

In the formatting of this new document slight changes have been made, ie the word Section I was replaced by the roman numeral I, so spacing was effected. These changes are not highlighted. That in red is from the 2011 Constitution for clarity..

**CONSTITUTION
of the
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

Revised & Adopted on _____

PREAMBLE

This Grand chapter has absolute authority and inherent power to make local ordinances and new regulations for its own benefit and for the superintendence and government of the several Chapters of the Royal Arch Masons within its jurisdiction, provided, as always, that the Ancient Landmarks are to be carefully preserved:

- Including authority to settle all controversies that may arise between its Subordinate Chapters;
- To assign the limits of their respective jurisdictions;
- To give such advice and instructions as may seem most conducive to the peace and to the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry;
- To establish and preserve a uniform system of work and lectures;
- To review & confirm or annul their decisions;
- To establish new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons within its jurisdiction and, when expedient, to revoke, suspend or annul their chapters;
- To reprimand, suspend, or expel any Royal Arch Mason in its jurisdiction, for unmasonic conduct; and
- To require from its Subordinate Chapters such dues as it may judge necessary for its support.

As the sole representative of all Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, with legislative authority as hereinbefore set forth, this Grand Chapter makes and adopts the following Constitution for its government and for the government of its subordinates.

ARTICLE I

THE GRAND CHAPTER

- I. Title- The style of this Grand chapter is “The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.”
- II. Seal- The seal for the Grand Chapter is represented by the device heretofore adopted, and herewith shown; the seal of the Grand Chapter shall be kept by the Grand Secretary.

“... insert image of seal ...”

- III. Grand Officers- This Grand Chapter consists of a Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplin, Associate Grand Chaplain(s), Grand Lecturer, Associate Grand Lecturer(s), Grand Captain of the Host, Associate Grand Captain(s) of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the Third Veil, Grand Master of the Second Veil, Grand Master of the First Veil, Grand Musical Director, Grand Historian and Grand Sentinel.
- IV. Membership- Membership of this Grand Chapter shall also include, in addition to the above-named Grand Officers, the High Priest, King and Scribe for the time being of the Chartered Subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; and all Past High Priests of Subordinate Chapters chartered by this Grand Chapter, so long as they shall continue as members of such Subordinate Chapters.

section 3 replaced with III and IV above.

SECTION 3. Grand Officers – This Grand Chapter consist of a Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Assistant Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Lecturer, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the Third Veil, Grand Master of the Second Veil, Grand Master of the First Veil, Grand Musical Director, Grand Historian and Grand Sentinel; also the High Priest, King and Scribe for the time being of the Chartered Subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; and all Past High Priests of Subordinate Chapters chartered by this Grand Chapter, and such others as have been heretofore elected permanent members thereof, so long as they shall continue members of such Subordinate Chapters. (2004)

Annual Convocation- The Annual Convocation shall be held within the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations on the first Saturday in April of each and every year, for the installation of officers and the transaction of business. Should this date fall on the day before Easter, the Annual Convocation shall be held on the preceding Saturday.

SECTION 4. Annual Convocation – The Annual Convocation shall be held in the State of Rhode Island on the first Saturday in April of each and every year, for the election of officers and the transaction of business. Should this date fall on the day before Easter, the Annual Convocation shall be held on the preceding Saturday. Special Convocations shall be held at the request of any four of the Subordinate Chapters, which request, under the seal of said Chapters, may be addressed to the Grand Secretary, or at the call of the Grand High Priest, but no business shall be transacted at a Special Convocation except that specified in the notice of the same. (1969). The notice or call for a Special Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall always specify the business to be transacted, whether old or new business. (1975).

Semi-Annual Convocation- The Semi-Annual Convocation shall be held within the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in the month of November of each and every year. The day, time and place to be determined by the Grand High Priest; for the election of officers and the transaction of any business for which at least thirty (30) days written notice has been given to all Companions eligible to vote thereat.

- a. Election Procedure- If a nominating committee is used, said Nominating Committee shall propose the name of one (1) qualified candidate [see Art. V § 2] for each of the offices of Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Principal Sojourner (second year only), Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary. The Nominating Committee shall further propose all of the names of those Qualified Candidates. Who submit a petition to the Nominating Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the Semi-Annual Convocation, for the office of Grand Principal Sojourner (first year only). The remaining officers shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest-Elect and their names announced to the members of the Grand chapter at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convocation. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the election of officers. The determination of whether a candidate is actually qualified to be elected to office shall be made by the Nominating Committee. For those offices having two (2) or more Qualified Candidates, a simple majority vote of the written ballots cast shall determine the winner. The Nominating Committee's report of its proposed nominations shall be mailed with the notice of the Semi-Annual Communication. The Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe and Grand Principal Sojourner shall be elected to two (2) one (1) year terms in each office and each shall serve until his successor is lawfully installed. Retention for a second year in an office or advancement to a higher office shall be based on the meritorious performance of each of the candidates during the preceding year. Grand Chapter officers are elected by a simple majority of all votes cast, and all ballots cast shall be counted. If there is no majority, then the vote shall be re-taken until a simple majority is achieved.

SemiAnnual Convocation is a new proposed section – election procedure is section 3.
SECTION 3. Elected Officers of Grand Chapter – Within 90 days preceding the Annual Convocation,

there shall be a Special Convocation of Grand Chapter where any business may be conducted for which at least thirty days written notice has been given to all Companions eligible to vote thereat. In addition, the election of the officers for the coming year shall be held at that Special

Convocation. Only those Companions who have completed at least one year in the office of High Priest of a subordinate Chapter within this jurisdiction and who are then a member in good standing of a subordinate Chapter within this jurisdiction shall be eligible to hold elected office (referred to here as qualified candidates). The Nominating Committee shall propose the name of one qualified candidate for each of the offices of Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Principal Sojourner (second year only), Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Assistant

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Grand Secretary. The Nominating Committee shall further propose all of the names of those

qualified Companions, who submit a petition to the Nominating Committee at least sixty days prior to the Special Convocation, for the office of Grand Principal Sojourner (first year only). The remaining officers shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest-Elect and their names announced

to the members of Grand Chapter before the close of the Special Convocation. Nominations of one or more qualified candidates may also be made from the floor during each of the elections of officers. The determination of whether a candidate is actually qualified to be elected to office shall be made by the Nominating Committee. For those offices having two or more qualified candidates, a majority vote of the written ballots cast shall determine the winner. The Nominating Committee's report of its proposed nominations shall be mailed with the notice of the Special Convocation. Beginning in 2005, the Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe and Grand Principal Sojourner shall be elected to two one-year terms in each office and each shall serve until his successor is lawfully installed. Retention for a second year in an office or advancement to a higher office shall be based on the meritorious performance of each of the candidates during the preceding year. (2004, 2011).

- II. Special Convocation- Special Convocations shall be held at the request of any four (4) Subordinate Chapters, which request, under the seal of said Chapters, may be addressed to the Grand Secretary, or at the call of the Grand High Priest, but no business shall be transacted at a Special Convocation except that specified in the notice of the same. No election, appointment or installation of officers shall take place at a Special Convocation, except at the discretion of the Grand High Priest.

Special Convocations split out of Section 4.

