

RESOLUTION NO. 4 HOLD OVER 2017

Referred to Committee on Finance & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, at the 2017 Grand Annual Communication the following Constitutional amendment passed that, if finally passed in 2018, will change the recipient of the \$1.25 payment in Art. 163 (7) from the Masonic Home & School to the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home and School does not need any additional funding from the Grand Lodge of Texas or its subordinate Lodges due to the extensive revenues that it receives from its investments; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas is in a financial crisis insofar as it lacks sufficient funding to repair and/or upgrade and remodel the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Building in order to provide for the accommodations and accoutrements necessary to modernize the building to make it usable and habitable into the near future, including meeting ADA requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 2 of ARTICLE IX of the Constitution, be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. – Annual Contributions.

Each Lodge shall pay annually, and at such time as is or may be provided by law, as a contribution to the Grand Lodge, the sum of fifty cents for each member on its rolls, and one dollar for each degree conferred, all of which shall constitute a part of the General Fund, and shall pay annually the further sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents for each Master Mason ~~on its roll to maintain the widows and to educate and maintain the orphan children of deceased Master Masons in Texas, under such regulations and by such agencies as are now or may hereafter be provided in this Constitution and Bylaws; provided, that any further or additional sum may be added to the above by law, at such time as it may be deemed advisable, for the use and benefit of the General Fund or for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home and School of Texas to the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund.~~

Submitted by,
James N. Higdon, PM, Alamo Lodge No. 44

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Referred to Committee on Purposes & Policies

WHEREAS, Masonic District No. 60A of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas is composed of six Lodges, namely El Paso Lodge No. 130; Fraternity Lodge No. 1111; Five Points Lodge No., 1137; Sunland Lodge No. 1344; Wallace Hughston Lodge No. 1393; and Coronado Lodge No. 1406, all of which are located in El Paso, TX; and

WHEREAS, Masonic District No. 60B of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas is composed of two Lodges, namely Omar N. Bradley Lodge No. 1028 and Fort Hancock Lodge No. 1297, both located in El Paso, TX; and

WHEREAS, the eight Lodges of Masonic Districts 60A and 60B all lie within a 25 mile radius of each other, four of them meeting in the same location; and

WHEREAS, many of the active members of these Lodges are plural members other named Lodges; and

WHEREAS, the membership would benefit by being served by the same District Deputy Grand Master and the same District Instructor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Masonic Districts No. 60A and 60B be combined into one Masonic District named Masonic District No. 60 to be composed of the eight Lodges listed above.

Joseph R. Bailey, PM, Five Points Lodge No. 1137

John E. Wood, PM, El Paso Lodge No. 130

Thomas E. Jenkins, PM, Omar N. Bradley No. 1028

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the members of Anson Jones Lodge No. 1416 believe it is incumbent upon the subordinate lodges of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas to emulate this Grand Lodge.

WHEREAS, it has been noted by many members of the Grand Lodge of Texas that when the Most Worshipful Grand Master needs to step out of the East, he routinely turns his station over to a Past Grand Master. However, the Most Worshipful Grand Master does not relinquish his jewel to the Past Grand Master taking over in the East. Rather, the jewel worn by said Past Grand Master is sufficient for him to wear while he is occupying the East.

WHEREAS, there are many Grand Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas who approve a similar practice within their subordinate lodges and those constituent lodges report a smooth and orderly assuming of stations under this practice.

WHEREAS, there are numerous Masonic regalia suppliers that currently provide Texas constituent lodges with their regalia, including lodge officer aprons, collars and jewels, who also provide Past Master jewels which match the Past Master aprons that are approved by Article 273 of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Articles 272 and 273 be slightly amended to provide that if a sitting Master of a Lodge needs to vacate the East, and his station is to be filled by a Past Master, most commonly done during the conferral of a degree, that the Master not relinquish his jewel to that Past Master, if the Past Master has a Past Master Collar and jewel which is in conformity with the Past Master's aprons currently approved by Article 273. At the discretion of the sitting Master, the Past Master may wear his own collar and jewel, just as he may continue to wear his Past Master's apron, while occupying the East. Further, the Past Master may continue wearing his collar and jewel, as he may wear his Past Master's apron, as an appropriate part of the regalia already approved by this Grand Lodge.

