

Constitution and Regulations Governing the Grand
Council of Cryptic Masons
Of the
State of Louisiana
As Adopted March 15, 1993
At The 138th Annual Assembly
In Monroe, Louisiana
As Amended through 2022



Table of Contents

Constitution	5
Article I Organization.....	5
Section 1 Name	5
Section 2 Officers	5
Section 3 Elected & Appointed	5
Section 4 Honorary Title	5
Section 5 Domicile.....	5
Article II Assemblies.....	6
Section 1 Annual Assembly.....	6
Section 2 Special Business	6
Section 3 Special Notification	6
Section 4 Quorum.....	6
Article II Authority.....	6
Section 1	6
Article IV Duties.....	6
Section 1 Grand Master	6
Section 2 Deputy Grand Master.....	6
Section 3 Grand Treasurer	7
Section 4 Grand Recorder	7
Section 5 All other Officers	7
Article V Constituents.....	7
Section 1 Existence	7
Section 2 Dispensation Fee	7
Section 3 Dispensation Rules	7
Section 4 Constituent Composition.....	7
Section 5 Election & Installation.....	8
Section 6 Rights	8
Section 7 Returns	8
Article VI Amending.....	8
Section 1 Previous Constitutions & Regulations	8
Section 2 How to Amend.....	8
General Regulations	9
Section 1 Committees.....	9
Section 2 Permanent Member Voting.....	9
Section 3 Constituent Member Voting	9
Section 4 Registration.....	9
Section 5 Nominations.....	9
Section 6 Resolutions	9
Section 7 Fees and Per Capita	10
Section 8 Constituent Assemblies	10
Section 9 Failure to Assemble	10
Section 10 Constituent By-Laws	10
Section 11 Prerequisites.....	11

Section 12 Vacancies	11
Section 13 Petitioning	11
Section 14 Balloting	11
Section 15 Moving Charter for Degrees	11
Section 16 Courtesy Work	11
Section 17 Petition for Affiliation	12
Section 18 Voting	12
Section 19 Rejection	12
Section 20 Suspensions	12
Section 21 Accumulations	12
Section 22 Forfeitures	12
Section 23 Honorary	12
Section 24 Monthly Reports	12
Section 25 Removal of Old Correspondence	13
Section 26 Degree Fees	13
Section 27 Adorning the Great Lights	13
Section 28 Minimum to Open	13
Section 29 Grand Representatives	13
Section 30 Dues Cards	13
Section 31 25- & 50-Year Certificates	13
Section 32 Minimum for Permanent Membership	13
Section 33 Affiliation by Transfer	13
Section 34 Demit	14
Section 35 Disciplinary Actions	14
Section 36 Weak Council	14
Section 37 In Process RAM	14
Section 38 Plural Affiliations	14
Section 39 Interpretations of the Ritual	15
Section 40 Copying and Changing Ritual	15
Short Form	15
Section 41 Number of District	15
Section 42 Organization of District	15
Section 43 Per Diem	15
Section 44 Surrendering Charter	16
Section 45 Forfeiture and Arrest of Charter	16
Section 46 Restoration of Charter	16
Section 47 Council/Chapter Foundation	16
Section 48 Life/Perpetual Membership	16
Section 49 Certificates of Proficiency	16
Section 50 Traveling Bible	17
Section 51 Honorary Members	17
Section 52 Prohibition of Publications	17
Section 53 Display of the Flag	17
Section 54 Real Estate	17
Section 55 Domiciles	17
Section 56 Presentation Flags	17

Section 57 Public Installations	18
Section 58 Unexpressed Laws & Regulations	18
Section 59 Committee to Rewrite the Constitution and General Regulations.....	18
Section 60 Audit Committee	18
Section 61 Amending	18
Section 62. Grand Council Council. No. 999	18
APPENDIX.....	19
Perpetual Membership	19

Constitution

Organized in Eighteen Hundred Fifty-Six and Affiliated with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International.

Article I Organization

Section 1 Name

The name of this organization is the **Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana**. It is a body of Cryptic Masons in which is inalienably vested the authority of government and supervision of Cryptic Masonry within the State of Louisiana.

Section 2 Officers

The Grand Council is composed of:

- Grand Master
- Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Principal Conductor of Work
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Recorder
- Grand Captain of the Guard
- Grand Conductor of the Council
- Grand Steward
- Grand Chaplain
- Grand Marshal
- Grand Organist
- Grand Sentinel
- Grand Lecturer

and the Past Masters of the constituent Councils of Louisiana, and the Past Masters of other jurisdictions who shall have affiliated with a Council in this jurisdiction and shall be called the Permanent Members, and the Illustrious Masters, the Deputy Masters, and the Principal Conductors of Work of the constituent Councils of Louisiana, which shall be called the Constituent Members. [2018]

Section 3 Elected & Appointed

The first six officers of the Grand Council shall be elected by ballot, at each Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. The Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Steward, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Organist and the Grand Sentinel shall be appointed by the Grand Master after his election. All the Grand Officers shall be installed before the close of the Annual Assembly, or as soon thereafter as is possible.

Section 4 Honorary Title

The honorary title of the Grand Master is Most Illustrious. The official title is Grand Master. The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Master is Right Illustrious. The official title is Deputy Grand Master. The honorary title of all other officers and members of the Grand Council is Illustrious. A Past Grand Master shall retain the honorary official title with the prefix of Past to denote his rank. The rank of Past Grand Master is the only Past Grand rank authorized by this Grand Council.