SECTION 4. Annual Convocation – The Annual Convocation shall be held in the State of Rhode Island on the first Saturday in April of each and every year, for the election of officers and the transaction of business. Should this date fall on the day before Easter, the Annual Convocation shall be held on the preceding Saturday. Special Convocations shall be held at the request of any four of the Subordinate Chapters, which request, under the seal of said Chapters, may be addressed to the Grand Secretary, or at the call of the Grand High Priest, but no business shall be transacted at a Special Convocation except that specified in the notice of the same. (1969). The notice or call for a Special Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall always specify the business to be transacted, whether old or new business. (1975).

- III. Quorum- No meeting of the Grand Chapter shall be opened unless there are present separate representatives of four (4) Subordinate Chapters chartered by this Grand Chapter.
- IV. Recognized Degrees- The degrees of Masonry recognized by this Grand Chapter are those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Virtual Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason; the first three (3) of which are recognized under the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, or a Grand Lodge recognized by it. The last four (4) of

which are recognized as under the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter or a Grand Chapter recognized by it.

SECTION 6. Recognized Degrees – The degrees of Masonry recognized by this Grand Chapter are those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Virtual Past Master,

Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason; the first three of which are recognized as under the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, or a Grand Lodge recognized by it.

- V. Dues & Assessments to Grand Chapter- Any proposition to increase the dues or assessments payable by the Subordinate Chapters shall be considered at any Convocation. The same shall have been presented in writing to the Grand Secretary. Thirty (30) days before each Convocation and unless written notice of the pendency of such proposition shall have been mailed to each Subordinate Chapter at least thirty (30) days prior to such Convocation.

SECTION 7. Dues and Assessments to Grand Chapter – No proposition to increase the dues or assessments payable by the Subordinate Chapters shall be considered at any Convocation unless the same shall have been presented in writing to the Grand Secretary and the Chairman of the Committee on Finance at least thirty days before each Convocation and unless written notice of the pendency of such proposition shall have been mailed to each Subordinate Chapter at least thirty days prior to such Convocation. (1969).

- VI. The National Colors- The National Colors shall be displayed in the East at all Convocations of this Grand Chapter and its Subordinate Chapters. (1920)

ARTICLE II

THE GRAND OFFICERS

- I. Title, Rank and Precedence- The title, rank and precedence of the Grand and Past Grand Officers shall be as follows:
1. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest
 2. The Right Excellent Grand King
 3. The Right Excellent Grand Scribe
 4. The Right Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner
 5. The Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests
 6. The Right Excellent Past Grand Kings
 7. The Right Excellent Past Grand Scribes
 8. The Right Excellent Grand Treasurer
 9. The Right Excellent Assistant Grand Treasurer
 10. The Right Excellent Grand Secretary
 11. The Right Excellent Assistant Grand Secretary

12. The Right Excellent Grand Chaplain
13. The Right Excellent Grand Lecturer
14. The Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host
15. The Excellent Deputy Grand Captain of the Host
16. The Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain
17. The Excellent Grand Master of the Third Veil
18. The Excellent Grand Master of the Second Veil
19. The Excellent Grand Master First Veil
20. The Excellent Musical Director
21. The Excellent Grand Historian
22. The Excellent Grand Sentinel
23. The Excellent Associate Grand Chaplains
24. The sitting High Priests of the Subordinate Chapters chartered by this Grand Chapter, in order of Chapter Number, followed by sitting Kings, sitting Scribes, and Past High Priests

SECTION 1. Title, Rank and Precedence – The title, rank and precedence of the Grand and Past Grand Officers shall be as follows: (2004, 2011)

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest,
 The Right Excellent Grand King,
 The Right Excellent Grand Scribe,
 The Right Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner,
 The Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests,
 The Right Excellent Past Grand Kings,
 The Right Excellent Past Grand Scribes,
 The Right Excellent Grand Treasurer,
 The Right Excellent Grand Secretary,
 The Right Excellent Assistant Grand Secretary,
 The Right Excellent Grand Chaplain,
 The Excellent Grand Lecturer,
 The Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host,
 The Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain,
 The Excellent Grand Master of the Third Veil,
 The Excellent Grand Master of the Second Veil,
 The Excellent Grand Master of the First Veil,
 The Excellent Grand Musical Director,
 The Excellent Grand Historian,
 The Excellent Grand Sentinel.

- II. Eligibility to Hold Office- No person shall be eligible for any of the first four (4) offices of this Grand Chapter, except he be a past or present High Priest and a member of a Subordinate chapter chartered by this Grand Chapter.

- III. Ownership of Grand High Priest's Apron & Jewel- An apron shall be presented to each Grand High Priest on his installation to be worn by him during his term of office and to be retained by him thereafter. A Past Grand High Priest's jewel shall be presented to each Grand High Priest after he has completed one (1) year in that office. Each recipient shall sign a statement that the Past Grand High Priest's jewel is, and shall remain until the end of days, the exclusive property of the Grand chapter and, further, shall be returned to the Grand Secretary upon the recipient's death or when he ceases to be a member in good standing of a Subordinate chapter in this jurisdiction.

Section 3-A. Ownership of Grand High Priest's Apron and Jewel – At the Annual Convocation, the Grand Officers shall be installed. An apron shall be presented to each Grand High Priest on his installation to be worn by him during his term of office and to be retained by him thereafter. A Past Grand High Priest's jewel shall be presented to each Grand High Priest after he has completed one year in that office. Each recipient shall sign a statement that the Past Grand High Priest's jewel is, and shall remain, the exclusive property of the Grand Chapter and, further, shall be returned to the Grand Secretary upon the recipient's death or when he ceases to be a member in good standing of a subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction. (2004)

- IV. Standing Committees- There shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest the following Standing Committees: Finance, Jurisprudence, By-Laws and Nominating, which shall consist of three (3) members each; Credentials and Printing, to consist of two (2) members each, with the Grand Secretary serving as an ex-officio member on Printing; Fraternal Correspondence shall consist of two (2) members, the Grand Secretary being one (1). Also, the Grand High Priest shall make an appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Charity Fund, if this fund has been implemented. (At the time of this printing the Charity Fund does not exist.)

SECTION 4. Appoint Standing Committees – There shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest at each Annual Convocation the following Standing Committees: Finance, Jurisprudence, By-Laws and Nominating to consist of three members each ; Credentials and Printing, to consist of two members each, the Grand Secretary to be an ex-officio member on Printing; and Fraternal Correspondence, to consist of two members including the Grand Secretary. (1969). Also, the Grand High Priest shall make an appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Charity Fund as is required in Article XII. (1976, 2004).

ARTICLE III

PROXIES

- I. Proxies- the High Priest, King or Scribe or the Subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, who may be unable to attend any Annual, Semi-Annual or Special Convocation of this Grand Chapter in person, shall appoint under his hand a proxy, being a member of the same Chapter, who shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of his constituent, except that of taking his rank in the Grand

Chapter. Each officer and member of this Grand chapter shall, in his own right, be entitled to one (1) vote; he may in addition thereto, cast the vote of any High Priest, King or Scribe, whose proxy he may hold in accordance with this Article.

Addition of semi annaul

SECTION 1. Proxies – The High Priest, King or Scribe of Subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction

of this Grand Chapter, who may be unable to attend any Annual or Special Convocation of this Grand Chapter in person, shall appoint under his hand a proxy, being a member of the same Chapter, who shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of his constituent, except that of taking his rank in the Grand Chapter. Each officer and member of this Grand Chapter shall, in his own right, be entitled to one vote; he may in addition thereto, cast the vote of any High Priest, King or Scribe, whose proxy or proxies he may hold in accordance with this Article. (1969).