Art. 272. (311). **Officers: Clothed and Jeweled.** No officer shall appear in a Lodge, while open, without the jewel and clothing appropriate for his office. *If the Worshipful Master of the Lodge leaves his station, and a Past Master assumes that station, at his discretion, the Worshipful Master may permit the Past Master to wear regalia approved by the Grand Lodge including a collar and jewel as provided for in Article 273, and it shall not then be necessary for the Master to relinquish his own collar and jewel.*

Art. 273. (312). **Officers: Regalia.** A Lodge may provide special collars and aprons to be worn by its officers, *including its Past Masters*, for the purpose of preserving their symbolic features; as a mark of distinction, and to enhance the dignity of the Lodge.

Such regalia shall consist of a collar of blue velvet from which shall be suspended the jewel appropriate to the station of the officer. Said collar may have embroidered thereon any of the symbols of Freemasonry appropriate to be so displayed. The regulation apron shall be of white lambskin of the following dimensions: the apron shall be 16 inches square with a drop in the bib of 6 inches to the triangular point. It will be permissible to have embroidered upon the bib of the apron the appropriate jewel of the office and upon the body of the apron below the bib, the square and compasses circumscribing the letter "G." The outside edge of the apron shall be bordered with blue silk velvet or braid, one inch in width, and the bib with the same material one-half inch in width. The apron may be lined on the reverse side with blue satin or other material. In addition to using the Past Master's aprons *and jewels* now being worn, it shall be permissible for Past Masters to wear aprons *and jewels* with the same design and insignia as provided for the Worshipful Master, but the addition of the Arc (or Quadrant) under the points of the Compasses would be optional.

In conferring degrees, officers may wear appropriate robes or costumes; and appropriate scenery may be used. The insignia or regalia of other orders or organizations may not be worn.

Thomas F. Boone, PM
Anson Jones Lodge No. 1416

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Referred to Committee on Finance & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS in The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas Art. 380 set the criteria for a member in good standing as a receipt from his Lodge showing his dues are current; and

WHEREAS the current wording of Art. 380 is less than clear and precise as to “dues current at the time of visit”.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 380 be amended as follows:

Art. 380. Good Standing. Upon notification to the Worshipful Master, and at his discretion, a member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge may visit any Texas Masonic Lodge working under this jurisdiction without the avouchment and or examination process providing that he is in good standing and presents ~~a receipt~~ *his current dues card* from his Lodge showing that his dues are current at the time of said visitation along with a photo identification; except in cases provided for in Art. 382. *Current dues are defined as dues paid for the current calendar year of January 1 through December 31 and do not include any grace period prior to suspension..* Sojourning Masons from other jurisdictions must possess a current dues card and shall be vouched for or examined in accordance with Art. 381.

James “Ken” Kenneth Scales, PM
Italy Lodge No. 647

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, it would be best that Masons from other Lodges, not being a member of the Lodge acting, should not be allowed to vote or ballot upon matters of said Lodge, so as not to influence the outcome on said matters, and therefore, guests and visiting Brethren, not members of said Lodge, should not be allowed to vote or ballot on any matters of said Lodge, including membership; and

WHEREAS, in voting and balloting on Petitions and Applications, other than for the three degrees of Masonry, it should be clear that only members present of the Lodge acting shall be entitled to vote;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 417 be deleted in its entirety and a new Article 417 be substituted to read as follows:

*Art. 417. (458). **Who May Vote.** In balloting on petitions for the three degrees, or any of them, only members who are in good standing of the Lodge acting are entitled to vote, and all members in good standing of said Lodge who are present must vote.*

In balloting or voting on petitions for affiliation; reinstatement; restoration; or applications for dimit; certificate of good standing; waiver of jurisdiction; certificate of dismissal; or voting on examinations for proficiency; or the business transactions of the Lodge, only members in good standing of said Lodge who are present, shall be entitled to vote.

