

**Constitution**  
of the  
**GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The  
**GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
ordains and establishes the following  
**CONSTITUTION**

for the better government of itself, of the Councils under its jurisdiction, and of the Craft of its obedience.

**PART 1**  
**GRAND COUNCIL**

**ARTICLE 1 - AUTHORITY**

**Section 1.1.1 - General**

**1.1.1.1** - The Grand Council has power and authority to establish such rules and adopt such regulations for its own government, that of the Councils under its jurisdiction, and of the craft under its obedience, as may from time to time be considered necessary and proper, and to alter and amend the same in the manner hereinafter provided, consistently with the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International and ancient Masonic usage.

**1.1.1.2** - The Grand Council claims, and of right enjoys, the sole government and superintendence of all Councils of Cryptic Masons within this State, and the right to settle any controversies arising therein.

**1.1.1.3** - The Grand Council may reprimand, suspend or expel from Cryptic Masonry in New Hampshire any member of who violates this Constitution, or is guilty of gross unmasonic conduct.

**1.1.1.4** - The Grand Council may consider and do all things whatsoever it may regard as necessary, or appertaining to the well-being and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in this State; and the enumeration of powers herein shall not be construed to deprive it of powers not named.

**1.1.1.5** - The Grand Council Fiscal Year shall be from April 1 through March 31 of the following year.

**Section 1.1.2 - Charters and Dispensations**

**1.1.2.1** - The Grand Council has sole authority, within this State, to grant Dispensations and Charters for holding Councils of Cryptic Masons, with the right to confer therein the several degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master, and when justifiable to annul, revoke or amend such Dispensation or Charter heretofore granted by it.

**1.1.2.2** - During recess of the Grand Council, the Grand Master may issue a Dispensation to nine or more regular Cryptic Masons empowering them to open a Council of Cryptic Masons and to hold Councils of Royal Masters, Select Masters, and Super Excellent Masters. The Dispensation shall bear the signatures of the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder, shall be affixed with the Seal of the Grand Council. The Dispensation shall remain in effect until acted upon at a subsequent assembly of the Grand Council. The fee for each Dispensation to form a new Council shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Payment of this fee shall accompany the request to form a new Council.

**1.1.2.3** - At a subsequent assembly called for that purpose, a Dispensation to hold a Council must be returned to the Grand Council with a request for a Charter. The request shall be supported by a copy of the records of the acts done under its authority, a copy of the By-laws proposed for the government of the new Council, and a current financial statement.

**Section 1.1.3 - Fees and Assessments**

**1.1.3.1** - The Grand Council may assess and collect from the several Councils under its jurisdiction such sums of money, annually or otherwise, as may from time to time be found necessary for the reasonable support and maintenance of the Grand Council.

**1.1.3.2** - The fee for a Charter for a new Council shall be \$100.00. The fee previously paid for a dispensation to hold this Council shall satisfy this requirement.

## **ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION**

### **Section 1.2.1 - General Membership**

**1.2.1.1** - The Grand Council is composed of the following:

- a) Current Elected and Appointed Grand Officers of New Hampshire;
- b) Past Elected Grand Officers of New Hampshire;
- c) Past Appointed Grand Officers of New Hampshire who have served for 5 or more years;
- d) Masters, Deputy Masters and Principal Conductors of the Work or their duly appointed proxies, of the Chartered Councils under this jurisdiction;
- e) Past Masters of Councils under this jurisdiction;
- f) Any Companion unanimously elected to permanent membership by the Grand Council.

**1.2.1.2** - Each member of the Grand Council, or his proxy, has one vote on matters before Grand Council.

### **Section 1.2.2 - Elected Officers**

**1.2.2.1** - The Elective Officers of the Grand Council shall consist of the following:

- a) Grand Master
- b) Grand Deputy Master
- c) Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
- d) Grand Treasurer
- e) Grand Recorder
- f) Grand Assistant Treasurer
- g) Grand Assistant Recorder
- h) Grand Captain of the Guard

**1.2.2.2** - These Officers shall be elected at each Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, via written ballot and by a majority of the votes cast.

**1.2.2.3** - No Companion shall be elected to the office of Grand Master, Grand Deputy Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work or Grand Captain of the Guard who is not a Past Master of a Council under this jurisdiction. No Companion shall be elected to any other Grand Office unless he is a member of a Council under this jurisdiction.