Section 5 Domicile

The principal business establishment of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana shall be located at 5746 Masonic Drive in the City of Alexandria, in the Parish of Rapides in the

State of Louisiana, and this location shall be the depository for all the records, surrendered charters and files of the Grand Chapter of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana. This location may also serve as the office of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana. [2022]

Article II Assemblies

Section 1 Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council shall be held as such time and place as the Grand Council shall select. Special Assemblies may be called by the Grand Master, or, in his absence, or disability, by the Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Principal Conductor of Work may call a Special Assembly in the event the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master are incapacitated. Special Assemblies shall be called at any time that ten or more of the Constituent Councils in this jurisdiction shall ask for such Assembly.

Section 2 Special Business

No business shall be transacted at a Special Assembly except that for which it was called.

Section 3 Special Notification

When a Special Assembly of this Grand Council is to be held, at least thirty days notice shall be given to all of the Constituent Councils in the jurisdiction. The Most Illustrious Grand Master or his legal representative may open an Emergent Assembly of the Grand Council for ceremonial work when necessary.

Section 4 Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business in this Grand Council shall consist of the representatives of a majority of all the chartered Councils in this jurisdiction.

Article II Authority

Section 1

The Grand Council shall have full and complete authority over the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry in the State of Louisiana. It shall have the exclusive right to organize Councils of Cryptic Masons; to issue charters; annul charters; and shall hold final authority in discipline and government of Cryptic Masons in its jurisdiction.

Article IV Duties

Section 1 Grand Master

The Grand Master shall have a careful supervision over the Councils in this jurisdiction, to see that the Constitution, Laws and Ritual of the Grand Council are duly and promptly obeyed. He shall have power and authority during the recess of the Grand Council to grant Letters of Dispensation to nine or more Cryptic Masons to organize and open Councils. He may suspend from office any officer of the Grand Council or the Constituent Councils for cause. He shall make a full report of all his official acts at the annual assembly of the Grand Council.

Section 2 Deputy Grand Master

The Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Principal Conductor of Work shall support the Grand Master and assist him in the discharge of his duties. In the absence or disability of the Grand Master these officers, each in order of rank, shall succeed to the higher duties. In the absence or disability of all three of these officers the Junior Past Grand Master available shall preside and transact the business of the Grand Council.

Section 3 Grand Treasurer

The Grand Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all funds and property of the Grand Council, and render an account at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, or when required by the Grand Council or the Grand Master.

Section 4 Grand Recorder

The Grand Recorder shall keep a record of all the transactions and proceedings of the Grand Council. He shall attend to the correspondence of the Grand Council with the Constituent Councils or other Cryptic Bodies. He shall collect the dues and other funds of the Grand Council and transmit the same to the Grand Treasurer. He shall have charge of the seal and official archives of the Grand Council. He shall be responsible to the Grand Council for the correct and convenient records of all its affairs. The compensation of the Grand Recorder shall be fixed by the Grand Council.

Section 5 All other Officers

All the other officers of the Grand Council shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the Grand Master or the Grand Council, in addition to such duties as are prescribed by the installation lectures and the customs of Cryptic Masonry.

Article V Constituents

Section 1 Existence

No Council can be organized in this jurisdiction without a dispensation or charter from the Grand Council, or a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Section 2 Dispensation Fee

The fee for dispensation to organize a new Council shall be twenty (\$20.00) dollars and shall be paid when the application is made for the dispensation. The fee for a charter is twenty (\$20.00) dollars and shall be paid when the application is made for the charter.

Section 3 Dispensation Rules

The Most Illustrious Grand Master may issue a dispensation to not less than nine Select Masters to form a Council during the recess of the Grand Council, provided the application for such dispensation has the approval of the nearest chartered Council. The dispensation to be in force and effect at the pleasure of the Most Illustrious Grand Master until the next annual Grand Assembly. At which time the Grand Council may extend the dispensation, or terminate same, or authorize a charter. No charter may be issued except by the Grand Council to any Constituent Council.

Section 4 Constituent Composition

A Council of Cryptic Masons shall be composed of:

- Illustrious Master
- Deputy Master
- Principal Conductor of Work
- Treasurer
- Recorder
- Captain of the Guard
- Conductor of the Council
- Steward
- Chaplain
- Sentinel

and such other officers as may be necessary to conduct the ceremonies properly; and all of the Members named in its Charter, created therein, or affiliated therewith, until such membership is legally terminated.

Section 5 Election & Installation

The first five of the officers of a Constituent Council shall be elected by ballot at the last Stated Assembly in November, or at the first Stated Assembly in December of each year, or at the last Stated Assembly of the Constituent Council on or prior to December 27th of each year. If there is no Stated Assembly in November or December on or before December 27th. The remaining officers and all committees of the Constituent Councils shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master. All the officers shall be installed at a Stated or Special Assembly not later than December 27th of each year, for the ensuing year. Later installations may only be held under dispensation granted by the Grand Master. Constituent Councils may hold public installations or joint installations with other Masonic or Affiliated Bodies, if within their domicile, without securing a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Section 6 Rights

Constituent Councils shall enjoy all the rights provided by their charter and authorized by the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Louisiana. They shall hold full authority over the ceremonies of the Royal Master, Select Master and the Super Excellent Master Degrees in their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with the rituals adopted by this Grand Council.

Section 7 Returns

Annual returns of the Councils to the Grand Council shall be made up to and including December 31st. Any Council that has not made its annual returns and paid its annual dues to the Grand Council shall not be entitled to representation in the Grand Council. Any Council that shall fail to make its annual returns to the Grand Council for two consecutive years shall forfeit its charter.

Article VI Amending

Section 1 Previous Constitutions & Regulations

All constitutional regulations not included in this Constitution are hereby repealed.