Charles Duane Gaulden, PM
Greenville Lodge No. 335

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, one of the many responsibilities of the members of this Grand Lodge is the protection of its integrity as demonstrated by the conduct of members who are uniformly bound by the obligations we voluntarily assume upon our acceptance as members, and

WHEREAS, when a member's conduct is such as to require disciplinary action to seek a remedy appropriate to the allegations, and

WHEREAS, when such allegations involve misconduct that contributes to the delinquency or abuse of a child, this Grand Lodge should demonstrate its intolerance of accusation of such conduct by suspension of the accused until such time as the accusations are satisfied as provided by the laws of this Grand Lodge;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 512 of the Laws of this Grand Lodge be amended to provide suspension of Masonic activity when accused of a disciplinary violation involving delinquency or abuse of a child, as follows:

Art. 512. **Status of Mason under allegations of a Masonic Disciplinary Violation.** When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violation have been referred to, accepted by the Grand Master, and referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, his standing will be a "*Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action*" and until such Masonic disciplinary violations have been fully disposed of, he shall not be entitled to a demit, a certificate of good standing, or be installed in office or, in case of death, prior to final conclusion of the disciplinary action, a Masonic burial; otherwise, his rights and privileges shall be unaffected thereby until Masonic disciplinary violations have been found and his penalty assessed by the Grand Master, mediation, or Masonic Disciplinary Commission; *except when such allegations are based upon Masonic disciplinary violations as are listed in Article 508(7) of these laws, or any public display of immoral conduct with the intent to either arouse or engage in sexual acts, his Masonic activities shall be suspended with regard to his attendance or participation in his or any lodge or any Masonic related organization which is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas until his Masonic disciplinary violations have been found and his penalty is assessed as herein provided.*

Leonard P. Harvey-Past Master

Keystone Lodge No. 1143

Orville L. O'Neill- Past Master

White Rock Lodge No. 234

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding the eligibility of a Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action to be elected as any officer of the Lodge, except Worshipful Master; and

WHEREAS, Article 291 requires that a member must be in good standing, and thus eligible to receive a certificate of good standing, to be elected or appointed as an officer; and

WHEREAS, Article 512 prohibits a certificate of good standing for Masons laboring under Masonic disciplinary action, and

WHEREAS, Article 512 prohibits installation in office, but does not prohibit election or appointment to office of Masons laboring under Masonic disciplinary action, and allows all other rights and privileges not enumerated in Art. 512, thus creating the possibility that such brethren could be elected or appointed and not installable, creating a vacancy in the leadership of the Lodge.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 512 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 512. Status of Mason Under Allegations of a Masonic Disciplinary Violation. When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violation have been referred to, accepted by the Grand Master, and referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, his standing will be "Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action" and, until such Masonic disciplinary violations have been fully disposed of, he shall not be entitled to a demit, a certificate of withdrawal, a certificate of good standing, or be *elected or appointed to office*, installed in office, or in case of death, prior to final conclusion of the disciplinary action, a Masonic burial; otherwise, his right and privileges shall be unaffected thereby until Masonic disciplinary violations have been found and his penalty assessed by the Grand Master, mediation or Masonic Disciplinary Commission.

Robin W. Winslett, PM, Danbury Lodge No. 1432

Jay H. Hicks, PM, Tucker Lodge No. 297

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, Masonic District No. 40 of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas is subdivided into two sub-districts, namely 40A and 40B; and

WHEREAS, Masonic District No. 40A is composed of Rio Grande Lodge No. 81 which meets in Brownsville; Mercedes Lodge No. 1010 which meets in Weslaco; McAllen Lodge No. 1110 which meets in McAllen; and Donna Lodge No. 1136 which meets in Donna; and

WHEREAS, Masonic District No. 40B is composed of Point Isabel Lodge No. 33 which meets at Rio Grande Lodge No. 81 in Brownsville; Hope Lodge No. 471 which meets in Rio Grande City; Hidalgo Lodge No. 1036 which meets in Edinburg; Harlingen Lodge No. 1132 which meets in Harlingen; and Llano Grande Lodge No. 1173 which meets in Weslaco; and

WHEREAS, Donna Lodge No. 1136 desires to merge, and is in the process of merging, with Hidalgo Lodge No. 1036; and

WHEREAS, Lodges in the two sub-districts desire to realign themselves based on common interests and ease of accessibility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Masonic Districts No. 40A and 40B be realigned as follows:

Masonic District No. 40A shall consist of Hope Lodge No. 471; Mercedes Lodge No. 1010; Hidalgo Lodge No. 1036; and McAllen Lodge No. 1110; and

Masonic District No. 40B shall consist of Point Isabel Lodge No. 33; Rio Grande Lodge No. 81; Harlingen Lodge No. 1132; and Llano Grande Lodge No. 1173.