**1.2.2.4** - No Companion shall serve as Grand Master for more than three successive years.

**1.2.2.5** – The title of the Grand Master is Most Illustrious. The title of each other elected Grand Officer is Right Illustrious.

### **Section 1.2.3 - Appointed Officers**

**1.2.3.1** - The appointed Officers of the Grand Council shall consist of the following:

- a) At least two Grand Chaplains
- b) Grand Lecturer and up to Three Grand Deputy Lecturers
- c) Grand Conductor of the Council
- d) Grand Marshal
- e) Grand Steward
- f) Grand Sentinel
- g) Grand Organist
- h) Such other officers as the Grand Master may from time to time deem necessary.

**1.2.3.2** - These officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master Elect prior to his installation. Each Grand Master shall give serious consideration to equal representation of all constituent Councils in the Grand Officer complement.

**1.2.3.3** - No Companion shall be appointed to any Grand Office unless he is a member of a Council under this jurisdiction.

**1.2.3.4** - The title of each Grand Chaplain, the Grand Lecturer and each Grand Deputy Lecturer is Right Illustrious. The title of each other appointed Grand Officer is Illustrious.

#### **Section 1.2.4 - Officer Installation**

**1.2.4.1** - Every Companion elected or appointed to an office in this Grand Council shall, if present, be installed at some suitable time before the final closing of the assembly at which he may have been elected or appointed. Should any Companion elected or appointed to an office be unavoidably called away before being installed, it shall be his duty to present himself to the Master of his own Council for installation. Immediately thereafter, he shall cause a certificate of such installation to be filed promptly with the Grand Recorder.

**1.2.4.2** - Each officer of the Grand Council and of each constituent Council shall, at the time of his installation, make the following declaration: " I ..... do most solemnly promise on the honor of a Cryptic Mason that to the utmost of my knowledge and ability I will strictly comply with the Constitution of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of New Hampshire, and will support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International and all other Masonic usage."

**1.2.4.3** - Each Grand Council Officer shall hold his office and discharge his duties until his successor is duly installed.

#### **Section 1.2.5 - Officer Succession**

**1.2.5.1** - In case of the permanent absence of the Grand Master, Grand Deputy Master or Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, the elective officer next in rank shall replace his superior. In the event the Grand Captain of the Guard progresses to the office of Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, the Grand Master shall make a temporary appointment to fill the office of Grand Captain of the Guard. In the absence of all the above listed officers, the senior Past Grand Master present shall preside.

#### **Section 1.2.6 - Proxies**

**1.2.6.1** - The appointment of a proxy for the Master, Deputy Master, or Principal Conductor of the Work in a Council, to represent that officer in Grand Council, shall be in writing on the form provided for that purpose. The Form shall be signed by the principal, shall designate at what assembly of the Grand Council the proxy shall act, shall be valid for that assembly only, and shall be voided if the principal appears in person.

**1.2.6.2** - No Companion shall be appointed a proxy for any Officer unless he is a member of the same Council as his principal.

### **ARTICLE 3 - ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Section 1.3.1 - Annual Assembly**

**1.3.1.1** - The Grand Council shall hold a Grand Assembly annually on the second Saturday in May, to be held in conjunction with the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of New Hampshire and the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire, at a location selected by a committee chosen specifically for that purpose. The Grand Chapter/Grand Council will hold their Grand Banquet on the Friday evening prior to the Saturday events, and the Grand Commandery will hold their Grand Banquet on Saturday evening. The meetings on Saturday shall be Chapter followed by Council in the morning hours prior to the luncheon with the Commandery in the afternoon.

**1.3.1.2** – Any business may be conducted at the Annual Assembly.

### **Section 1.3.2 - Annual Business Assembly**

**1.3.2.1** - The Grand Council shall hold a Business Assembly annually within 30 days prior to the second Saturday in May. All reports of the Grand Council may be given at this Annual Business Assembly with the exception of the following reports, which MUST be given and approved at the Annual Assembly:

The Reports of the Jurisprudence Committee and the Credentials Committee

**1.3.2.2** - Any business may be conducted at the Annual Business Assembly.

### **Section 1.3.3 - Special Assemblies**

**1.3.3.1** - The Grand Master may call Special Assemblies, as he may deem proper.

**1.3.3.2** - The only business to be transacted at a Special Assembly shall be that stated in the notice therefor, which shall be issued at least 30 days beforehand, and include the time and place of the Assembly.

