

1-217. ELECTION OF OFFICERS--The election of officers shall be held under supervision of the Grand Master, who shall select such tellers as may be necessary to receive, count and report the vote. The Grand Master may exclude those not entitled to vote during the election. (1990)

1-218. INSTALLATION-- The officers-elect, if present, shall be installed by the Grand Master, or by such Past Grand Master as he may appoint; those who are absent may be installed, by authority of the Grand Master, in any council.

1-219. VACANCIES IN OFFICE--A vacancy in any office in the Grand Council shall be created by death, suspension, expulsion, or insanity.

ARTICLE III

PER CAPITA DUES--ALLOWANCES--FINANCES

1-301. GRAND COUNCIL DUES --capita dues shall consist of the Grand Council per capita tax, special assessments, greeting fees and any General Grand Council per

capita tax and/or assessments. Every Council working under a Warrant of Constitution shall pay annually to the Grand Council a per capita tax of Twenty-Three dollars (\$23.00) plus all General Grand Council per capita tax and/or assessments on its roll of membership, as the same appears on the annual report of the Council for the preceding year, effective January 1, 2026, (beginning payable with the 2025 annual report) and any special assessments, and a fee of Five dollars (\$5.00) for each member greeted. The amount available for the annual operating budget shall be Sixteen dollars (\$16.00) with Six dollars (\$6.00) to be put in a "Perpetual Fund" of which only the interest may be used and one dollar (\$1.00) to be paid to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). This per capita tax shall not be assessed against the members but shall be included in the amount of the annual dues, and be paid out of the General Fund of the Council. Any increase in per capita dues shall only become effective on December 31st of the year following enactment of the increase. Any Council which neglects or refuses to pay its any special assessments, or fees on or before the 15th day of January in each year, or which shall fail or neglect to make and transmit to the Grand Recorder its annual report on or before the 15th day of January in each year, shall not be entitled to representation in the Grand Council following such failure, nor shall the Grand Recorder issue credentials to such Councils. (2021) (2025)

The per capita tax collected by the Grand Council and General Grand Council on a perpetual member shall never be more than the per capita tax in effect at the time the perpetual membership is purchased. (2002)

1-301a. GRAND COUNCIL FINANCES.- On January 2nd each year after the quarterly payment to the Grand York Rite funds are paid balance exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) in the operation checking account will be transferred to an existing permanent fund account. (2019)

1-302. SALARIES--Annual Salaries shall be paid from the General Fund through the Grand York Rite Budget to the Grand Recorder and to clerical help, an amount to be determined by the combined Grand York Rite Committees on Finance and Property, and to be paid semi-monthly. (1979)

1-302a. ALLOWANCES.-- An annual allowance shall be paid from the General Fund: to the Grand Treasurer, \$100.00. The foregoing allowance to be paid when the duties have been completed. (2013)

1-303. ALLOWANCES TO REPRESENTATIVES--(Deleted 1987 Annual Assembly.)

1-304. ALLOWANCES FOR SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION--Schools of Instruction will be held only at the request of a constituent Council and any expense incurred will be paid by that Council (1978)

1-305. TRIENNIAL FUND--At each Annual Assembly, the Grand Council shall budget and appropriate a sum of \$140.00, as a fund to be used for the expenses of the representatives of this Grand Council to the next succeeding Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council. The Grand Treasurer shall invest the funds upon receipt in short term investments of known safety and reliability, so that the fund will remain intact as a Triennial Fund until such time as it is needed for its intended use.

The Triennial fund shall be shared by all voting members of this Grand Jurisdiction in attendance at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council. The Grand Council shall reimburse from available funds all necessary expenses to attend and participate in the Triennial Assembly, upon submission of receipts for said expenses and approval of the Finance Committee Chairman, up to the balance of said fund. Upon 120 days following the Triennial Assembly the Grand Treasurer shall transfer any unused monies in this fund to the investment account for the Grand Council. Currently, titled Stifel Nichols/Jackson National Fund. (2014)