Michael Kuhlman, PM

Rio Grande Lodge No. 81

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Referred to Committee of Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, it is the internal and not the external qualifications that recommend a man to be made a Mason; and

WHEREAS, it is more likely that a man in the 21st century earns a living and supports his family with his mind as much or more so than his back; and

WHEREAS, the science of prosthetic devices has made the loss of a limb not debilitating in the same manner as when speculative Masonry was founded; and

WHEREAS, the morals, customs and sensitivities of the 21st century demand that the physically challenged man be treated with the same dignity and respect as any member of society

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 401, and related Form 27, regarding the treatment of maims and physical defects is archaic, outdated, offensive and of no use to perpetuating the honor and development of our beloved fraternity and craft and should be deleted in its entirety.

Art. 401 (439) Repealed – 2018

Form No. 27 Repealed – 2018

Roger A. Jacobsen, PM

St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 51

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS it would be in the best interests of Masonry in general, and of Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, in particular;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 236 be amended to read as follows:

Art. 236 (274). **Who May preside *During The Conferral of* ~~While Conferring~~ Degrees.** ~~No one but a~~ Any Master Mason who is a member *in good standing* of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, or of a Lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge, ~~shall~~ may preside over a Lodge ~~while a degree is being conferred~~ *during the conferral of any Degree, provided that only the work approved by the Committee on Work shall be used.*

Art. 236a. (New) **Who May Participate In The Conferral Of Degrees.** Any Master Mason who is a member *in good standing* of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, or of a Lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge, may participate in the conferral of any Degree.

Any Entered Apprentice Mason who is under the jurisdiction of any constituent Lodge of The Grand Lodge of Texas may participate in the conferral of an Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree in any station or place except that of the Worshipful Master.

Any Fellowcraft Mason who is under the jurisdiction of any constituent Lodge of The Grand Lodge of Texas may participate in the conferral of an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason's Degree in any station or place except that of the Worshipful Master.

In all instances, only the work approved by the Committee on Work shall be used.

William A. (Bill) Lins, PM
Wharton Lodge No. 621

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Referred to Committee on Finance

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee of this Grand Lodge is charged with administering the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund under such rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time by this Grand Lodge in a fair and judicious manner; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee administers said Fund strictly adhering to Articles 122 through 126 of the Laws of this Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Article 125, as currently worded, limits the purposes of this Grand Lodge Assistance Fund to brotherly relief only from “tuberculosis or any other malignant or incurable disease”; and

WHEREAS, the Purposes of the Fund should be truly for temporary and emergency relief, the necessity of which being determined by the sponsoring lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master, and then by the seven member Grand Lodge Finance Committee, rather than being too narrowly prescribed by statute; and

WHEREAS, Article 122, as currently written, defines a redundant committee, existing in name only;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following revisions be made to Articles 122 through 126 of the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas:

~~**Art. 122. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Consists of the Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee of this Grand Lodge shall constitute the Committee of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund.~~

Art. 122. Repealed 2018

Art. 123. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Administration and Duties. ~~The Committee on Grand Lodge Assistance Fund~~ *Finance Committee* shall exercise control, supervision and disbursement of the funds of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund under such rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time by such committee, or by this Grand Lodge.

Contributions from the fund shall be limited to those individuals whose sponsoring Lodge also contributes to the recipient. ~~and shall be an amount up to ten times that contributed by the Lodge. Provided, that~~ Such limitation shall not apply when the Lodge submits satisfactory evidence of its inability to contribute to such assistance. Provided further that the total contribution of the plan to any recipient shall not exceed an amount as established from time to time by the ~~Committee~~. *Grand Lodge Trustees.*

Art. 124. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Receipts and Disbursements. *(No Change)*

Art. 125. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Purposes of Fund. The purposes for which said fund may be used shall be the relief of Brethren in good standing and members of their families suffering ~~with tuberculosis or any other malignant or incurable disease,~~ *substantial financial hardship resulting from malignant or incurable disease, natural calamity, or other temporary and emergency hardship* as the Committee may determine.

Art. 126. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Annual Report. The Committee *on Finance* ~~of Grand Lodge Assistance Fund~~ shall make an annual report to this Grand Lodge of its activities in relief work, including a tabulated statement of all receipts, disbursements, and balances on hand of such fund. The names of the beneficiaries thereof shall not be published in the printed Proceedings.