ARTICLE IV

POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

GRAND HIGH PRIEST

- I. Preside at Meetings- It is the duty of the Grand High Priest to preside at all convocations of this Grand Chapter, and in person or by his deputy at least once in each year, to visit each Subordinate Chapter, to inspect the work and records thereto, and to give such instructions as will tend to a proper and uniform method of working in accordance with the regulation of this Grand Chapter. He shall present a report of his activities, dispensations, decisions, recommendations or suggestions to the Standing Committee on Jurisprudence, not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Convocation.

- II. Grant Dispensations- The Grand High Priest may, upon the petition of nine (9) Royal Arch Masons, one (1) of whom shall be a Past High Priest, accompanied by the recommendation of the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is to be located, grant a dispensation for the formation of a new Chapter and may grant a dispensation for the continuance of Chapters whose charters may have been lost or destroyed, which said dispensations shall remain in force unless sooner revoked, until the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 1-B. Grant Dispensations – The Grand High Priest may, upon the petition of nine Royal Arch Masons, one of whom shall be a Past High Priest, accompanied by the recommendation

of the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is to be located, grant a dispensation for the formation of a new Chapter and may grant a dispensation for the continuance of Chapters whose charters may have been lost or destroyed, which said dispensations shall remain in force unless sooner revoked, until the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter. He shall be reimbursed for such expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties as recommended

by the Standing Committee on Finance. (1969, 2004).

III + IV have been added

- III. Nomination & Election of Grand Lodge Officers & Committees- It shall be the province of the sitting Grand High Priest to nominate all appointed Grand Chapter officers and committee members as he sees fit. Prior to their acceptance, each nominee shall have explained to him, by the Grand High Priest, the duties, expectations, and burdens of each such office before their unequivocal acceptance shall be given. The same procedure shall be implemented after the election, but prior to their acceptance, of all elected officers of this Grand Chapter.
- IV. Reimbursement- The Grand High Priest shall be reimbursed for such expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties, as outlined above, after review and upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance.

GRAND KING, GRAND SCRIBE & PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

- V. Grand King, Grand Scribe & Principal Sojourner- These enumerated officers, or other officers appointed by the Grand High Priest, shall visit personally the several Chapters assigned to them by the Grand High Priest, for the special purpose of inspecting the work, by-laws, books of records & accounts, and to inquire into their condition and proceedings and a report shall be returned to the Grand High Priest within thirty (30) days. They also shall preside at the election and installation of officers of each of said Chapters, and shall make report of their doings, together with the condition of the Chapters assigned to them, to the Grand High Priest at the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, and at such other times as the Grand High Priest shall direct. However, it remains the prerogative of the High Priest of the Subordinate Chapters to preside at the election and installation of officers of his Chapter, which can be exercised in the absence of the Grand Officer assigned to his Chapter, or in any event if he so desires.
- VI. Absence, Disability or Death of Grand High Priest- In case of the absence from the meetings of this Grand chapter or from the State, or of the disability or death of the Grand High Priest, the Grand King, Grand Scribe or Grand Principal Sojourner shall in the order named succeed to his duties. During each such period, the Grand Officer shall assume the title of Acting Grand High Priest. When all of the aforesaid Grand Officers are absent, the junior ranking Past Grand High Priest shall preside.

GRAND TREASURER

- VII. Grand Treasurer- It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer, under the direction of the Standing Committee on Finance, to:
- a. To have the care and custody of the funds and property of this Grand Chapter, and to furnish the assistant treasurer with an appropriate back up record of all funds and property of this Grand Chapter ;

- b. To receive all moneys from the Grand Secretary;
- c. To pay all bills that have been previously reviewed & approved by the Grand High Priest, or ordered paid by this Grand Chapter;
- d. To render an account at each Annual Convocation of all moneys by him received and paid, together with a schedule of all the funds and property of this Grand Chapter, of which said account and schedule shall be reviewed by the Standing Committee on Finance;
- e. To deliver up to his successor in office all of the property of this Grand Chapter entrusted to him;
- f. He shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his official duties, in such amount and by such authorized bonding company as the Grand High Priest and Standing Committee on Finance may approve. The expense of such bond shall be borne by this Grand Chapter;
- g. He is authorized to invest the funds of this Grand Chapter in such manner as the Grand High Priest and Standing Committee on Finance shall direct;
- h. He is authorized to represent this Grand Chapter as its proxy, at all meetings of the shareholders of any corporation, association, or trust, and to vote as its agent upon all questions acted upon at such meetings;
- i. He shall also act as the Chief Financial Officer of the _____ [incorporated name of the Grand Chapter]_____.

SECTION 4. Grand Treasurer – It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer, under the direction of the Finance Committee,

4 (a) to have the care and custody of the funds and property of the Grand Chapter,

4 (b) to receive all moneys from the Grand Secretary,

4 (c) to pay all bills reviewed and approved by the Grand High Priest, or ordered paid by the Grand Chapter;

4 (d) to render an account at each Annual Convocation of all moneys by him received and paid, together with a schedule of all the funds and property of the Grand Chapter, which account and schedule shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee;

4 (e) and to deliver up to his successor in office all the property of the Grand Chapter entrusted to him.

4 (f) He shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his official duties, in such amount and in such authorized bonding company as the Grand High Priest and Finance Committee may approve. The expense of such bond shall be borne by the Grand Chapter.

4 (g) He is authorized to invest the funds of the Grand Chapter in such manner as the Grand High Priest and Finance Committee shall direct.

4 (h) He is authorized to represent the Grand Chapter as its proxy, at all meetings of the shareholders of any corporation, association, or trust, and to vote as its agent upon all questions acted upon at such meetings. (1969, 2011).

ASSISTANT GRAND TREASURER

Should be IX Assistant Grand Treasurer – The Assistant Grand Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of his duties. In case of death, absence from State or inability of the

Grand Treasurer to perform his duties, the Assistant Grand Treasurer shall perform all of the duties of the office.

GRAND SECRETARY

VIII. Grand Secretary- In addition to recording the transactions of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary shall:

- a. Notify the members of all Convocations of this Grand Chapter;
- b. Collect the dues from the Subordinate Chapters and all other moneys due to this Grand Chapter, and shall promptly pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer and report the same by items to this Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation;
 - i. Per capita tax bills shall be sent to subordinate chapters no later than Feb 1 of each year
- c. Immediately after the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, transmit to each Subordinate Chapter a list of all expulsions, suspensions, reinstatements and rejections which have been communicated to him;
- d. Under the direction of the Grand High Priest, answer any communications made to this Grand Chapter; all communications pertaining to the Official Business of this Grand Chapter shall be conducted through the Grand Secretary or the Grand High Priest.
- e. Have the custody of the seal of this Grand Chapter, and affix the same to all official documents emanating from his Office, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter;
- f. Give bond for the faithful discharge of his official duties in such amount and in such authorized bonding company as the Grand High Priest and the Standing Committee on Finance may approve. The expense of such bond shall be borne by this Grand Chapter.
- g. Preserve and file all correspondence received as well as copies of correspondence transmitted from the office of the Grand Secretary;
- h. Keep a complete record of the membership of the Chapters in this jurisdiction, in an appropriate way and system, as an example but not limited to an alphabetically arranged, loose-leaf volume or volumes, or by a suitable card system, or computer data entry spreadsheet software. An appropriate back up of said information being in the possession of the assistant secretary or suitable nominee. Which record shall contain the following information and date: Full name of member and address, name of Chapter conferring degrees; Dates of receiving the several Capitular degrees, and date of admission; Date of dimit or suspension, present Chapter affiliation (if other than Chapter conferring degrees) and date of birth and death and shall send said list(s) to subordinate chapters(s) no later than October 1st for the purpose of reconciling membership rolls.
- i. Communicate information relative to the good standing of members of Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction when so requested, to the following Masonic bodies:

- i. The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations;
- ii. The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Rhode Island;
- iii. The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island;
- iv. The Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, United States of America;
- v. The Rhode Island Shriners, A.A.O.N.M.S.,
- vi. The Imperial Council, A.A.O.N.M.S., and
- vii. Any other Masonic body(ies) recognized as Regular by this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 5. Grand Secretary – The Grand Secretary shall, in addition to recording the transactions

of the Grand Chapter,

5 (a) notify the members of all Convocations of the Grand Chapter,

5 (b) collect the dues from the Subordinate Chapters and all other moneys due the Grand Chapter, shall promptly pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer and report same by items to the Grand Chapter annually; (1969).