1-305a PIKES PEAK PRESERVATION FUND--A permanent fund shall be established and known as the "Pikes Peak Preservation Fund" with only the interest to be used as prescribed by this by-law. The Grand Treasurer, with the advice and consent of the Council of Administration of this Grand Council, shall invest the funds in investments of known safety and reliability, so the fund will remain intact as a Pikes Peak Preservation Fund. An annual allowance shall be paid from the interest income from the Pikes Peak Preservation Fund to the Grand Master or a Companion he may commission to make the annual inspection and report of the condition of the Pikes Peak Memorial Deposit, an amount not to exceed \$250.00 or the interest income for the year, whichever is less. The foregoing allowance to be paid when the duties have been completed, upon presentation of a list of incurred expenses, and approved by the Grand Council Committee on Finance and Property. The balance of the income shall be invested in the fund for growth. (2004)

1-306. PER CAPITA TAX BY MEMBERS OF DEFUNCT COUNCILS.-- A member of a council the charter of which has been surrendered or revoked, who shall apply for a certificate from the Grand Recorder, must pay, before the issuance of said certificate, the amount he was owing the council and a prorated amount of Cryptic Rite at Large per annum dues from the date of said surrender or revocation to the date of the issuance of said certificate, PROVIDED, the pro rated amount shall not be less than Grand Council per capita and assessments. Such application for a certificate shall be made by any member entitled thereto within one year from the date of the surrender or revocation of such charter. Any member failing to so make application shall be subject to suspension by the Grand Council (1993)

1-307. OTHER ALLOWANCES--(This by-law was deleted by action taken at the 1987 Annual Assembly.)

1-308. CONTINGENT FUND.-- At each Annual Assembly the Grand Council shall set apart and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 as a Contingent Fund for the Grand Master, to be used by him for paying expenses incurred in the performance of his office. This

sum payable as reimbursement for the mentioned expenses incurred as Grand Master upon receipt of receipts of said expenditures. Expenses to be incurred from the time of the Grand Illustrious Master's installation, to April 1st the following year. This list is to be received for payment not later than April 1st each year at the Grand Recorder's office.(2019)

1-308a CONTINGENT FUND – At the end of each financial year any monies remaining in the Contingent Fund up to \$500.00 shall be put in a Grand York Rite Office Equipment Fund for the purchase of major office equipment not covered by other expenses listed in budget, and be transferred by February 16th of each year. No purchases will be made without prior approval of the Chairman of the Finance Committee. (2017)

1-309. THE PERPETUAL FUND--This fund shall consist of an annual three dollars (\$3.00) collected from the per capita and all donations. All moneys shall be deposited in an interest bearing account in the name of the fund and under the direction of the Grand Treasurer.

No money shall be withdrawn from this account until the year 2009 and thereafter and then only the interest can be withdrawn, never the principal. This interest money shall be made available to the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas General Fund.

Moneys in this fund may be commingled by the Grand Treasurer with moneys from the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery Perpetual Funds for the purpose of obtaining better interest rates, but interest shall be prorated correctly to each fund. (2005)

ARTICLE IV

MISCELLANEOUS

1-401. FEES FOR DEGREES.--No council in this jurisdiction shall confer the degrees of the Cryptic Rite for a less sum than Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00), nor shall petitions be received for any degrees separate from the others. (1968)

1-402. DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDINGS--The Grand Recorder, at the expense of the Grand Council, shall make available one digital copy of the Annual Proceedings to each of the Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters, Grand Representatives, Chairman of the Standing committees, constituent Councils, and the Kansas Masonic Home: one copy to each of the Grand Recorders of such Grand Councils as may be in correspondence with this Grand Council, plus one additional copy to be provided to the Grand Representative of that Grand Jurisdiction if said Grand Representative attended the Annual Assembly reported in the proceedings; and preserve all remaining copies pending their disposition by order of the Grand Master or Grand Council. Printed copies will be available upon request at a charge to be determined by the Grand Recorder. (2019)

1-403a. GRAND MASTER'S APRON--The apron worn by the Grand Master shall be retained by him on retiring from office. (1995)

1-403b. PAST GRAND ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER'S JEWEL--Before the close of each Annual Assembly the Grand Council shall have it's representative present the retiring Grand Master with a Jewel. (1995)

1-403c. The Committee on Finance and Property of this Grand Council shall provide for the creation and supply of this Jewel. (1995)

CHAPTER TWO

Relating to the Constituent Councils

Article I

COUNCILS-OFFICERS-RELATED MATTERS

2-101. SEAL.--Every Council working under a Warrant of Constitution shall provide a Council Seal, having in its center some Cryptic device, surrounded by the name, number, and location of the council and the date of its Warrant. The Recorder shall have it in charge and with it authenticate all notices, summonses, official communications, and reports of any of its officers except the annual report.