Ronald Wise, PM
Roy Stanley Lodge No. 1367

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, all Lodge members are expected to vote on a Petition for the Mysteries and Advancement of Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS, many Lodge members are relying only on the investigation committee reports for petitioner information; and

WHEREAS, Lodge members are desirous of obtaining as much pertinent information of a petitioner as possible before casting a ballot.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 412 be amended to read as follows:

Art. 412. **Committee: Duties and Report.** The investigation by the committee shall include: the moral character and reputation of the petitioner, facts relating to jurisdiction, physical qualifications, and all other matters the Lodge is called upon to pass in balloting on petitioner. A face-to-face interview between each Investigation Committee member and the petitioner is required on all petitions for the Mysteries and Advancement, except on approval by the Worshipful Master.

Before a ballot can be taken a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge; each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28. *Should a Mason qualified to vote possess additional information pertaining to the qualifications of the petitioner that is based upon the Mason's personal knowledge, and not hearsay, he may request the Worshipful Master's permission to provide said additional information in open Lodge before the committee is discharged and the ballot is taken.* If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon.

Terrence A. Maxwell, PM
Carrollton Lodge No. 1400

RESOLUTION NO. 12

Referred to Committee on Finance

WHEREAS the Grand Lodge Employee Retirement Program has evolved over time so that employees are now offered a 401K plan instead of a defined benefit plan;

WHEREAS the Grand Lodge trustees are required by law to allocate sufficient funds to meet employee benefit requirements;

WHEREAS the amount of funding required by ART 163 paragraph #9 does not correlate to the varying amounts required for the Grand Lodge Retirement Program;

WHEREAS this amendment to ART 163 will have no financial impact on the constituent lodges and will result in administrative cost savings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 163 be amended to read as follows:

ART 163. Fees, Dues, and Contributions. Each subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Secretary fees, dues, and contributions as follows:

Paragraphs 1-8 No Change

~~Paragraph 9. For the use in financing the Grand Lodge Employee Retirement Fund Program, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be remitted annually with its returns, the sum of10~~

9. (Repealed)

10. For the Grand Lodge General Fund to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns, for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of \$.50 required by Section 2 of Article IX plus ~~\$19.65~~ \$19.75, the total sum of, ~~\$20.15~~ \$20.25

Paragraphs 11-14 No Change

Thomas W. Ellison, PM
Milam Lodge No. 2

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the fiscal year end of the Grand Lodge of Texas has been amended to end on December 31 in place of October 31; and

WHEREAS, Art. 53 is now in conflict with the fiscal year and should be amended to reflect the proper accounting period.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 53 be amended as follows:

Art. 53. Annual Report. The Grand Secretary shall close his books for the Masonic year on the first day of ~~November~~ *January* each year, and include in his annual report all the receipts and disbursements from the date of his last annual report to said date. The report shall also include the independent audit as required in Art. 20b when available from the independent certified public accountant.

Thomas W. Ellison, PM
Milam Lodge No. 2

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Referred to Committee on Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, credit and debit cards are commonly used to settle financial transactions;
and

WHEREAS, charges and modifications to the Grand Lodge membership management system and website may, in the future, provide greater flexibility to the subordinate Lodges in the management of their affairs; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Grand Lodge of Texas that subordinate Lodges shall have the power to fix the dues and fees paid by members of such Lodge subject to Art. 311 and Art. 312; and

WHEREAS, this amendment, if adopted, permits a Lodge to offer options to its members, but is not mandatory.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 311 be amended as follows:

Art. 311. **Dues. Fixed by Lodge: Minimum.** (1.) The amount of annual dues in a Subordinate Lodge shall be fixed by the Lodge as may be determined by a majority of the members present provided that such membership dues shall never be fixed below a minimum of Fifty Dollars per annum. By-Laws in conflict with this provision are void. No Lodge shall have the power to levy assessments, other than regular dues, against its members; nor to raise its dues for a definite period of time; but may raise and lower its dues from time to time as it may deem proper, in like manner as provided in Article 309.