5 (c) immediately after the Annual Election of Officers, transmit a list of said Officers and an attested copy of all new General Regulations to the Grand Chapters in correspondence with this Grand Chapter and to the Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction;

5 (d) immediately after the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, transmit to each Subordinate Chapter a list of all expulsions, suspensions, reinstatements and rejections which have been communicated to him; ; (1924).

5 (e) under the direction of the Grand High Priest, answer any communications made to the Grand Chapter; all communications pertaining to the Official Business of this Grand Chapter shall be conducted through the Office of the Grand Secretary or the Grand High Priest. (1965).

5 (f) shall have the custody of the seal of the Grand Chapter, and affix the same to all official documents emanating from his Office, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the Grand High Priest or Grand Chapter;

5 (g) give bond for the faithful discharge of his official duties in such amount and in such authorized bonding company as the Grand High Priest and Finance Committee may approve.

The expense of such bond shall be borne by the Grand Chapter.

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5 (h) publish in the printed proceedings in the Table of Royal Arch Chapters, and following immediately after the list of Officers of each Chapter, or on a special page set apart, the names of all candidates, as the case may be, who shall have advanced, passed, acknowledged or exalted in such Chapter, within the period covered by its annual return to the Grand Chapter, together

with the names of any candidates rejected and members admitted or re-instated, dimitted or dropped from the rolls or deceased. (1911).

5 (i) furnish members of Chapters a Diploma, upon request of the Secretaries of Subordinate Chapters, for a sum of not less than one dollar. (1924).

5 (j) preserve and file all correspondence received as well as copies of all correspondence

transmitted from the office of the Grand Secretary. (1919).

5 (k) prepare for publication and to distribute, when printed, the Annual Proceedings. (1919).

5 (l) keep a complete record of the membership of the Chapters in this jurisdiction, in an alphabetically arranged, loose-leaf volume or volumes, or by a suitable card system, which record

shall contain the following information and date:

Full name of member, name of Chapter conferring degrees;

Dates of receiving the several Capitular degrees, and date of admission;

Date of dimit or suspension, present Chapter affiliation (if other than Chapter conferring degrees) and date of death. (1918).

5 (m) on or before July 1st of each year, request of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, a list of all Master Masons who have lost their membership in a Subordinate Lodge, for any cause, during the preceding Masonic year, and immediately upon receipt of same, he shall transmit a copy thereof to each Chapter. (1924)

5 (n) He is authorized to communicate information relative to the good standing of members of Subordinate Chapters in this Jurisdiction when so requested, to the following recognized Masonic bodies:

The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations;

The Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Rhode Island;

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island;

The Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, United States of America;

The Rhode Island Shriners, A.A.O.N.M S. and the Imperial Council, A.A.O.N.M S. (1969, 2011).

ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY

Should be IX Assistant Grand Secretary – The Assistant Grand Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the performance of his duties. In case of death, absence from State or inability of the Grand Secretary to perform his duties, the Assistant Grand Secretary shall perform all of the duties of the office.

PROFICIENCY OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS

- IX. Proficiency of Grand Chapter Officers- If two or more companions make a report to the Grand High Priest, that a Grand Officer is not able to perform the installation in a reasonable manner, the Grand High Priest will appoint two Past Grand High Priest, of his choosing, to go to said installation and report back to the Grand High Priest (if a Past Grand High Priest(s) is not available, a Past High Priest(s) may be substituted). If the report is not favorable, the Grand High Priest will then advise the Grand Officer in question that he has thirty (30) days to learn his work in a proper manner, after which he will then be reviewed by the Grand High Priest and or his appointments to

prove his proficiency. If, after the thirty (30) days, the Grand Officer is still not proficient, it is the provence of the Grand High Priest to penalize, remove or otherwise reprimand the Grand Officer in-question.

PROFICIENCY OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS is a new addition

ARTICLE V

STANDING COMMITTEES

- I. Finance- The Standing Committee on Finance shall examine and cause to be reviewed annually the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, in assistance with the Grand Treasurer direct investments of the Chapter, review the budget of estimated receipts and expenditures for the government of the Officers of this Grand Chapter. This committee shall annually consider the need for an external audit and if needed shall arrange with a Certified Public Accountant licensed by the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to perform a financial audit of the Chapters financial statements and records. They shall see that the records of the Grand Secretary are properly cared for and the books and papers of this Grand Chapter properly preserved. They shall recommend such compensation for services of salaried Grand Chapter Officers as are just and proper. They shall report at the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, or whenever required by the Grand High Priest.

SECTION 6. Finance – The Standing Committee on Finance shall examine and cause to be reviewed annually the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary by a competent practicing accountant. They shall see that the records of the Grand Secretary are properly cared for and the books and papers of the Grand Chapter properly preserved. They shall prepare and present at each Annual Convocation a budget of estimated receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year for the government of the Officers of Grand Chapter. They shall recommend such compensation for services of salaried Grand Chapter Officers as are just and proper, and they shall report at the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, or whenever required by the Grand High Priest. (1952, 1969, 1975, 2011).

- II. Jurisprudence- The Standing Committee on Jurisprudence shall consider and report on all decisions, recommendations or suggestions contained in the Report of the Grand High Priest and/or other Grand Officers. Their primary Provence shall be the enforcement of this Constitution and have the explicit authority to do so.

SECTION 7. Jurisprudence – The Standing Committee on Jurisprudence shall consider and report on all decisions, recommendations or suggestions contained in the Report of the Grand High Priest or other Grand Officers.

- III. Credentials- The Standing Committee on Credentials shall, at each Convocation of this Grand Chapter, ascertain the number of Companions present entitled to vote therein, together with their names, rank and the Chapter they represent, and report the same as soon as possible after the opening of this Grand Chapter.
- IV. Printing- The Standing Committee on Printing shall have supervision of the work of printing for this Grand chapter.
- V. Fraternal Correspondence- The Standing Committee on Fraternal Correspondence shall consider and report on all communications from other Grand chapters. This committee shall also review such proceedings as may be received from jurisdictions in correspondence with this Grand Chapter, and present at the Annual Convocation a report covering the same, for publication with the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, and at the discretion of the Grand Secretary.
- VI. By-Laws- The Standing Committee on By-Laws shall receive and consider all proposed By-Laws of Subordinate Chapters, as well as changes in or amendments to existing By-Laws, and shall transmit the same, together with its recommendations, to the Grand High Priest for his review and ultimate decision.