Section 2 How to Amend

This Constitution may be amended, revised or altered by a concurrent vote of two-thirds of the representatives and permanent members of the Grand Council present at any Annual Assembly. Provided, that such amendment or alteration, shall be proposed in writing, at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Assembly, by a member of this Grand Council; to lie over to the next Annual Assembly of the Grand Council; and that all of the chartered Councils in the jurisdiction shall be notified of the proposed amendments at least three months before the Assembly at which action is to be taken.

General Regulations

Section 1 Committees

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint the Regular or Standing Committees of the Grand Council immediately after the installation of officers, at each Annual Assembly of the Grand Council. He shall appoint such Special Committees as may be necessary, at his own discretion, to administer the affairs of the Grand Council. The Standing Committees are:

- A Committee on Credentials
- A Committee on Finance
- A Committee on Jurisprudence
- A Committee on Appeals and Grievances
- A Committee on Work
- A Committee on Charters and Dispensations
- A Committee on Correspondence
- A Committee on Necrology
- A Committee on Distribution
- A Committee on Registration

These committees shall each consist of three members of this Grand Council, except the Committee on Work, which shall consist of seven (7) members, and shall have such duties as are usually assigned to each in regular Masonic procedure, or as maybe designated by the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council. It shall be the special duty of the Chairman of the Correspondence Committee to review the proceedings of the regular Grand Councils of the Cryptic Rite and make a report at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council. [1995]

Section 2 Permanent Member Voting

Each of the permanent members of this Grand Council shall be entitled to one vote on all questions in the Grand Council. [2018]

Section 3 Constituent Member Voting

Each chartered Council in the jurisdiction is entitled to three votes on all questions in the Grand Council. These votes may be cast by the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and the Principal Conductor of the Work, separately. Or, in the absence of any of these officers, the three votes may be cast by the officer's present, the senior officer present having preference for the absent vote. These three officers each have the right to cast their votes by a duly commissioned proxy; but a proxy can only be given to a companion that is a member of the Council for which the vote is to be cast and is not a Permanent Member. The proxy is individual to the officer who is the legal representative of his Council and cannot affect any vote of the Council except that for which the proxy is given. [2018]

Section 4 Registration

A uniform registration and proxy form is hereby prescribed for use of officers of all Constituent Councils and the Grand Council is required to have these printed and distributed in ample time before each Grand Assembly.

Section 5 Nominations

It is permissible to nominate officers for election in the Grand Council, provided that the name of the candidate only is mentioned and no nominating speeches made. This shall not apply to constituent Councils.

Section 6 Resolutions

All resolutions presented to Grand Council shall be properly signed and delivered in writing to the office of the Grand Recorder at least sixty (60) days before the date of the annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council and all constituent Councils shall be immediately furnished by the Grand Recorder with copies of the same. The Grand Council may receive resolutions

without such previous notice by a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present at any session of a Grand Assembly. All resolutions must be received by a majority vote of the Grand Council and be referred to the appropriate committees before being voted upon at a subsequent session.

Section 7 Fees and Per Capita

Fees: Each Constituent Council in the jurisdiction shall pay to the Grand Council five dollars (\$5.00) for each degree conferred. In the case of a member transferring his membership from one Louisiana Council to another within the state ten dollars (\$10.00), and ten dollars (\$10.00) for a dual membership. [2011]

Per Capita: Each Constituent Council in the jurisdiction shall pay to the Grand Council the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each member on its rolls. This amount may be increased up to two dollars each year for 4 years, at the discretion of the Finance Committee and this shall be known as the gross members for the year. In the case of an Affiliation by Transfer, only the original Council shall be liable for per capita tax and assessments for the year. [2018]

Assessments: Each Council shall also pay to the Grand Council, annually, for the purpose of funding the annual Grand Assembly and supporting the Grand Council, the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) per member for each member on its roll during the year (Gross Members) for the purpose of defraying the cost of the annual Grand Assembly. The levy provided for herein shall be collected by the Recorder of each Council within this Grand Jurisdiction along with all other dues and transmitted to the Grand Recorder. The provisions hereof shall become effective January, 2013. [2012]

Exceptions: Any Companion Cryptic Mason who has held membership in a Council of Cryptic Masons for 50 years, at least 25 years of which membership has been in a Constituent Council of Louisiana, shall be exempt from Grand Council or Constituent Council dues, fees, assessments or per capita tax for the remainder of his life, provided that this exemption does not apply to any plural or dual membership in Louisiana to which he does not otherwise qualify. Constituent Councils of this jurisdiction are not required to pay per capita tax on any member who is interdicted during the period of his interdiction.

Section 8 Constituent Assemblies

The Constituent Councils in the jurisdiction shall hold regular assemblies when specified in their by-laws; and only in the place of their domicile fixed by the Grand Council of the State of Louisiana their charter; except that the Most Illustrious Grand Master may grant dispensation to the Constituent Council to meet in Masonic Temples at other than the domicile for the purpose of conferring the degrees only. Special Assemblies of Councils may be called by the presiding officer of a Council, when it is necessary, but no business may be transacted at the Special Assembly except that mentioned in the notice of the call. Unless a call for a Special Assembly is made at a Stated Assembly, the membership must be notified of the Special Assembly.

Section 9 Failure to Assemble

Any Council that shall fails to meet at least once in a year shall forfeit its charter, by action of the Grand Council at an Annual Assembly.

Section 10 Constituent By-Laws

Each Constituent Council in this jurisdiction shall submit a copy of its by-laws to the Most Illustrious Grand Master for his approval. His approval of such by-laws shall be reported to the Grand Council for final approval. A copy of the by-laws shall be kept on file by the Grand Recorder.

Section 11 Prerequisites

The prerequisite for membership in Councils in this jurisdiction is affiliation in a Regular Lodge and Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Continuous membership in both Lodge and Chapter is necessary to maintain membership in a Council in this jurisdiction. Any member failing to maintain such membership shall be notified to correct the delinquency within 30 days and failing to do so shall be suspended by the Council.