(2) A Lodge, by a majority vote of the members present, may permit the payment of dues and fees by use of a credit or deb it card, in addition to accepting cash or check. Additionally, a Lodge, by a majority vote of the members present, may authorize the acceptance of monthly or quarterly payments in advance of a due date. Such payments may be preauthorized ACH transfers or preauthorized charges to a credit or debit card account. A Lodge may charge a service fee to recover costs related to the use of credit or debit cards to make payments to the Lodge.

Thomas W. Ellison, PM
Milam Lodge No. 2

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

Whereas, any Mason in This Great State of Ours who is so qualified, according to Art. 359, is entitled to a Masonic Funeral Service; and

Whereas, any family has the authority to request or deny a Masonic Funeral Service for a qualified Mason, according to Art.360; and

Whereas, any Mason who is still so qualified according to Art.360 is no lesser a Mason if a Masonic Funeral Service is or not performed; and

Whereas, not being able to enter into the minutes of a Lodge of Sorrow the name of a so qualified Mason, according to Art.360 might be considered a complete lack of respect for one of our brothers; and

Whereas, it is currently stated in Art.361, that the list of funerals conducted be read and entered on the minutes which does not allow any Brother's name who did not have a Masonic funeral to be so recorded,

Therefore be it resolved, that Article 361 be amended to read as follows:

Art. 361. (398). **Who May Conduct Ceremonies.** The Worshipful Master, or a Warden in his absence (or a competent Brother called by him to officiate for the time being), shall conduct the funeral ceremonies, during which, the Lodge shall be called off. Upon the conclusion of the ceremonies the members shall return to the Lodge room and the Lodge shall be called on and closed. Only Master Masons may participate in the ceremonies. ~~Provided that~~ Constituent Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas may open a Lodge of Sorrow and that it be called from labor for the purpose of conducting Masonic funerals and that the Lodge of Sorrow when once opened and called off can remain in force throughout the term of the Worshipful Master for that Masonic year. ~~and~~ Toward the end of that period, the Lodge of Sorrow shall be called to labor and the list of funerals conducted *and all deceased brethren during that Masonic year* be read and entered on the minutes of that date. ~~and~~ A suitable memorial to each deceased Brother *may* be given, ~~if desired~~, and the Lodge of Sorrow be then closed. Another Lodge of Sorrow may be opened for the next Masonic year and called off and allowed to remain in force until the close of the term of the Worshipful Master for such new Masonic year.

C. D. Siems, PM
Gary Krzywicki, PM
Bellaire Lodge No. 1336

RESOLUTION NO. 16

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, Art. 14a, The Sam Houston Medal; Art. 14b, the W.B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award; Art. 14c, the Golden Trowel Award; Art. 14d, the Community Builder Award; and Art. 14.e, the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award are prestigious awards approved and promoted by the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A.M;

WHEREAS, Art. 14c provides that the Committee on Masonic Education and Service is to prepare and distribute to the Lodges guidelines by which the Golden Trowel Award may be made; and

WHEREAS, it would assist the Lodges in accessing and understanding the eligibility requirements for this prestigious award and the procedures for nominating and selecting a worthy recipient, if the guidelines, as promulgated by the Committee on Masonic Education and Service, were published in the Masonic Forms section of the The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A. M. together with any requisite form or forms required in connection with such award;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the form be included in the Masonic Forms section of The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A. M. for a Lodge to notify the Grand Secretary of a Golden Trowel Award, such form to include instructions regarding guidelines for nominating and selecting a worthy recipient of such Golden Trowel Award as promulgated by the Committee on Masonic Education and Service.

C.D. Siems, PM
Gary Krzywicki, PM
Bellaire Lodge No. 1336

RESOLUTION NO. 17

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS Lodge dues are due and payable one year in advance on January 1 of each year (unless otherwise exempt) and if not paid on or before that date a member shall be in arrears for his dues; and on or before thirty days before the last stated meeting of the Lodge held before June 24 of each year;

WHEREAS many members do not pay their dues until right before the deadline of June 24 and this puts extra work on the Secretary of the Lodge to send out dues notices all during the year;

WHEREAS all members are aware of the January 1 deadline but refuse to comply by the law set forth in Chapter 18 Title 11 SUSPENSION FOR NON PAYMENT OF DUES Article 319. (354).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 319 be amended as follows:

Art. 319. (354). Automatic Suspension. Lodge dues are due and payable one year in advance on January 1 of each year (unless otherwise exempt) and if not paid on or before that date a member shall be in arrears for his dues; and on ~~or before thirty days before the last stated meeting of the Lodge held before June 24 each year,~~ *February 1 of each year*, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify each member, in writing, who may be in arrears for any dues, and if such member fails to pay such dues on or before ~~June 22~~ *February 1* of such year, he shall stand automatically suspended for non-payment of dues without action by the Lodge, and such suspension shall be recorded in the minutes at the first subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge.