SECTION 11. By-Laws – The Standing Committee on By-Laws shall receive and consider all proposed By-Laws of Subordinate Chapters, as well as changes in or amendments to existing By-Laws, and shall transmit the same, together with its recommendations, to the Grand High Priest. (1969).

- VII. Nominations- The Standing Committee on Nominations shall ensure that all candidates for elected offices in this Grand Chapter are Qualified Candidates [see Art. II § 2]. This committee shall receive the petitions from all first year Qualified Candidates for the office of Grand Principal Sojourner and at last sixty (60) days prior to the Semi-Annual Convocation at which the election will take place. The names of all Qualified Candidates for that office shall be included in this committee’s report and no additional recommendations from this committee about said candidates shall be forthcoming. This committee shall, however, prepare a report recommending one (1) recommended and Qualified Candidate for the offices of Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Principal Sojourner (second year only), Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and shall forward said report, together with all Qualified Candidates for Grand Principal Sojourner (first year only) to the Grand Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the Semi-Annual Convocation.

SECTION 12. Nominations – The Standing Committee on Nominations shall ensure that all candidates

for elected offices in the Grand Chapter have served at least one year in the office of High Priest and are a member in good standing of a subordinate Chapter within this jurisdiction (referred to as qualified candidates). The Committee shall receive the petitions from all first year qualified candidates for the office of Grand Principal Sojourner and at least sixty days prior to the Special Convocation at which the election will take place. The names of all qualified candidates

for that office shall be included in the Committee's report and no additional recommendations from the Committee about those candidates shall be forthcoming. The Committee shall, however, prepare a slate of one recommended candidate for each of the offices of Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Principal Sojourner (second year only), Grand Treasurer,

Grand Secretary and Assistant Grand Secretary and shall forward that listing, together with all
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qualified candidates for Grand Principal Sojourner (first year only) to the Grand Secretary at least forty days prior to the Special Convocation.” (2004).

ARTICLE VI

CHARTERS & DISPENSATIONS

- I. Dispensations for Continuance- All dispensation issued by the Grand High Priest for the continuance of Chapters whose charters are lost or destroyed or for the establishment of new Chapters, shall be returned to the Grand Chapter at the next Annual Communication succeeding the date thereof. The dispensation for the new Chapters shall be accompanied by the records and By-Laws of said Chapters.
- II. Vote- The continuance of any dispensation, or the granting of a charter to a new Chapter, shall be decided by a vote, simple majority controlling. The vote shall be by ballot if one-fifth (1/5) of the members present so decide.
- III. Fee- For every charter originally granted, and for every charter granted in place of one lost or destroyed, the Charter receiving it shall pay this Grand Chapter a sum of fifty dollars. For every dispensation for a new Chapter, there shall be paid to this Grand Chapter the sum of one hundred dollars. Any Subordinate Chapter may have, at its own expense, a duplicate of such charger, which shall bear the certificate of the Grand Secretary, under the seal of this Grand Chapter, that the same is a true copy. Any said Chapter may use the same in Chapter-work in place of the original Charter.
- IV. Present & Displayed- The Charter, or a certified duplicate thereof, shall be present and displayed at every Convocation of a Subordinate Chapter.

ARTICLE VII

SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS

- I. Chapter Numbers- The Subordinate Chapters shall be numbered according to the date of their respective charters.
- II. Jurisdiction- The jurisdiction of the Subordinate Chapters shall be State-wide, each Subordinate Chapter enjoying current jurisdiction with all the others. (1954).
- III. Grand Honors- Grand Honors will be given to the Grand High Priest whenever he is present. If it is in a tiled convocation private grand honors will be given in the following manner sign of the Royal Arch drawing the hand across the forehead palm down followed by 3 claps right over left, sign again 3 claps left over right, sign again right over left. Private Grand honors will be battery of 3x3 claps

DUTY TO GRAND CHAPTER

- I. Empowered to Convene- The Subordinate Chapters are empowered to convene as Royal Arch Masons, to advance Mark Master Masons, to induct Past Masters, to receive and acknowledge Most Excellent Masters, and exalt Royal Arch Masons, and require fees thereof; provided, that such fees shall in no case be less than the sum fixed by this Grand Chapter; to choose officers annually; to asses and collect dues, make and collect assessments for charitable purposes and for payment of the expenses of the Chapter; and to transact all matters appertaining to Royal Arch Masonry, agreeably to their charter, the Constitution and Edicts of this Grand Chapter, and the ancient usages of the Royal Craft. No Subordinate Chapter shall receive or act under any corporate charter granted by a civil government.
- II. Officers- The officers of each Subordinate Chapter shall consist of a High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, Master of the Third Veil, Master of the Second Veil, Master of the First Veil, Chaplain, Musical Director and Sentinel, the first five (5) of which shall be elected by ballot, simple majority controlling; the remainder shall be appointed by the High Priest-Elect, the High Priest-Elect / High Priest may also appoint such officers as maybe needed in his Chapter. An officer(s) required by the Constitution or General Regulations of this Grand Chapter, or the By-Laws of a Subordinate Chapter may at the descretion of the chapter be elected by one ballot in the following way, a call for counter nominations will be made 3 times if there are no counter nominations a motion may be made to empower the secretary to cast one ballot for the officer(s) presented for election, upon a second and a unanimous outcome of a vote the secretary will cast the one ballot . A Royal Arch Mason shall not hold any of the top 3 elective offices in more than one (1) Chapter at a time. Any Royal Arch Mason in good standing may hold an appointed position in any chapter regardless of membership in said chapter with the approval of the members of the chapter.
- III. Bonding of Treasurer & Secretary- The Treasurer and Secretary shall be bonded by an authorized bonding company in amounts determined by the Finance Committee of

said Subordinate Chapter as required by the by-laws of the Subordinate Chapter, and the cost of which shall be borne by the Subordinate Chapter.

SECTION 4. Officers; Bonding of Treasurer and Secretary – The officers of each Subordinate Chapter shall consist of a High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, Master of the Third Veil, Master of the Second Veil, Master of the First Veil and Sentinel, the first five of whom shall be elected by ballot and by a majority of the votes cast without nominations; the remainder shall be appointed by the High Priest elect who may appoint either or all of the following officers, viz; Chaplain, Musical Director, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Master of Ceremonies. An officer required by the Constitution or General Regulations of the Grand Chapter, or the By-Laws of a Subordinate Chapter, to be elected by ballot, cannot be elected by the casting of a single ballot by an individual under instructions contained in a vote of the Chapter. (1899). A Royal Arch Mason shall not hold elective office in more than one Chapter at a time. (1931). The Treasurer and Secretary shall be bonded by an authorized Bonding Company in amounts determined by the Finance Committee of Subordinate Chapter, and the cost shall be borne by the Subordinate Chapter. (1969).