Section 12 Vacancies

When there is a vacancy in any office in any Council in this jurisdiction, the Grand Master may give authority for such Council to fill the vacancy by a special election if an elective office or by appointment if an appointive office, and to fill the vacancies caused by such election or appointment.

Section 13 Petitioning

A candidate for the Cryptic degrees in this jurisdiction must be a Regular Royal Arch Mason. He shall have established domicile in this jurisdiction for a period of at least six months immediately preceding the time of his application. Petitions shall only be received at Regular Assemblies or at Special Assemblies when notice has been given the membership that petitions are to be received. Each petition shall be referred to a committee of three members of the Council, after being recommended by a least two members of the Council who are personally acquainted with the applicant. After the Committee of Investigation makes its report, a ballot shall be taken. The ballot shall be secret and unanimous in order to elect. If only one negative ballot shall appear, the Illustrious Master shall at once call for another ballot. If there is still one or more negative ballots the Candidate shall be declared rejected. If the ballot is unanimously affirmative, the Candidate shall be declared elected. Petitions may be acted upon at the same meeting they are received if the Investigating Committee reports. Failure to receive the Cryptic Degrees within one year after election shall require a new application for them. The sending of the names of applicants to the membership or publishing them in any publication is expressly forbidden.

Section 14 Balloting

By unanimous consent of the members present, a Council may ballot collectively on a group of not more than five candidates, for the degrees. If one or more negative ballots appear in a collective ballot, then one ballot only, shall be cast for each candidate of the group, separately. The signed petition on regular form must in all cases be physically present in the Council Hall at the time ballot is taken.

Section 15 Moving Charter for Degrees

Constituent Councils are authorized, when given a dispensation by the Grand Master to do so, to take the necessary degree team, equipment and regalia to the dedicated Lodge room of a Constituent Lodge within its territorial jurisdiction and to there confer the Cryptic degrees on candidates that have been previously elected to receive the degrees. Such Councils must have the consent of the Constituent Lodge to use its Lodge room. No business whatsoever may be transacted at such meetings except the election and conferral of the degrees on candidates. A quorum of the Council that includes at least one of its three ranking officers must be present.

Section 16 Courtesy Work

Correspondence concerning the conferring of degrees by courtesy, for Councils in this jurisdiction, or by Councils in other jurisdictions for the Councils of this jurisdiction, shall be instituted through the office of the Grand Master.

Section 17 Petition for Affiliation

A Petition for Affiliation shall take the same course as for degrees; but the candidate for Affiliation is not required to have any specified length of domicile in the jurisdiction.

Section 18 Voting

Every Member of a Council present at the time a ballot is taken for a degree or membership is required to vote separately. The signed petition on regular form must in all cases be physically present in the Council Hall at the time ballot is taken.

Section 19 Rejection

A candidate rejected for the degrees in a Council cannot apply again until after the expiration of six months, to that Council; and not to another Council until released by a Waiver of Jurisdiction by the rejecting Council. The Waiver of Jurisdiction shall be given only by a majority vote of the Council at a Stated Assembly and on recommendation of the presiding officer. A Candidate for Affiliation can apply again to any Council for membership, without limit of time or place.

Section 20 Suspensions

Any member of a Council in this jurisdiction that is in arrears for annual dues for a least six months after due date specified in the by-laws, may be notified to appear and pay his obligations. After a notice of at least 90 days, if he does not make satisfactory settlement, and the Recorder investigated there is no other problem, he may be suspended for non-payment of dues, by a majority vote of the Council. A member so suspended, making satisfactory settlement and applying for reinstatement, may be reinstated in the same manner, by a majority vote of the Council. A member of a Council that is suspended or expelled from his Lodge or Chapter shall be notified by the Council of the fact, and that he must reinstate himself in the preceding Bodies promptly. Failing to do so, he must be suspended until he has reinstated in the preceding Bodies, then, he may be reinstated in the Council by a majority vote. A member of the Council that fails to furnish his address and whose address is unknown cannot be suspended for non-payment of dues. However, his name shall be dropped from the roll until his address is ascertained. His dues shall not accumulate while off the roll. His enrollment is automatic when his address is again ascertained. [2012]

Section 21 Accumulations

While a member of the Council is off the roll for any cause, no indebtedness can accumulate him.

Section 22 Forfeitures

Should any member of a Council in the jurisdiction forfeit his membership in the Symbolic Lodge or Royal Arch Chapter, he shall be automatically dropped by the Council and if he fails to correct his standing to the satisfaction of the Council, he shall forfeit his membership in the Council until such time as he is reestablished in his Lodge.

Section 23 Honorary

A Companion Cryptic Mason, who is in good standing in his Council, may be elected an Honorary Member of any Council in this jurisdiction. His name must be proposed in open Council by a member of the Council at a Stated Assembly; the membership must be notified of the intention to vote on such Honorary Memberships; and the ballot must be unanimous.

Section 24 Monthly Reports

Recorders of constituent Councils shall make monthly reports to the Grand Recorder on forms supplied by him and such reports shall cover tableau of work performed and other pertinent information as required.

Section 25 Removal of Old Correspondence

The Grand Recorder is authorized to review the files of the Grand Council from time to time and to destroy after one-year old correspondence and other material that clearly has no further value, historical or otherwise. The Grand Recorder shall maintain a printed copy of the proceedings in booklet form. [2004]

Section 26 Degree Fees

No Council in the jurisdiction shall have any control over any degree except the two regular degrees; Royal Master, Select Master and the additional degree of Super Excellent Master. The fees for these degrees shall not be less than twenty dollars (\$20.00) in this jurisdiction. The fees must be paid before the degrees are conferred.