WHEREAS Art. 320. (355) Notice of Suspension; shall need to be amended as follows if the above resolution passes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 320 be amended as follows:

Art. 320. (355). Notice of Suspension. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify by written notice all members automatically suspended for non-payment of dues, forthwith, unless such member is present at the meeting when his suspension becomes effective. Provided, when the post office address of the suspended member is unknown, notice shall be mailed to his last known post office address. The names of all members so suspended on ~~June 23~~ *February 1* shall be reported to the Grand Secretary ~~in the annual report of the Lodge by March 1.~~ When such suspended member is reinstated, the fact shall be recorded in the minutes of the Lodge at the next stated meeting, together with a statement of the amount of dues paid by him, and the

subordinate Lodge shall be charged with Grand Lodge dues for each such reinstated member for the year in which he was so suspended.

Delbert Richardson, PM

Dayton Lodge No. 825

RESOLUTION NO. 18

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, all Lodges in Masonic District 120 have merged their Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association with Lodges in Masonic Districts 37A and 37B; and

WHEREAS, Masonic District 37 consists of 11 Lodges, four in 37A and 7 in 37B; and

WHEREAS, all Lodges in District 120 are within 45 miles of those in District 37A; and

WHEREAS, the three Lodges in District 120 have voted to merge into District 37A which would make the number of Lodges in Districts 37A and 37B equal (seven in each); and

WHEREAS, all Lodges in District 37A have indicated their willingness to accept the Lodges from District 120;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that S. B. Mosser Masonic Lodge No. 912 in Alice; Mathis Masonic Lodge No. 1132 in Mathis; and Chamberlain Masonic Lodge No. 913 in Kingsville be included in Masonic District 37A and that Masonic District 120 be abolished.

S. B. Mosser Lodge No. 912

GRAND MASTERS RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies & Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Art. 129(a) presently requires appointed District Instructors to be qualified members of Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, there are many brothers who are qualified and proficient in the esoteric work but are not members of Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, allowing such qualified and proficient brothers to serve as District Instructors, if appointed by the Grand Master, would be a benefit to the Grand Lodge of Texas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 129(a) be amended to read as follows:

Art. 129 (a) Prior to the Grand Annual Communication, the incoming Grand Master may request the Committee on Work to recommend qualified members of Grand Lodge, *or brothers who are proficient in the esoteric work and lectures of the first three degrees in Masonry*, who may be appointed by him to serve as District Instructors for the ensuing Grand Lodge year.

Jerry Kirby

Grand Master

GRAND MASTERS RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, under existing Grand Lodge law, Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts who have not completed their proficiency may, through a petition for advancement, enjoy the privileges of membership of their Lodge at no cost to themselves. Instead, all Lodge expenses are borne by the Master Masons of the Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the cost of membership privileges should also be the responsibility of such Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 434a be amended to read as follows:

Article 434a. Procedure After Lapse of Time. Whenever an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft must petition for advancement because of lapse of time *of less than three years*, he *must pay a fee of twenty dollars, each year, to extend his time for one additional year. However, if the lapse of time is for three years, or more, from the date that he received his last degree, he must be investigated, in addition to paying the fee. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee for Investigation and Report to the Lodge. After this report, which shall be read at a Stated Meeting, a ballot shall be taken. If a favorable ballot of the membership of the Lodge present is cast*, his petition for advancement may be received and dealt with in the same manner as a petition for affiliation as set forth in Articles 386 and 387, and must receive a favorable ballot of the Lodge of Competent Jurisdiction as provided in Article 430, except as otherwise provided in Articles 39 and 414. He then shall be permitted to receive instruction, to sit in a lodge in the highest degree to which he has attained and be examined in open Lodge and voted on as proficient in the trial lecture of the degree last conferred.

Jerry Kirby

Grand Master