### **Section 1.3.4 - Business Discipline**

**1.3.4.1** - For each motion not otherwise provided for in this Constitution, the Presiding Officer shall ensure that the motion presented for consideration is clearly understood before the vote is taken. In case of doubt he may require that the motion be presented in writing.

**1.3.4.2** - Any motion to reconsider a vote shall lie over until the next assembly.

## **ARTICLE 4 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1.4.1 - Grand Master**

**1.4.1.1** - The Grand Master shall preside in the Grand Council. He shall exercise and discharge executive functions thereof when Grand Council is not in session, and render watchful care and supervision over the constituent Councils in this jurisdiction.

**1.4.1.2** - The Grand Master may suspend any Grand Officer for just cause, and appoint a suitable person to act instead until the next assembly of the Grand Council.

**1.4.1.3** - During periods of recess, the Grand Master shall temporarily fill each vacancy that occurs in any office of the Grand Council, except those covered in ¶ 1.2.5.1.

**1.4.1.4** - The Grand Master may convene any Council, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and require conformity to Masonic law, usage and custom.

**1.4.1.5** - The Grand Master may for good cause suspend the labors of a constituent Council by arresting its Charter until the next assembly of the Grand Council.

**1.4.1.6** - The Grand Master shall, in person or by proxy, duly constitute and consecrate newly chartered Councils.

**1.4.1.7** - The Grand Master may for good cause suspend the Master of a constituent Council from the exercise of the functions of his office until the next assembly of the Grand Council. In such case he shall furnish the suspended Master with a copy of the charges filed against him, and summons him to appear at the next assembly of the Grand Council.

**1.4.1.8** - Whenever the offices of Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work of a Council all become vacant, the Grand Master shall appoint a Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work from the members of such Council to act as such until replacement officers are elected by the Council.

**1.4.1.9** - The Grand Master may direct any elective officer of the Grand Council to perform an official Visitation of any constituent Council. Such officer shall have the powers of the Grand Master during such Visitation.

**1.4.1.10** – The Grand Master shall have the power to grant dispensations for all purposes within the scope of his duties.

**1.4.1.11** - The Grand Master shall recommend the appointment of a Grand Representative to each Grand Council recognized by this Grand Council. If any Grand Representative does not attend the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council for three consecutive years, the Grand Master shall consider recommending a replacement.

**1.4.1.12** – The Grand Master shall consider, and approve as appropriate, each recommendation from another jurisdiction for the appointment of a Grand Representative to New Hampshire from their Grand Council.

**1.4.1.13** - The Grand Master shall perform such other duties and exercise such other powers and prerogatives as properly pertain to his office, consistent with this Constitution, the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and ancient Masonic usage.

#### **Section 1.4.2 - Grand Treasurer**

**1.4.2.1** - The Grand Treasurer shall manage all property and funds of the Grand Council. He shall receive all monies belonging to the Grand Council from the Grand Recorder or other sources. He shall pay all bills consistent with the budget, or ordered paid by the Grand Council.

**1.4.2.2** - At each Annual Assembly the Grand Treasurer shall include in his Annual Report an account of all monies received and paid out since the last Annual Assembly; an inventory of all funds assigned to him by the Grand Council including the General Fund; and an inventory of any Grand Council equipment necessary to the functioning of the office of Grand Treasurer.

**1.4.2.3** - The Grand Treasurer shall receive in payment for his services the sum of fifty dollars per year as salary, and fifty dollars per year for use of his facilities, which will be paid annually.

#### **Section 1.4.3 - Grand Recorder**

**1.4.3.1** - The Grand Recorder shall maintain and manage the Archives of the Grand Council. He shall keep a fair record of all the transactions of the Grand Council, cause the same to be printed immediately after the close of each Annual Assembly, and distribute the same as directed by the Grand Council.

**1.4.3.2** - The Grand Recorder shall maintain an inventory of the following:

- Grand Council Charter
- The Official Seal of the Grand Council
- Grand Officers' jewels, collars, and aprons
- Past Grand Officers jewels
- Service pins
- Insurance policies
- Plain text rituals
- Grand Council Properties (Paraphernalia)
- Such office equipment as may be needed for Grand Council operations
- All unused properties resulting from discontinued Constituent Councils

**1.4.3.3** - The Grand Recorder shall ensure that the Grand Secretary of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Hampshire has arranged for a Fidelity Bond covering the following: Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Assistant Treasurer, and Grand Assistant Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of New Hampshire, and the Treasurer, Recorder, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Recorder of each constituent Council.