Section 27 Adorning the Great Lights

At the opening of a Council the Altar shall be arranged with the Holy Bible open; the Square and Compasses, as in the Master Mason Degree with the trowel and the sword pointing to the North East Corner on the opposite side.

Section 28 Minimum to Open

No Council in this jurisdiction can open unless at least five (5) Cryptic Masons are present. No business can be transacted except conferring degrees, unless five or more members of that Council are present, including one of the three ranking officers, unless the meeting is being held under the authority of Section 36 of these Regulations and in strict accord therewith. [2019]

Section 29 Grand Representatives

The exchange of Grand Representatives with each Grand Council with whom we are in fraternal relations is authorized, desired and solicited. Representatives of other Grand Councils near the Grand Council of Louisiana who fail to attend three consecutive annual Grand Assemblies, without being excused prior to the Grand Assembly, may be removed and recommendations of other interested Companions made to the Grand Council they represent, for appointment to fill the vacancy created by their removal. Likewise, when Representatives of the Grand Council of Louisiana near other Grand Councils shall have been absent from three consecutive annual Grand Assemblies of the Grand Council in which they represent us, requests may be made for their removal and the appointment of another representative.

Section 30 Dues Cards

A uniform dues card is hereby prescribed for all Constituent Councils in the jurisdiction. These cards are to be supplied to Recorders by the Grand Recorder each year in sufficient quantity to accommodate the membership of each Constituent Council.

Section 31 25- & 50-Year Certificates

The award of 25- and 50-year Certificates to Members who have held membership in Constituent Councils for either full period are hereby authorized. The Grand Recorder will supply these to eligible members on application from the Recorder and after certification of eligibility.

Section 32 Minimum for Permanent Membership

No Royal and Select Master shall be considered a Permanent Member of the Grand Council nor entitled to its honors unless he shall have served one full term as Illustrious Master of a chartered Council.

Section 33 Affiliation by Transfer

A member in good standing in a Council of this jurisdiction may apply for affiliation in another Council of this jurisdiction by Transfer of Membership without securing a demit provided, he

makes application for such transfer on approved forms which include a Certificate of Good Standing and a form for reporting the completion of the transfer. Such a member remains a member of his original Council until reported to his original Council. When his acceptance is reported, the original Council will mark his records accordingly and have no further responsibility for him.

Section 34 Demit

Any member of any regular Council in this state who is not indebted to his Council in any amount and against whom no charges are pending is entitled to a demit or a Certificate of Good Standing on making application in writing there for. Said demit or Certificate of Good Standing may be authorized at any Stated Assembly of the Council, except no officer of a Council can be granted a demit or Certificate of Good Standing. If he shall resign from office and his resignation is accepted by the Council and by the Grand Master, then, he may be demitted.

Section 35 Disciplinary Actions

The disciplinary rules to be observed in this jurisdiction of the Cryptic Rite, except as mentioned herein, shall conform to the provision for trials prescribed by the Constitution, Regulations, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana Free and Accepted Masons.

Section 36 Weak Council

The Grand Master may authorize the Deputy Grand Master; or the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; or a District Deputy Grand Master to take with him sufficient Select Masters from a Council or Councils of a given Cryptic District to a weak Council within the same district to assist in making and constituting a quorum for consideration of business. When so authorized, such a quorum may receive and act on petitions to confer degrees; and take such other action as will enable the weak Council to resume activity under its own power.

Section 37 In Process RAM

Constituent Councils in this jurisdiction are authorized to accept petitions for the Cryptic Degrees from Master Masons who are submitting applications to regular Royal Arch Chapters at the same time and to act on such petitions on the condition that the candidate must have regularly received the Chapter Degrees before he is eligible to receive any degree in the Council.

Section 38 Plural Affiliations

Any member of a Constituent Council in this jurisdiction may apply to and be elected to membership in any other Council or Councils in this state; or to any Council in another Grand Council recognized by this Grand Council and which permits dual or plural membership. Plural members will pay dues in each Council in which they hold membership and involuntary termination of membership in any Council will terminate membership in all Councils in this jurisdiction. Memberships involuntarily terminated may only be reinstated by the Council that suspended the members. When the suspension is lifted the restoration is automatic in other Councils in which the companion held membership. A plural member may hold appointed office in any and all constituent Councils of which he is a member. No Companion may serve as one of the three principal officers (Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, or Principal Conductor of the Work) of more than one Constituent Council at the same time. A Companion who serves as a principal officer of a Constituent Council may serve as Recorder or Treasurer of another Council at the same time. No Companion may serve as Recorder for more than one Constituent Council at the same time, nor serve as Treasurer for more than one Constituent Council at the same time but, may serve as Recorder and Treasurer of two different Constituent Councils at the same time. [2022]

Section 39 Interpretations of the Ritual

Interpretations of the ritual are the responsibility of the Committee on Work and they shall keep a record of interpretations approved by the Grand Council and supply same to Councils or Council officers when requested.