2-102. COUNCILS U.D.-- FEES -- Before Letters of Dispensation shall be granted for opening and holding a new Council for Cryptic work, the petitioners shall pay a sum, to be determined by the Grand Recorder. If the Letters of Dispensation be continued by order of the Grand Council, or renewed by the Grand Master, no additional fee shall be requested. (2021)

2-103. WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION-- Before the Warrant of Constitution shall be delivered to the petitioners, they shall pay to the Grand Recorder a sum to be determined. (2021)

2-104. ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE.--All officers of the council must be chosen from the membership thereof. No officer of a council, other than Trustee, shall be permitted to hold more than one office in the council at the same time.

2-105. INSTALLATION--All officers shall be installed by the Master or a Past Master but only when personally present. The elective officers shall be installed on or before December 27th except by authority of the Grand Master. The appointed officers

may be installed at any time the Master may order. Elective officers who have been elected to succeed themselves need not be reinstated, since all elective officers retain their offices until their successors are qualified and installed. (1973)

2-106. TITLE--The Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be titled _____ Council No. ___ of Cryptic Masons and shall effect this name on all material bearing the name of the Council when replacing the supplies of this material. (1980)

2-107. VACANCIES--A vacancy shall exist in any elective office upon the death, suspension, expulsion or insanity of the incumbent, or should an elective officer for any reason be unable to attend regularly the assemblies of his council, or properly perform his official duties; Provided, that removal from the territorial jurisdiction of the council does not make the officer ineligible to continue in office unless such removal interferes with his regular attendance or proper performance of his duties. Upon the occurrence of any vacancy by death, suspension, or expulsion or upon the declaration by the Grand Master of a vacancy for any other reason, the Grand Master may order an election to fill the vacancy; and if an elective officer be chosen to fill the vacancy, then the office held by him shall immediately become vacant and shall be filled by election at the same assembly. Any officer elected to fill a vacancy, as herein provided, may thereupon be installed without dispensation from the Grand Master.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP-TRANSFERS-DIMISSIONS

2-201. DEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP--Membership in a council shall be based on membership in a Lodge of Master Masons and in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and when such membership in a Lodge or Chapter ceases by reason of expulsion, suspension, or non-affiliation in either Lodge or Chapter, the membership in the council shall also cease.

2-202. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP--A member, desirous of transferring his membership to another council, may make application to his council for, and be granted a Certificate for that purpose in the same manner and upon the same conditions as in making application for a dimit. The Certificate so granted shall be signed by the Recorder, and under the seal of the council granting the same, and shall state:

(1) That the applicant is a member in good standing of the council granting the Certificate;

(2) The name, number, and location of the council in which he desires to place his membership; and

(3) The term for which the Certificate is granted, which term shall be not more than ninety days from the date of said Certificate; and such certificate shall be null and void from and after the expiration of the term thereof, unless the companion's petition is in the hands of the Investigating Committee.

When such Certificate is issued it shall not be delivered to the member requesting it, but shall immediately be transmitted to the Grand Recorder by the Recorder of the council issuing the same. The Grand Recorder shall at once transmit the same to the Recorder of the council named therein, and such council may receive the companion's petition for membership accompanied by such Certificate, in lieu of a dimit.

After the companion has been elected, his membership in the council granting the Certificate shall thereupon cease, and it shall be the duty of the Recorder of the council electing the companion to membership to enter across the face of the Certificate the date of the companion's election, and forward it to the Grand Recorder. The Grand Recorder, upon receipt of notice of the election of said companion to membership, shall forthwith notify the council granting the Certificate of such fact, and thereupon the Recorder of the council issuing said Certificate shall issue a dimit as of the date the companion was elected, and forward the same to the Grand Recorder, who shall in turn forward it to the council in which the companion was elected to membership. When a Certificate is outstanding at the close of the year, the Companion's name shall be listed with the roll of members of the council issuing the Certificate, and it shall pay the per capita tax and any special assessment on him. In case the petitioner is elected to the council petitioned prior to December 31st, the council issuing the Certificate shall, in submitting the Annual Report the next year, take credit for the Grand Council per capita tax and any assessment which it may have erroneously paid upon him. This law shall not modify or curtail any law now in force relative to dimits.