- IV. Annual Convocation & By-Laws- Every Subordinate chapter shall hold an Annual Convocation for the election of officers, who shall be installed as soon as practicable after their elections. No public or semi-public installation shall be held without first obtaining permission from the Grand High Priest. They shall hold Stated Convocations in accordance with their By-Laws; however, they may be a majority vote at any Regular Convocation prior thereto, omit holding the Regular Convocation during the months of July and August; shall deposit in the office of the Grand Secretary a certified copy of their By-Laws, and shall notify the Grand High Priest through the Grand Secretary, of all alteration or amendments thereto, under the seal of the Subordinate Chapter, but no By-Laws or amendments thereto shall take effect until approved by the Grand High Priest and Jurisprudence.
- V. Represented at Grand Chapter- It is the duty of each Subordinate Chapter to be represented at the Convocations of this Grand Chapter by its High Priest, King and Scribe, or their proxies.
- VI. Charter Lost or Destroyed- Whenever the charter of a Subordinate Chapter shall be lost or destroyed, it shall be the duty of the High Priest of said Subordinate chapter to make application forthwith to the Grand High Priest or the Grand Chapter, for a dispensation empowering it to continue work.
- VII. Charter Revoked- Every Subordinate Chapter whose charter shall be revoked by Grand Chapter, shall, upon such revocation, return to this Grand Chapter such charter, together with its records, By-Laws, seal, jewels, clothing, working-tools, funds and property of every description belonging to said Subordinate Chapter; and the officers and members of such Chapter who shall neglect and/or refuse to comply with the

provisions of this section, or who shall receive and/or retain any portion of said property, shall be liable to suspension, expulsion or any other penalty that this Grand Chapter deems appropriate.

SECTION 8. Charter Revoked – Every Subordinate Chapter whose charter shall be revoked by Grand Chapter, shall, upon such revocation, return to the Grand Chapter such charter, together with its records, by-laws, seal, jewels, clothing, working-tools, funds and property of every description belonging to said Chapter; and the officers and members of such Chapter who shall neglect and refuse to comply with the provisions of this section, or who shall receive and retain any portion of said property, shall be liable to suspension or expulsion at the pleasure of the Grand Chapter.

VIII. Notice of Annual Election & Intentions- Every Subordinate Chapter shall notify the Grand Secretary, Grand High Priest and the Installing officer of the day and hour of its Annual Election at least ten (10) days prior thereto, shall furnish to the same a list of all officers elected and appointed to be installed at least ten (10) days prior and shall notify the Grand High Priest, the Installing Officer assigned to the Subordinate Chapter and the Grand Lecturer of the date, time and place of all Stated and Special Convocations, and the work to be performed, at least ten (10) days prior thereto. Failure to comply with this section may result; at the discretion of the installing officer or Grand High Priest penalties including but not limited to cancellation of annual convocation, refusal of dispensations or any other action that may be deemed appropriate

IX. Returns to Grand Chapter

- a. Annual Returns- Every Subordinate chapter shall annually, on or before the 15th day of February, make returns up to and including the last day of the January preceding, of the names of its officers, the names of the candidates admitted to any Degree therein, with the date of conferring the respective Degrees, the names of all Companions admitted to membership, and if holding plural membership, with the date thereof; deceased, stricken from the roll, demitted or given a Certificate as provided under § XXIV of this Article, suspended, or expelled and the names of all applicants rejected; and shall forthwith transmit the same to the Grand Secretary, attested by the Secretary and under the seal of the Subordinate Chapter, together with the amount of dues fixed by this Grand Chapter.
- b. Semi-Annual Reports- Each Subordinate Chapter shall on the 15th day of November of each year, submit a Semi-Annual Report to the Grand Secretary for the period ending the last day of the October preceding. Such Reports shall contain a list of its officers, with the date of their election and installation and the name of the installing officer, a roll of all applicants for the Degrees accepted, of the candidates received and exalted, and of the members who have been admitted,

suspended, demitted, expelled or have died during the year; said forms to be provided by the Grand Secretary in a timely manner.

- c. Membership Report- In the Annual Return & Semi-Annual Reports on membership, the secretaries of the Subordinate Chapters shall list the members in two (2) categories as follows: (1) all who have been exalted or become members from other jurisdictions, and (2) all who hold affiliated membership within this jurisdiction. The first number shall be used in determining membership awards.
- d. Representation in Grand Chapter- No Subordinate Chapter shall be entitled to representation in this Grand Chapter unless its Return & Report shall have been deposited in the office of the Grand Secretary as required in this Article, and its dues paid previous to the opening of the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, except by a majority vote of the members of this Grand Chapter present.

PETITIONS & WORK

- X. Application Format; Requirements for Ballot- The application of every candidate for the degrees or for membership in any Subordinate Chapter shall be in writing, signed by the applicant, who must be a Master Mason in good standing, stating his age, residence, preferred contact information (telephone, mobile phone, email or its equivalent), occupation, Lodge membership and if for the degrees whether or not he has previously applied; if for application, his present or past Chapter membership. The application shall contain a statement that the petitioner is not in arrears to his Lodge for more than one (1) year's dues. The application must be recommended by two (2) members of the Subordinate Chapter to which application is made, and presented to the Subordinate Chapter at a Stated Convocation. It is the province and duty of said recommenders to guide and support the candidate throughout the Capitular Degrees. The secretary of the Subordinate Chapter shall upon the affiliation of a Companion already holding membership in another or other Chapter(s), notify each said Chapter of such affiliation. If the affiliated holds membership in a Chapter outside this jurisdiction, notification shall be send to the Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 12. Application Format; Requirements for Ballot – The application of every candidate for the degrees or for membership in any Chapter shall be in writing, signed by the applicant, Printed: April 3, 2011 12 (Revised – April 2, 2011)

who must be a Master Mason in good standing, stating his age, residence, occupation, Lodge membership and if for the degrees whether or not he has before applied; if for application, his present or past Chapter membership. The application shall contain a statement that the petitioner is not in arrears to his Lodge for more than one year's dues. The application must be recommended

by two members of the Chapter to which application is made, and presented to the Chapter at a Stated Convocation. It shall be referred to a Committee of Inquiry consisting of not less than two members of the Chapter, who shall make report in writing at the next Stated Convocation.

No ballot upon such petition shall be taken unless two members of the Committee shall have reported. The Secretary of the Subordinate Chapter shall upon the affiliation of a Companion already holding membership in another or other Chapters, notify each said Chapter of such affiliation. (1930). If the affiliated holds membership in a Chapter outside this Jurisdiction, notification shall be sent to the Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter. (1969).

- XI. Adopt a Mark- Every Companion, before being exalted to the August Degree of Royal Arch, shall adopt a mark, which shall be properly recorded by the Subordinate Chapter.
- XII. Rejected Applicant- No Subordinate Chapter shall receive a petition for degrees from a rejected applicant within six (6) months from the date of his rejection, nor act upon a petition for the degree from a person who has been rejected in another Chapter until a release has been obtained from that Chapter, granted by a unanimous ballot at a Stated Communication thereof, except after the lapse of one (1) year from the date of such rejection.
- XIII. Residence Required; Application for Membership Withdrawn or Obtained- No Subordinate Chapter shall receive a petition unless the petitioner shall have resided in the state for 1 year, or in the case of an out of state petitioner a release of jurisdiction is obtained, or said petitioner shall belong to the Armed Services of the United States and be stationed in this State. No person who is unable to perform the essentials of the work in the four (4) degrees of Capitular Masonry is eligible to receive those degrees, and if the petitioner be physically defective by reason of deformity or being maimed, and he is still able honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, eligibility shall be determined by the Chapter to which he had applied and, if determined favorable to the petitioner, he shall be eligible to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry when the action of the Chapter has been approved by the Grand High Priest.