Section 40 Copying and Changing Ritual

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana does hereby adopt and promulgate the "2018 Provisional Ritual Update" of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International as the Official Ritual of this Grand Council, effective immediately and through the annual Grand Assembly of the year AD 2021, A Dep 3021. Making copies of any part of the Ritual is expressly prohibited. No one shall add to or change in any manner the Ritualistic Ceremonies of opening and delivering the ceremonies of conferring the degrees, except such revision as may be made by this Grand Council. The Committee on Cryptic Ritual of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana shall develop and publish a "Louisiana Supplement to the 2018 Provisional Ritual Update" which shall include explicit directions on arranging the altar, short form opening and closing and conditions under which the same may be used, and such other clarifications as may be required for consistent usage throughout this jurisdiction. [2019]

Short Form

A Council may be opened using a short form ritual approved by this Grand Council when multiple Councils are being opened, along with other York Rite Bodies, for the purpose of Conferring Degrees upon a class of candidates; or after the hour of 9:00 PM when business has been conducted in another Body, duly opened and closed, and no business beyond approval of minutes is to be conducted in the Council. A Council may be closed using a short form ritual approved by this Grand Council when the Council has been properly opened in short form or after the hour of 10:00 PM [2018]

Section 41 Number of District

The Most Illustrious Grand Master is authorized to divide the Councils of this state into convenient districts and appoint a District Deputy Grand Master in each district so authorized. [1996]

Section 42 Organization of District

The organization of a District Council in any Cryptic district of this state for social, fraternal, or educational purposes is authorized. Such District Council shall not confer degrees; levy dues or assessments; nor be entitled to representation in the Grand Council. They shall adopt by-laws for their government. Such by-laws must be approved by the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence and by the Grand Master. A list of the officers of a District Council may be published in the proceedings.

Section 43 Per Diem

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in the State of Louisiana shall provide the Illustrious Grand Master a travel expense account not to exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2500.00), to be paid out on a quarterly basis, after an expenses report and all receipts have been submitted to the Finance Committee for review and approval. Once the Finance Committee has reviewed the Expense Report and Receipts and has approved it, they will forward their recommendation to the Grand Treasurer for payment by a check drawn on the checking account of the Grand Council. Any expenses above the Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollar (\$2,500.00) limit shall be submitted to the Finance Committee for review and they shall make a recommendation for approval or disapproval to the voting delegates at the annual Grand

Assembly. A two-thirds (2/3) approval of the voting delegates is required to pay out any sum over the Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollar (\$2,500.00) limit. [2020]

Section 44 Surrendering Charter

The charter of a Council in this jurisdiction cannot be surrendered by the Council as long as nine members of that Council qualified to conduct the affairs of the Council and perform the ceremonies of Cryptic Masonry properly desire to keep up the organization. A charter can only be surrendered by resolution adopted by all its members after due notice of the resolution has been sent to the entire membership. Then, all of the funds and property of the Council shall revert to this Grand Council. After the charter of a Council has been surrendered and the surrender has been accepted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the funds, property, and records of the Council are delivered to the Grand Recorder, Certificates of Good Standing shall be issued by the Grand Recorder to all members of that Council, who shall pay to the Grand Recorder any indebtedness due the defunct Council.

Section 45 Forfeiture and Arrest of Charter

Charters of Councils in this jurisdiction may be forfeited, and arrested by the Grand Council or the Most Illustrious Grand Master for disobedience of the orders of the Grand Council or the Grand Master, by violation of the Regulations of the Grand Council, by failure to hold its Assemblies at least once a year, or by failure to make returns to the Grand Council for two years. A charter that has been arrested by the Most Illustrious Grand Master may be restored by him if the cause of arrest has been removed during the recess of the Grand Council and the whole transaction will be reported at the regular assembly of the Grand Council for consideration.

Section 46 Restoration of Charter

A Charter that is arrested by order of the Grand Council can only be restored by the same authority. No Charter can be revoked or annulled permanently except by the action of the Grand Council in regular assembly.

Section 47 Council/Chapter Foundation

A Council/Chapter Masonic Foundation is established by this Grand Council jointly with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. No more than two members terms shall expire in the same year. The Foundation is composed of a committee of seven (7) members, each serving a five (5) year term. The Grand Council shall elect members to the Foundation. The Illustrious Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master shall be ex-officio members of the committee. This committee shall meet at least semi-annually. The committee shall elect within itself a Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer and a Solicitation Chairman. The Solicitation Chairman shall have the authority to appoint as many District Chairmen as he may deem necessary to assist him in successfully attaining the goal. However, these District Chairmen shall not have voting rights to any committee decision. The funds for this Foundation will be raised through solicitation and donation and no Constituent Council will be taxed for this purpose.

Section 48 Life/Perpetual Membership

A life or perpetual membership plan is established for this Grand Council. The detailed plan is as contained in the appendix.

Section 49 Certificates of Proficiency

Certificates of Proficiency will be awarded companions successfully passing examinations in the following three levels:

Level I Opening, closing and changing Degrees

Level II Level 1 plus either of the two Council Degrees
Level III Level 1 plus Both Degrees (Scriptures, Prayers and opening Royal Master not included)

Each Certificate of Proficiency shall be valid for a period of two years. A Grand Lecturer, each District Lecturer and the Committee on Work, shall hold a Level III Certificate of Proficiency. [1995]

The Examination Committee to consist of one Grand Council Officer and two members of the Grand Council approved by the Committee on Work.

Section 50 Traveling Bible

A Grand Council Traveling Bible is authorized and is to be awarded at each annual Grand Assembly.

Section 51 Honorary Members

The Grand Council may elect a Companion Royal and Select Master, whose membership is in a Grand Jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Council, to Honorary Membership by unanimous vote at any annual Grand Assembly, provided such proposed Honorary Member has attained the rank of Past Illustrious Master of a Constituent Council. This Honorary membership shall continue so long as the member is in good standing in his home jurisdiction. Constituent Councils may confer Honorary membership upon any Royal and Select Master deemed worthy provided the Council by-laws provide for such members and the election is by unanimous vote. Honorary members shall not have a vote nor be liable for dues, assessments, or per capita tax. Honorary membership cannot be terminated as long as the member is in good standing in his home Council unless such Honorary member resigns the Honorary membership, or he has been regularly charged and tried for conduct unbecoming a Royal and Select Master Mason and the Honorary membership is withdrawn as a penalty for conviction of such misconduct.