**1.4.3.4** - The Grand Recorder shall provide constituent Councils with Annual Returns Forms, and Credential/Proxy Forms. (See Appendix for Forms)

**1.4.3.5** - The Grand Recorder shall transfer all Grand Council monies received by him to the Grand Treasurer taking his receipt therefor.

**1.4.2.6** – The Grand Recorder shall maintain a safe repository in the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of New Hampshire and of sufficient size to accommodate certificates of deposit, stock, deeds and such other items as he shall deem of sufficient value to be placed therein.

**1.4.3.7** - The Grand Recorder shall attend to such other duties as may be required by his office.

**1.4.3.8** - The Grand Recorder shall receive in payment for his services the sum of \$200.00 per year as salary, and \$200.00 per year for use of his facilities, which will be paid annually.

#### **Section 1.4.4 - Remaining Grand Officers**

**1.4.4.1** - The remaining Grand Officers shall perform such duties as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations, and as may be assigned to them by the Grand Master or the Grand Council.

### **ARTICLE 5 - COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 1.5.1 - Standing Committees**

**1.5.1.1** - The Finance Committee shall consist of at least three members, who shall be elected at each Annual Assembly.

**1.5.1.2** - The Grand Master immediately after his installation shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

- Credentials
- Doings of Grand Officers
- Jurisprudence
- Correspondence
- Unfinished Business

#### **Section 1.5.2 - Special Committees**

**1.5.2.1** - The Grand Master shall appoint such other Special Committees, as he deems necessary. (See Appendix for Committee membership requirements and duties).

### **ARTICLE 6 - DEGREES RECOGNIZED**

#### **Section 1.6.1 - Listing**

**1.6.1.1** - The only degrees recognized by this Grand Council are the following: Royal Master, Select Master and Super Excellent Master. These degrees must be conferred only in the order enumerated.

### **ARTICLE 7 - VISITATIONS**

#### **Section 1.7.1 - Purpose**

**1.7.1.1** - The purpose of Visitations is to assist the constituent Councils in gaining and maintaining proficiency in the administration of Council affairs, and the performance of ritual. The Visiting Officer shall attend to the administrative segment, and the assigned Lecturer shall attend to the ritual segment.

## **Section 1.7.2 - Performance**

**1.7.2.1** - The Elected Line Officers shall perform official Visitations of constituent Councils as assigned to them by the Grand Master. During each Visitation, the Visiting Officer shall inspect for the presence and condition of the following:

- Charter, Warrant or Dispensation
- By-laws
- Recorder's Records
- Most recent Treasurer Annual Financial Statement
- The Plain Text Ritual
- Council Properties (to ensure minimal ritual requirements)

**1.7.2.2** - Each Visiting Officer shall report his findings to the Grand Master, with a copy to the Grand Recorder, within 10 days of his Visitation and on the official form provided for that purpose by the Grand Recorder. The report shall attach a copy the most recent Council Annual Financial Statement.

**1.7.2.3** - The Grand Lecturer shall oversee ritual performed by constituent Councils in order to promote uniformity and exactness. He shall be assisted by three (3) Grand Deputy Lecturers appointed by the Grand Master. The Grand Lecturer shall assign a Grand Deputy Lecturer to each Visiting Officer. The Grand Lecturer shall accompany the Grand Master during each of his official Visitation(s), and personally perform the Lecturer's duties on those occasions.

**1.7.2.4** - At each Official Visitation, the assigned Grand Deputy Lecturer or the Grand Lecturer shall observe and comment on the ritual performed. He shall report his findings on the official form provided for that purpose by the Grand Recorder. The Report shall be sent to the Grand Lecturer within 10 days, with copies to the Grand Recorder and a courtesy copy to the constituent Council Recorder.

## **ARTICLE 8 - AWARDS**

### **SECTION 1.8.1 - Meritorious**

**1.8.1.1** - The General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year Award may be presented by the General Grand Council each year to one Companion from this jurisdiction, usually based on a recommendation by the Grand Master submitted prior to February 1. The recommendation normally shall be derived from nominations received from constituent Councils. Each nomination should include Masonic/Civic accomplishments and a full explanation of qualifications. Past Grand Masters and current Elected Grand Officers are not qualified for this award.