SECTION 15. Residence Required; Application for Membership Withdrawn – No Subordinate Chapter shall receive a petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry from an applicant who has not resided within the State for a period of one year, unless such petitioner shall belong to the Armed Services of the United States and be stationed in this State. No Subordinate Chapter shall permit a petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, or an application for membership to be withdrawn after it has been referred to a committee, except in the case of a favorable report of the committee, by a majority vote of the Chapter, or in the case of an unfavorable report, by a unanimous vote of the Chapter, at a Stated Convocation. No person who is unable to perform the essentials of the work in the four degrees of Capitular Masonry is eligible to receive those degrees, and if the petitioner be physically defective by reason of deformity or being maimed, and he is still able honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, eligibility shall be determined by the Chapter to which he has applied and, if determined favorable to the petitioner, he shall be eligible to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry when the action of the Chapter has been approved

by the Grand High Priest. (1920).

- XIV. Time for Ballot- No Subordinate Chapter shall ballot or if agreed unanimously by motion vote upon a petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry or for affiliation within four (4) weeks from the time the petition is received by said chapter without a dispensation from the Grand High Priest for that purpose, first had and obtained.
- XV. Unanimous Ballot- No Subordinate Chapter shall admit to membership a Companion exalted in another Chapter, or confer the degree of Mark Master Mason upon any person, except upon a unanimous ballot or if agreed vote therefore at a Stated Convocation. Unless a candidate be advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason within twelve (12) months after receiving a clear ballot, the same shall be void.
- XVI. Unfavorable Report; Objection to Advancement- No Subordinate Chapter shall consider the unfavorable report of a committee as a rejection of a petition, but shall take a ballot thereon, nor shall they advance a candidate after a clear ballot, if objection thereto be made by any member of the Chapter, but such objection unless withdrawn within six (6) months, shall be deemed to be a rejection in the same manner as though made by ballot; provided, however, that if such member shall voluntarily make known to the Chapter the nature of his objection the same may be overturned by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.
- XVII. Objection to Candidate- Any member of a Subordinate Chapter may object to the inducting, receiving and acknowledging to exalting a candidate at any time before a degree is conferred. Such objection shall be made to the High Priest and the name of the objector shall not be made known without his permission. The Chapter shall investigate such objection before proceeding further with a candidate, and may override the same by a vote of a majority of the members present.
- XVIII. Restoration to Membership- the petition of a suspended Companion for restoration to his rights and privileges, except in case of suspension for non-payment of dues as provided for in Section twenty-eight (28) of this Article, shall be presented in writing as a Stated Communication, shall lie over until the next Stated Communication, when the petition may be granted by a unanimous vote of the members present; such action, however, must be approved by the Grand chapter before it shall be valid.
- XIX. One Convocation per Day- No Subordinate Chapter shall hold more than one (1) Convocation for business on the same day; provided, however, that the Annual Convocation and a Stated Convocation may be held on the same day.
- XX. Number of Degrees Conferred- No Chapter shall confer more than two (2) of the Capitular Degrees upon any candidate at one (1) Convocation, without dispensation from the Grand High Priest, first had and obtained. Provided, however, in admission to Past Master's Degree of a candidate who has been elected and has presided over as a Master of a Symbolic Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge, it is only necessary to administer the obligation; all other ceremonies may be omitted.

- XXI. Fee- No Chapter shall confer the four (4) Capitular Degrees for a sum less than thirty dollars (\$ 30).
- XXII. Candidate of Another Chapter- No Chapter shall confer any degree upon a candidate elected in another Chapter except upon the request of the Chapter in which he was elected or the Grand High Priest and confirmation that he has been properly elected to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry.

BALLOTING

- XXIII. Form of Ballot- Subordinate Chapters (except in the election of officers) shall when required to ballot, take the ballot by white balls and black cubes. In the case of a ballot for the degrees or for membership, if one (1) black cube appears, the High Priest may upon the supposition or a mistake, immediately order a second ballot, which shall be final. However, if a ballot having been taken and declared Foul, or having two (2) or more black cubes, the High Priest has no authority to order a new ballot. Except for the election of officers a vote (hand ballot) may be used if and only if a motion is properly made and seconded to do so and the results are unanimous.

DEMIT

- XXIV. Demit- No Subordinate Chapter shall grant a demit except at a Stated Convocation thereof and any members in good standing, having paid all dues and assessments and no charges appearing against him shall, upon written application over his own signature, be entitled to a demit; provided, however, that if he is a member of more than one (1) Chapter, then a Certificate that his membership ceases in said Chapter shall only be issued. Said Certificate shall not have the effect of a demit and shall state that fact. A demit shall be issued only when the member terminates his membership in the only Chapter to which he belongs. Any Companion obtaining a demit shall, if he so chooses, upon written request, be re-admitted to membership to the Chapter from which said demit was issued at any Stated Convocation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and upon payment of the current year's dues.
- XXV. Demit Required; Involuntary Loss of Membership- No Subordinate Chapter shall permit a Companion elected to membership to qualify as such until he shall have a demit from the Chapter to which he formerly belonged, of a Certificate showing his good standing in each Chapter of which he is a member. Involuntary loss of membership in any chapter shall constitute loss of membership in all Chapters.

PENALTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- XXVI. Penalty for Non-Payment of Dues and Assessments; Notice Required- At the beginning of each fiscal year the Subordinate Chapter shall strike from the roll the names of all the members who shall be delinquent in payment of dues or assessments

to the Chapter for a period of two (2) years; and any member whose name shall be so stricken from the roll may be readmitted to membership by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at any Stated Convocation, and upon payment of all dues and assessments owing at the time when his name was so struck from the roll.

Life members shall be liable for special assessments and shall not be exempt from the provisions and penalties of this Section.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Subordinate Chapter, sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, to notify, at the last known address, all members who may be liable to the imposition of the penalty of this Section, on a form provided by Grand Chapter for this purpose; but failure to receive such notice shall not invalidate the penalty of this Section.

UNAFFILIATED MASONS

XXVII. Drop Unaffiliated- Each Chapter in this jurisdiction shall drop from the roll of its members any Companion who shall lose his membership in a Subordinate Lodge, first giving him thirty (30) days written personal notice of such intended action.

XXVIII. Time of Unaffiliation- No unaffiliated Royal Arch Mason who has for one (1) year neglected to apply to a Chapter for membership shall be entitled to visit a Chapter; and no Chapter shall receive an application for membership from any person who has been deprived of membership in another chapter for non-payment of dues to such other Chapter.

ARTICLE VIII

CHAPTERS UNDER DISPENSATION

I. Chapters Under Dispensation- Chapters under dispensation shall have all the rights and powers of chartered Chapters, except the right to elect and install officers, to representation in Grand chapter, and to discipline members.

ARTICLE IX

CONSOLIDATION OF CHAPTERS

I. Consolidation of Chapters- Two (2) or more Chapters may consolidate and unite in one (1) pursuant to a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a meeting of each Chapter, duly summoned for that purpose, provided that such action or consolidation shall be approved by the Grand Chapter, or, if it is not in session, by the Grand High Priest under such conditions and regulations as may be imposed.

The resolution to unite adopted by both Chapters shall specify the name and meeting place of the consolidating Chapters. The consolidating Chapter shall take the charter name and number of the Chapter with which it will unite.

The charter and seal of the consolidating Chapter will be surrendered to the Grand Chapter.

The records, funds and paraphernalia of the consolidating Chapter shall become the property of the Chapter with which the consolidating Chapter is united.

The members of the consolidating Chapter shall be entitled to the all the rights and privileges they possessed in their original Chapter before the consolidation.

The elected officers of the Chapter united with shall serve until the end of the fiscal year, or until an election is held pursuant to a dispensation, which the Grand High Priest, in his discretion, may grant.