Section 52 Prohibition of Publications

A Constituent Council shall not publish or circulate any circulars, bulletins, letters, or other literature pertaining to Masonic matters which reflect upon the Grand Council or any Council or other Masonic Body. Broadcasting messages in any form to Royal and Select Masters by an individual member or by a Council is not permissible without a dispensation from the Grand Master. It is improper to make controversial addresses to Councils or to circulate controversial literature at Council meetings or under the sponsorship of Councils.

Section 53 Display of the Flag

The Flag of the United States must be on display in the East of every Council in this state during all Assemblies and suitable salutation of respect be accorded it at each Assembly.

Section 54 Real Estate

Councils in their corporate right may own real estate.

Section 55 Domiciles

Councils are not compelled to use Masonic Temples as their place of meeting. There is an implied obligation to do so.

Section 56 Presentation Flags

The Grand Council shall present to each new Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F. and A. M. a suitably mounted United States Flag with appropriate engraving on a plate attached to the staff of the flag. The presentation must always have the approval of the then Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana.

Section 57 Public Installations

Public installation of the officers of a Constituent Council is authorized and no dispensation is necessary if the installation is held in the Lodge room in which the Council is domiciled. Such public installations may be held jointly with a Lodge, Chapter, Commandery or the Eastern Star. No installation may be held in any other place than the domicile Lodge room unless a dispensation from the Grand Master has been given.

Section 58 Unexpressed Laws & Regulations

The preceding Articles and Sections constitute the sole and only expressed Laws and Regulations of this Grand Council. All such Laws or Sections as may have previously existed and which are not included herein are null and void and of no effect. In the absence of any specific Law or Regulations governing any question in these Articles and Sections the Law and precedent of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana Free and Accepted Masons shall apply.

Section 59 Committee to Rewrite the Constitution and General Regulations

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint a Committee to Rewrite the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Louisiana. The committee is charged with providing a progress report at the annual Grand Assembly each year until the finished product can be presented for approval by the delegates of this Grand Council. [2020]

Section 60 Audit Committee

The Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint a Committee to Audit the transactions and books of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Louisiana each year. In choosing the committee and chairman of said committee, preference shall be given to those with financial backgrounds. The committee shall not be comprised of any elected officer of the Grand Council. [2020]

Section 61 Amending

These Regulations may be amended or altered at any annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the representatives in attendance. Such changes can be made by a written resolution presented as in Section 6 of these Regulations.

Section 62. Grand Council Council. No. 999

After three months shall have elapsed from the date of the forfeiture, or the acceptance of the surrender of the Charter of a Council, no member borne on its rolls shall be deemed in good standing until a certificate of good standing shall be issued to him by the Grand Secretary. Members not indebted to the Council at the time of forfeiture or surrender of the Charter shall automatically become members of Grand Council Council No. 999 and receive a dues card as evidence of good standing without charge; but all members indebted to the Council at such date shall be required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to the Grand Council Council No. 999, before being issued a dues card in said Council. In order for a member to remain in good standing he shall pay a fee, annually, equal to twice the current Grand Council Per Capita amount to the Grand Council Council No. 999. A current dues card for said member in the Grand Council Council No. 999 will be issued annually upon payment of this annual fee. Grand Council Council No. 999 shall have no officers except that the Grand Recorder will be the Recorder of Grand Council Council No. 999. [2022]

Section 63. Grand Illustrious Master Apron

The Grand Council shall purchase annually an apron to be presented to the Grand Illustrious Master at the completion of his term of office to be his personal apron and property. [2022]

APPENDIX

Perpetual Membership

(Grand Council, Cryptic Masons) [1995]

Perpetual Memberships are authorized in Louisiana Councils of Cryptic Masons, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- A) Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a particular Cryptic Council may become a perpetual member pursuant to the provisions of this section.
- B) The member desiring a perpetual membership shall apply to the Recorder of his Council for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Council and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of (20) times his annual dues in effect at the time of the application, but in no event less than (20) times the minimum dues. The Recorder shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same together with the full fee due, to the Grand Recorder, Grand Council Cryptic Masons. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Recorder certified he received the application.
- C) The perpetual membership fee may optionally be paid in five (5) equal annual installments. Use the multiplier of 4.52 X your annual dues at the time of application to determine your installment payment.

Example:

On January 1, 1995 your Council dues are \$13.00. Multiply \$13.00 X 4.52 to determine that your annual fee will be \$58.76 for five (5) successive years.

When purchased under the five (5) year option, a membership becomes perpetual when the Initial installment is paid and continues as such, provided each of the four remaining Installments is paid by the last day of December in successive years. After enrolling under this option, a member may not revert to the single payment method, but may remit any or all unpaid installments provided no installment is past due.

Having enrolled under the installment option, a member may withdraw from the Perpetual Membership program at any time. In so doing, he reverts to the membership status held before joining the program and shall remit dues to his Council for the current year and for successive years unless otherwise exempted.

Failure to pay any installment due by December 31 in the year due constitutes voluntary withdrawal from the program, and regular dues in his Council for the same year are payable.

After the initial payment, a member may revert formally to regular membership as outlined in this law, and subsequently re-enroll in the program in the same status held when he withdrew. In such circumstance, he shall resume paying the original installments until the fee has been paid in full.

D) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Council Recorder. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the perpetual membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Recorder determines that the minimum fee, tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Council Recorder's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the applying Recorder. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Recorder

will return the application and fee to the Council Recorder for correction and re-submittal. A copy of the completed and accepted perpetual membership application shall be furnished to his Council by the Grand Recorder. A certificate of perpetual membership shall be furnished to the applicant by the Grand Recorder. The provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Recorder to use computerized records.