**1.8.1.2** - One General Grand Council Youth Award may be presented annually to one worthy individual. The recipient of this award shall be selected by the Grand Master, normally derived from recommendations from constituent Councils submitted to the Grand Master prior to February 1. Each recommendation should include a description of exceptional service to Youth Organizations.

**1.8.1.3** – Each constituent Council may present annually one Ish Sodi Award to a Companion of that Council who has exhibited outstanding service to that Council. The Grand Council shall supply this award to constituent Councils at cost.

### **Section 1.8.2 - Longevity**

**1.8.2.1** - The Grand Council may provide at cost to constituent Councils a suitable lapel pin to recognize a Companion who has held Council membership for a period of twenty years.

**1.8.2.2** - The Grand Council may provide at cost to constituent Councils a suitable lapel pin as a token of recognition to a Companion who has been a Council member for a period of forty years.

**1.8.2.3** - If requested by a constituent Council, certificates are available from the Grand Recorder to recognize 20, 40, and 50 years of membership and at increments of five years thereafter.

**PART 2  
CONSTITUENT COUNCILS**

**ARTICLE 1 - DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS**

**Section 2.1.1 - Requirements**

**2.1.1.1** - Each Council of Cryptic Masons in this jurisdiction shall have a Dispensation or a Charter issued by this Grand Council.

**2.1.1.2** - Dispensations and Charters to constituent Councils shall include the power to hold Councils of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master, and to confer the associated degrees.

**2.1.1.3** - Each petition for a Charter for a new Council shall be signed by at least nine regular Cryptic Masons. The fee for such Charter shall accompany the petition (See ¶ 1.1.3.2).

**Section 2.1.2 - Withdrawal**

**2.1.2.1** - Grand Council may arrest the Charter of any Council if:

- a) the Council failed to make Annual Returns in the prescribed form during a period of three consecutive years; or
- b) the Council was not represented at either the Annual Assembly or Annual Business Assembly of Grand Council during a period of three consecutive years.

**2.1.2.2** - Each Charter surrendered or arrested by the Grand Council shall be returned to the Grand Council together with the Council Seal. Council Records, By-laws, costumes, funds and other property of the Council of every description normally shall be returned to Grand Council for disposition. If this action is unacceptable to a majority of the surviving members of that Council, a special committee from Grand Council shall meet with them to resolve this matter.

**ARTICLE 2 - BY-LAWS**

**Section 2.2.1 - Requirements**

**2.2.1.1** - Each Council must adopt By-laws for its own special regulation and government, and may revise, alter or amend the same. Such By-laws must not be contrary to the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, this Constitution, or the ancient usage of the craft. No revision, alteration or amendment shall be made to the By-laws until such action shall have been presented in writing at a Stated Assembly, entered on the Council Record and laid over until the next Stated Assembly. The Grand Master shall approve such change before the same shall take effect.

**Section 2.2.2 - Life Membership**

**2.2.2.1** - A constituent Council may offer Life Membership to its members providing the By-laws of that Council specifically state that Life Memberships are permitted in that Council. (See Life Membership appendix to this Constitution).

**ARTICLE 3 - ASSEMBLIES**

**Section 2.3.1 - Annual Assembly**

**2.3.1.1** - The Annual Assembly of each Council in this jurisdiction shall be held during the month of March.

**Section 2.3.2 - Special Assemblies**

**2.3.2.1** - A Special Assembly of a Council may be held at such time as the Master may direct and upon due notice to the members. No business shall be in order at a Special Assembly except as stated in the notice.

### **Section 2.3.3 - Other Requirements**

**2.3.3.1** - Each Council must meet for the transaction of business at least four times during the Cryptic year, at the place specified in the Dispensation or Charter, and at such time as may be determined by the Council By-laws. Should any Council fail to meet for the space of one year, without the consent of the Grand Council or the Grand Master, Grand Council may arrest the Charter of that Council.

**2.3.3.2** - All business of the Council must be conducted in an open Council of Select Masters.

## **ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS**

### **Section 2.4.1 – Elective Officers**

**2.4.1.1** – The Elective Officers of a constituent Council shall consist of the following:

- a) Master
- b) Deputy Master
- c) Principal Conductor of the Work
- d) Treasurer
- e) Recorder
- f) Assistant Treasurer (Optional)
- g) Assistant Recorder (Optional)

**2.4.1.2** - These officers shall be elected at the Annual Assembly of the Council, by a written ballot, and by a majority of the votes cast.