ARTICLE X

RITUAL

- I. The Work Ritual- The Work Ritual as printed November 22, 1975, or approved revisions thereof, is adopted and authorized to be used in this Jurisdiction.
Section1 The Work Ritual – The Work Ritual as printed January 1, 1947 or approved revisions thereof, is adopted and authorized to be used in this Jurisdiction.

One (1) master copy shall be deposited, for safe-keeping and preservation, in the vaults of a reputable institution which the Grand Chapter so selects, in the name of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to be delivered to any of the following officers: Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Treasurer, and/or Grand Secretary.

One master copy shall be deposited in the vaults of the Industrial National Bank in the name of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to be delivered to any two of the following officers: Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.

One (1) master copy shall be in the custody of the Grand Lecturer who shall deliver the same to his successor in office, taking a receipt from that successor for the book, which receipt shall state the condition of the book at the time of such delivery.

Sufficient copies shall be supplied to each Subordinate Chapter to provide each Chapter office (or station) with a Ritual, at such cost as may be determined by Grand Chapter. The Grand Secretary shall require a receipt thereof, signed by the High

Priest. All Ritual Books are the property of the Grand Chapter and are issued on rental basis only.

- II. Amendments or Alterations to the Ritual- All proposed amendments or alterations of the Ritual shall be submitted in writing by a Ritual Committee appointed by the Grand High Priest. They shall be adopted and become part of the Ritual after a three-fourths (3/4) favorable vote of the members present at a subsequent Annual, Semi-Annual or Special Convocation. The Grand High Priest may at his discretion amend the ritual from time to time due to special circumstances as they may arise.

SECTION 2. Amendments or Alterations to the Ritual – All proposed amendments or alterations of the Ritual shall be submitted in writing by a Ritual Committee appointed by the Grand High Priest, at any Annual or Special Convocation of Grand Chapter. They shall be adopted and become part of the Ritual after three-fourths favorable vote of the members present at a subsequent Annual or Special Convocation. (1969). Any amendments to the Grand Constitution shall be accepted or rejected by paper ballot only. (1975).

ARTICLE XI

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

DELETED

ARTICLE XII

IDENTIFICATION CARD

- I. Dues Receipt- Every member of a Subordinate Chapter, except Life Members, or members who may be exempt from the payment of dues, shall pay his dues in accordance with the provisions of his Chapter, upon the payment of which the Secretary thereof issue to him providing all assessments due have been fully paid, an identification card, which shall be a receipt for his said dues and/or assessments.
- II. Life and Exempt Members- The Secretary of each Subordinate Chapter shall also issue a said card to every Life Member and every members exempt from the payment of dues, provided all assessments due have been fully paid. Said card shall state such facts; and shall be issued annually on the first day of the fiscal year of each Chapter and shall be valid for the purpose of visitation as hereinafter provided.
- III. Description- Said card shall bear upon its face the seal of the Subordinate Chapter, the written signature of the Secretary thereof, together with the member's signature; it shall certify that the member is a Companion in good standing and designate the date to which his dues are paid, or the date of the termination of any exemption therefrom,

also the fact that all assessments due at the date of issue have been paid. It shall bear upon the reverse side thereof a certification by the Grand Secretary that said Chapter is a legally constituted Chapter under this Jurisdiction together with a facsimile of the seal of the Grand Chapter.

- IV. How Furnished- Said card shall be furnished by the Grand Chapter and shall be delivered to the Secretary of each Subordinate Chapter by the Grand Secretary.
- V. Examination- Subordinate Chapters in this Jurisdiction shall not examine any person presenting himself as a visitor, unless he shall give satisfactory proof by documentary evidence, that he is a regular Mason and a Royal Arch Mason. Such documentary proof shall be either a diploma or certificate from a Grand Chapter recognized as such by the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island; but if such visitor hails from a Chapter in this jurisdiction, then a receipt of his dues with the seal of said Chapter thereon, or certificate from the Secretary of said Chapter may be accepted as sufficient.
- VI. Validation- The Sentinel shall not admit as a visitor any member of a Chapter in this Jurisdiction unless the card of such member shows that his dues have been paid in full to within one (1) year from the date of presentation, or that he has been exempted from the payment of dues to a date within one (1) year from the date of presentation, and in either case that all assessments due were paid at the date of issue.
- VII. For Admission- Every member of a Chapter shall present to the Sentinel his card showing not only the payment of dues or exemption therefrom to within one (1) year from the date of presentation, but also the payment of all assessments due at the date of issue before being admitted to his Chapter, unless specifically excused by the High Priest of the Chapter. This discretion shall apply to members of his own Chapter only; provided, however, that the High Priest of any Chapter may authorize the Sentinel to admit as visitors, a Mark Master, a Past Master, or a Most Excellent Master, who has not completed his membership in any Chapter upon presentation of a certificate from the Secretary of his Chapter to the effect that such person has taken the aforesaid degree or degrees.
- VIII. Unaffiliated Companions- An unaffiliated Companion holding a demit which is dated within one (1) year from the date of visitation, or who has not resided within this Jurisdiction for one (1) year, shall present to the Sentinel before being admitted, his demit in lieu of an identification card.
- IX. Restored Unaffiliated Companions- An unaffiliated Companion, who having been suspended or expelled, has been restored to the benefits and privileged of Royal Arch Masonry, but not to membership in the Chapter from which he was suspended or expelled, and who has not resided within this Jurisdiction for one (1) year from the date of said restoration, shall present to the Sentinel before being admitted, a certificate of the Grand Secretary certifying the fact and date of said restoration in lieu of an identification card.

X. Resident Unaffiliated Companions- An unaffiliated Companion, who having resided within this Jurisdiction for one (1) year, has applied for membership in accordance with the provisions of Article VII, Section 30 of this Constitution, but whose application has been rejected, shall present to the Sentinel before being admitted, a certificate of the Secretary of said Subordinate Chapter certifying the fact and date of said application.

XI. Form- The form of the identification card shall be substantially as follows:

This is to certify that whose name appears on the margin has paid his dues and all assessments to, 20.., and is a Companion in good standing of Royal Arch Chapter, No

.....
Secretary

.....
Dated

[seal of Subordinate Chapter on face]

This is to certify that.....whose name appears on the margin has paid his dues to20 ... , and all assessments due to 20 ... , and is a Companion in good standing of Royal Arch Chapter, No....., situated at, Rhode Island.

Dues

Assessments

.....

Secretary

Dated

(Seal of Chapter on face.)

Reverse Side.

THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

This is to certify that the Chapter named hereon is a legally constituted Chapter under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

[seal of Grand Chapter]

.....
Grand Secretary

ARTICLE XIII

ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- I. Amendments- This Constitution shall not be altered, amended or repealed except at an Annual Convocation, Semi-Annual Convocation, or a Special Convocation called for that purpose, nor unless notice of such proposed change has been given in writing; or upon such report of a committee appointed for that purpose ; and such proposed alteration, amendment or repeal, adopted by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present. Any amendments to the Grand Constitution shall be accepted or rejected by paper ballot only.

NOTATION – The following Standing Orders and Decisions as printed in the 1947 Edition of the Grand Constitution or issued up to and including March 1st, 1969, are preserved for Historical

Record and Reference only, except when incorporated into the 1969 Revised Grand Constitution: (with the following additions to 1977)

Standing Orders (Numbered) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 39, 40, 48, 49, 52, 53, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62.

Decisions (Numbered) 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.