E) After the perpetual membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for perpetual membership as of the date of application.

F) After the applicant's perpetual membership has been accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer, Grand Council Cryptic Masons as required in Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution and General Regulations. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted perpetual membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Council basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Council dues and per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Council funds. The funds shall be audited annually.

G) To protect your Council from future Grand Council per capita tax increases on Perpetual Members, the per capita tax will be replaced with a proportionate ratio payment. The proportionate ratio is fixed at the time an applicant becomes a Perpetual Member.

Example:

If your Council dues are \$13.00, multiplying by 20 establishes a Perpetual Membership fee \$260.00. At a 5% return your Council receives \$13.00 in interest, the same amount it would have received in dues. Using the example of \$13.00 dues, and with the current per capita of \$4.85, this means that 4.85 parts of the interest earned, $(4.85/13)$, is returned to Grand Council and the Council keeps 8.15 parts of the \$13.00 earned interest, $(8.15/13)$. As this ratio is frozen at the time an applicant becomes a Perpetual Member, a Grand Council per capita increase will not affect it. The Council continues to keep $8.15/13$ of the money earned and returns $4.85/13$ to the Grand Council in lieu of per capita tax. If the interest return is more than 5%, your Council and Grand Council would benefit in the same proportionate ratio as shown above. For example: Eight percent (8%) interest on the original \$260.00 Perpetual Membership fee would return \$20.80 and using the same ratio means that $4.85/13$ of the \$20.80 (\$7.70) must be returned to Grand Council in lieu of the per capita tax, and your Council retains $9.15/13$ (\$13.10) in lieu of the annual Council dues. This ratio $(4.85/13 - 8.15/13)$ remains the same in perpetuity.

H) A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Council of which he is a perpetual member. [2019]

I) The perpetual membership fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent Council the first year's dues and per capita, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Principal used to pay the first year's dues and per capita shall be recovered from excess earned interest. Until the original purchase price has been reinstated, annual earned interest equal in amount to the dues and per capita tax of the Council established as of the date of the purchase shall be paid annually to the constituent Council. After the principal so used shall be recouped, the total amount of interest derived from the funds collectively invested, less administrative charges, shall be paid annually to each constituent Council on a pro-rated basis for each perpetual member prior to January 15 of the ensuing year

in the manner of a credit on their per capita dues sheet. Administrative charges cover cost of operation of the program, including certificates, forms, accounting, auditing, and advisor fees. [2018]

J) When purchased under the five (5) year option, the same provisions as stated in Section "I", shall apply with these exceptions. The perpetual membership fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent Council dues and per capita for each of the five (5) installment years, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Further, when purchased under the five (5) year option, monetary amounts equating to the particular Council dues and per capita tax, established at time of purchase, only, shall be paid to the particular Council during the installment period. After the entire Perpetual Membership fee is paid in full, provisions of Section "I" shall apply. In the event a Perpetual Member dies, demits, is suspended or expelled or withdraws from the program prior to making the fifth (5th) for final installment, only the earned interest, less administrative fees, shall be paid to the Particular Council if earned interest is less than the member's dues and per capita established at the: time of purchase.

K) The Grand Recorder, Grand Council Cryptic Masons, shall, at the time of the annual interest distribution, submit a statement to the constituent Council for the amount of the proportionate ratio payment due to the Grand Council for each Perpetual Member computed as set forth in Section "G" above, to prove the credit amount on the per capita dues sheet is correct. The constituent Council shall, during the member's lifetime and thereafter, owe the credited amount pay to the Grand Council the amount of the proportionate ratio payment specified in the Grand Recorder's per capita statement. [2018]

L) The obtaining of Perpetual Membership on one Council by a plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Councils to which he belongs.

M) A perpetual Member may affiliate under the appropriate section/sections of Grand Council Law governing each of the constituent Councils. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Council to which he affiliates. If the Council to which he has transferred dues are greater than the Council in which he was a perpetual member were at the time of perpetuity than the Perpetual Member is liable for the difference. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire perpetual membership fee shall remain with the Council of which he was a perpetual member.

N) Any certificate of good standing issued to a perpetual member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the perpetual membership fee shall be transferred to the particular Council in Louisiana with which he affiliates.

O) If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled or demits and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state., his perpetual membership shall be deemed to also be restored.

P) If a Chapter consolidates surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that Chapter in the perpetual membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant sections of Grand Chapter Law dealing with consolidations, surrendering and arrest of charters. In the event the perpetual member is deceased, the funds of that deceased member shall remain in the Perpetual Membership Fund to be used in the administration of that Fund. [2019]

Q) A participant, at a future time, may add any amount to his perpetual membership

fee through his local Council secretary.

R) Applications for perpetual membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, and the Grand Secretary shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

S) Where Perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the High Priest shall direct the Council secretary to report the names of such missing brethren to the Grand Council on the monthly membership report as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased perpetual membership, but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Council and Grand Council for that perpetual member as set forth in sub-sections "H" and "I".

T) There shall be no cost to the constituent Council for administration of this program by the Grand Council Cryptic Masons.

U) Additional Categories of Perpetual Membership Purchases all at a minimum cost of \$120.00 with the accumulated interest being disbursed as follow 2/3 (66.67%) going to the Constituent Council and 1/3 33.33% going to the Grand Council.

- 1 Honorary – Living or deceased Cryptic Mason not a member of the Constituent Council.
- 2 Memorial – Deceased Cryptic Mason that is a member of the Constituent Council.
- 3 Honorary Memorial – Deceased person regardless of gender or residence [2003]
- 4 50-Year – Companions who qualify for 50-year Certificates [2006]