2-202a. A member desiring to transfer his membership to another Council in this Grand Jurisdiction may sign a form provided for that purpose and in addition thereto sign a request that a dimit be issued and forwarded to the Council to which he is transferring when his election is reported.

A Council receiving such a petition shall handle the same in the usual manner. If the petition is approved by unanimous ballot by the receiving Council, the Recorder shall send such said notice of election and request for dimission to his home Council which will issue this dimit in the usual order and return the same to the Secretary of the receiving Council.

Correspondence concerning transfer from a Council in other Grand Jurisdictions shall pass through the Grand Recorder's office in the respective jurisdictions as provided by By-Laws. (1975)

2-202b. DUAL MEMBERSHIP.--Any Companion belonging to and in good standing in a Council within this Grand Jurisdiction may petition for dual membership with another Council within this Grand Jurisdiction or another Grand Jurisdiction whose By-Laws allow dual membership. A dual membership entitles the Companion to all rights and privileges and he may hold elective office in more than one Council at the same time. Provided further, Dual Membership shall be subject to all laws and restrictions of either Grand Jurisdiction and their constituent Councils. (1997)

2-203. SUSPENSION-RESTORATION-REINSTATEMENT.--A member in arrears for the current year's Council dues shall, by affirmative vote of the Council, be suspended from the roll of Council membership. If a member under suspension for non-payment of dues only, shall pay the amount of indebtedness to the Council (including current year's dues) by the last day of June following the date of suspension, the Recorder shall announce such payment, and the member shall be restored to membership without further action. The date of restoration shall be the date of said suspension. If more than six months have elapsed, he must petition his Council for Restoration and the petition must show payment of the current year's dues. If the suspension was for any other cause, the petition shall show a laudable effort to correct the wrong.

Restoration or reinstatement of one who has been suspended or expelled in a Lodge or Chapter shall automatically restore or reinstate his eligibility to membership in the Council. Reinstatement under other conditions shall be by petition. (2002)

2-204. DUES AND DIMITS—An applicant need not state his reasons for dimission therefor. He may make his request orally or in writing at any Stated Communication. The Illustrious Master shall order the granting of such dimit unless the member applying therefor be at the time an elective officer of the Council, have charges pending against him, or be under pecuniary liability to the Council. When the application is granted, the Recorder shall record the transaction in the minutes and give to the applicant a certificate of such dimission, showing that he was in good standing and that his Council dues were paid to date. (2011)

2-205. DIMITS, OTHER BODIES—The issuance of a dimit from a Council of Cryptic Masons will require the Council to inform the Commandery of Knights Templar (if a member) to be automatically issue a dimit. The issuance of a dimit from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will require a dimit from the Council of Cryptic Masons to be issued. (2011)

2-206. DIMIT, LIMITATION—The right under a dimit shall continue for life. A dimit is a resignation of membership. A Companion holding a dimit has no Masonic rights in the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry. He is not eligible to visit or sit in a Council and is not entitled to Council services at burial. He is not entitled to aid or charity. His only right is to petition a Council for Membership. To be eligible to be reinstated to a Council of Cryptic Masons and he must be a member in good standing of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. (2011)

ARTICLE III

DUES-FINANCES-AUDITS

2-301. COUNCIL DUES--A Council may provide a revenue for its support by requiring each member to pay annually a specific tax to be fixed by its By-Laws, and, at any Stated Assembly, by a majority vote of its members present, it may assess an additional tax for current expense and for charity, which shall be held to be a special tax for emergent purposes.

A council may remit the dues of any member for inability to pay the same, and for any other cause which shall seem just and equitable to a majority of all the members present; however, such remission shall not exempt the council from paying the regular per capita tax on such members.