### **Section 2.4.2 - Appointed Officers**

**2.4.2.1** - The Appointed Officers of a constituent Council shall consist of the following:

- a) Captain of the Guard
- b) Conductor of the Council
- c) Chaplain
- d) Marshal
- e) Steward
- f) Sentinel
- g) Such other officers as the Master may from time to time deemed necessary.

**2.4.2.2** - These officers shall be appointed by the Master Elect prior to his installation.

### **Section 2.4.3 – Titles**

**2.4.3.1** - The title of the Master is Thrice Illustrious. The title of the Deputy Master and the title of the Principal Conductor of the Work is Illustrious. The title of each other officer is Companion.

### **Section 2.4.4 - Duties**

**2.4.4.1** - The duties of Council Officers are prescribed in “Ceremonial for Installation of Officers of a Constituent Council” contained in the Appendix.

**2.4.4.2** - Each officer shall hold his office and discharge his duties until his successor is duly installed.

### **Section 2.4.5 – Officer Succession**

**2.4.5.1** - In the case of the permanent absence of the Master, Deputy Master, or Principal Conductor of the Work, the elective officer next in rank shall replace his superior. In the event the Principal Conductor of the Work progresses to the office of Deputy Master, the Master shall make temporary appointment to fill the office of Principal Conductor of the Work. In the absence of all the above listed officers, the Senior Past Thrice Illustrious Master present shall preside.

## **ARTICLE 5 - CONFERRAL OF DEGREES**

### **Section 2.5.1 - Prerequisites**

**2.5.1.1** - A Council may confer the degrees within its gift only upon a petitioner who has been elected to receive the degrees and has paid the required fee.

**2.5.1.2** - A Cryptic Mason from without this jurisdiction who has not received one or more Council degrees required by this Constitution may receive the missing degrees from any constituent Council, free of charge, and thereby satisfy our regulatory requirements of a Cryptic Mason.

### **Section 2.5.2 - Ritual**

**2.5.2.1** - Each Master shall see that the degrees are conferred according to current New Hampshire Grand Council Ritual.

## **ARTICLE 6 - PROPERTIES**

### **Section 2.6.1 - Requirements**

**2.6.1.1** - Each Council shall have a seal, which seal shall be affixed to all Official communications. An impression of each seal, with a written description of the features thereon, shall be transmitted to the Grand Recorder as a permanent record.

## **ARTICLE 7 - DUES, FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS**

### **Section 2.7.1 - Collection**

**2.7.1.1** - Each Council has the right to assess and collect from its members such dues, fees, and assessments as shall be necessary to pay the Grand Council obligations, defray the ordinary expenses of the Council, and keep up its Charity Fund. If any Companion shall neglect to pay such dues and assessments he may be suspended from membership in the same manner as prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. A Companion suspended under this section may be restored to membership in accordance with the Council By-laws.

**2.7.1.2** - The fee for conferral of Council degrees shall be at least twenty-five dollars.

### **Section 2.7.2 - Payment**

**2.7.2.1** - Each Council in this jurisdiction shall pay annually to the Grand Recorder, on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of April, the following:

- a) Three dollars (\$3.00) for each candidate greeted in that Council during the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- b) Four dollars (\$4.00) for each member of that Council, which shall include all General Grand Council International fees and assessment.
- c) Each special assessment approved by this Grand Council

**2.7.2.2** - Each Council not filing the required Annual Return with the money due the Grand Council, will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per delinquent day.

## **ARTICLE 8 - GRAND COUNCIL REPRESENTATION**

### **Section 2.8.1 - Requirements**

**2.8.1.1** - Each Council shall be represented at every Assembly of Grand Council. Minimum Council representation shall consist of the Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, or their respective legally appointed proxies. Each Council not represented at the Annual Assembly of Grand Council by at least one of the aforementioned officers shall pay a \$5.00 fine to the Grand Council (General Fund).

## **PART 3 INDIVIDUALS**

### **ARTICLE 1 - ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 3.1.1 - Requirements**

**3.1.1.1** - Any Royal Arch Mason may make application for membership to any constituent Council within this jurisdiction provided he has resided within this State for a period of at least six (6) months next preceding such application.

**3.1.1.2** - Each application for the degrees or membership in a Council must be made in writing. The application must be signed by the applicant, recommended by two members of that Council, must be accompanied by the required fee, may be referred to a committee for investigation, and must be accepted by unanimous ballot, which may be taken the same day the application is received.