2-302. COUNCIL DUES-PAYABLE IN ADVANCE-SUSPENSION--Council dues shall be payable in advance and shall be delinquent if not paid on or before January 1 of each year. If same are not paid by the date of the Annual Assembly in December thereafter, the member shall be suspended on that date to be effective as of December 31 thereafter. (1997)

2-302a. SUSPENSIONS-DUTY OF RECORDER--At least thirty days prior to the Annual Assembly the Recorder shall have had served each member with a notice of the date of the Annual Assembly and his indebtedness, if any, to the Council. The notice may be served in person or by mail in a sealed envelope to his last known address. (2021)

At the Annual Assembly, the Recorder shall submit to the Council a list of the names of all members whose dues are unpaid for the current year. The Illustrious Master, Council Recorder, or the Grand Recorder shall certify that each member has been served with the proper notice or that same has been mailed to his last known address. The Illustrious Master shall, upon affirmative vote of the Council, declare any or all such members suspended from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry for non-payment of dues, the decree to become final at the close of the calendar year unless the amount of dues owing is paid; the record date of such suspension to be December 31st. (2021)

A Council may, at the Annual Assembly, by a majority vote, remit the dues of any member. (2021)

2-302b. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP--The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas shall establish a Perpetual Membership program which shall make available to each member in good standing in any constituent Council in Kansas the voluntary prepayment of a Perpetual Membership fee in lieu of annual dues. (2002)

2-302c. Deleted in its entirety. (2021)

2-303. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS--Every Council shall have a Standing Committee on Finance, consisting of three members to be appointed by the Master, whose duty it shall be to carefully examine and audit the accounts and records of the Treasurer and Recorder immediately after December 31st of each year, submit a full report in writing at

the next succeeding Stated Assembly, which report shall be signed by the committee and spread in full on the minutes; Provided, such assembly does not occur in less than ten days after December 31st, in which case the report shall then be submitted at the next succeeding Stated Assembly.

2-304. SURETY BONDS--Any officer who has the handling of any moneys belonging to a council shall execute a surety bond in an amount commensurate with the funds in his charge or handled by him, the premium on such bond to be paid by the Council.

2-305. OFFICIAL RECEIPTS FOR DUES--No Council within this jurisdiction shall issue a receipt for dues. The Grand Recorder shall issue all receipts for dues on which form shall contain a printed or lithographed certificate with facsimile signature of the Grand Recorder and Logo of the Grand York Rite of Kansas and to the effect that the Council issuing the receipt is a lawfully constituted Council of Cryptic Masons, working under the jurisdiction of the M.:I.: Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. If the Companion is a member of a constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas and/or a member of a constituted Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas, his membership of those bodies will also appear on the receipt for dues. (2021)

ARTICLE IV

MISCELLANEOUS

2-401. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS ONLY RESTRICTED BY PRESCRIBED RULES--The specific taxes required by a council and the per capita taxes required by the Grand Council shall be included in the terms "council dues" or "dues". The neglect or refusal of a member to pay his council dues shall not deprive him of any right or privilege in the council or as a Cryptic Mason, until by some prescribed rule of procedure, such right or privilege has been restricted.

2-402. PILGRIMAGES--Upon proper application the Grand Master may issue a dispensation authorizing any council to make a pilgrimage to some other place than where it is permanently located, there to receive and ballot on petitions, and confer the several degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master. No fee shall be charged for such dispensation.

2-403. RITUALS--The "Ritual of The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas" and Super Excellent Master adopted and promulgated by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, shall be made available to the Councils Ten copies of each Ritual shall be furnished to each new Council, under dispensation, without charge. Councils may be furnished additional copies at a cost determined by the Grand Recorder. (2021)

2-404. BLANK FORMS AND RECORD Forms approved by the Grand Council, and are required by the Grand Recorder, are available by download. (2021)

2-405. REFERENCE BOOKS--The Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Council, the By-Laws of the Council, and the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Council shall be available for reference during any stated assembly of the council.

2-406. SUSPENSION OF BY-LAWS--A Council shall not suspend its By-Laws for any purpose whatsoever.

2-407. REPEALING CLAUSE--All By-Laws heretofore enacted, adopted, or approved, and not included in the foregoing, are hereby repealed.