**3.1.1.3** - Any Council shall not consider an application from a previously rejected Petitioner until six months from the date of that rejection.

**3.1.1.4** - No person shall be admitted a member of any Council who has not regularly received the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Arch Mason, Royal Master and Select Master.

**3.1.1.5** - Any Cryptic Mason in good standing may become a member of any Council within this jurisdiction by conforming to this Constitution and to the By-laws of the Councils involved. However, he shall hold an Elective Office in only one Council at the same time.

**3.1.1.6** - Membership in a Council is voluntary. A member in good standing may therefore at any time, upon application to a Council, withdraw his membership and be granted a Demit. However, if suspicion of Masonic offense exists, his Demit may be withheld until a reasonable time for the introduction of charges.

**3.1.1.7**- In order to maintain membership in a constituent Council, a Companion must be a member in good standing in both his Symbolic Lodge and his Royal Arch Chapter.

### **ARTICLE 2 - DECORUM**

#### **Section 3.2.1 - General**

**3.2.1.1** - All Cryptic Masons in good standing are welcomed and encouraged to attend all Grand Council activities.

**3.2.1.2** - Each Companion present in Grand Council should be clothed with the badge of a Cryptic Mason. Each credentialed Council Officer or his proxy should be clothed with the jewel of his office.

**3.2.1.3** - All Masonic communication by any constituent Council or member thereof, or by any regular Cryptic Mason residing in this jurisdiction, with a clandestine Council, member thereof, or any person advanced or exalted therein, is forbidden.

**3.2.1.4** - Any Council may, for cause, deny to an unaffiliated Companion the privilege of visiting the Council or joining in public processions.

### **ARTICLE 3 - TRIALS AND PUNISHMENT**

#### **Section 3.3.1 - Requirements**

**3.3.1.1** - Constituent Councils not only possess the right, but it is their express duty, to take cognizance of the conduct of all Companions within this jurisdiction, whether such Companions are members of constituent Councils or otherwise, and to suspend or expel from the rights and privileges of the Craft all within their purview who are found guilty of unmasonic conduct.

**3.3.1.2** - In all cases of trial for any Masonic offense a Council shall proceed substantially in the manner prescribed by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in its Constitution.

**3.3.1.3** - Masonic Punishments shall consist of permanent expulsion, indefinite suspension, or reprimand. Punishment shall be administered by the Master in open Council. Refusal to submit to the penalty of reprimand leaves the convicted Companion suspended until the reprimand is administered.

**3.3.1.4** - No Council can try its Master. Any five members of the Council may impeach him to the Grand Master, who will order an investigation of the charges.

## **PART 4 SPECIAL FUNDS**

**NOTE:** The Grand Council may establish such special funds as deemed appropriate. Details of such special funds shall appear under this Part.

## **PART 5 ALTERATIONS**

### **ARTICLE 1 - ALTERATIONS TO THIS CONSTITUTION**

#### **Section 5.1.1 - Requirements**

**5.1.1.1** - The Grand Council shall have full power and authority to make such amendments, alterations, and additions to this Constitution at any Assembly, as they shall find proper and expedient. Each amendment, alteration or addition shall be proposed in writing at any Assembly of the Grand Council, and be filed with the Grand Recorder. The written proposal **must** be forwarded to the Grand Recorder at least 45 days prior to the Assembly, and be included in the notice for that Assembly. Each proposal published in the notice for an Assembly shall be considered at that Assembly, and shall require a three-fourths favorable ballot to accept. A proposal presented at an Assembly but not published in the notice for that Assembly may be considered at that Assembly, but shall require a unanimous ballot to accept. Otherwise, the proposal shall: *(1) lie over until the next Grand Assembly, which is at least 45 days in the future; (2) be included in the notice for that Assembly; and (3) then require a three-fourths favorable ballot to accept.*

**5.1.1.2** - Amendments, alterations and additions to the Appendices of this Constitution may be approved at any Assembly by a simple majority vote.

## **PART 6 PRECEDENTS**

### **ARTICLE I - OTHER MATTERS**

#### **Section 6.1.1 - General**

**6.1.1.1** - On any matter not mentioned in this Constitution, the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New Hampshire shall determine such question in conformity with accepted Masonic usage.

Original date of Constitution's adoption by the Grand Council of NH was May 12, 2001.

This Constitution contains changes/amendments which were voted on May 13, 2006 and are now in effect.

