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**BY-LAWS**  
AND  
**RESOLUTIONS,**  
OF THE  
**GRAND LODGE**  
OF  
**OHIO.**

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BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE  
MOST WORSHIPFUL  
GRAND LODGE  
OF THE  
ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY  
OF  
*Free and Accepted Masons*  
IN THE  
*STATE OF OHIO,*

ADOPTED AT THEIR ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
*HELD AT COLUMBUS,*

*On the second Monday in December,*

A. D. 1820, A. L. 5820.



**COLUMBUS.**

P. H. OLMSTED, PRINTER

.....  
1820.



**BY-LAWS,**  
**RULES & REGULATIONS,**  
OF THE  
**GRAND LODGE OF OHIO.**

**PREAMBLE.**

**THE GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF OHIO. DO HEREBY MAKE, ORDAIN AND PROMULGATE THE FOLLOWING. AS THE BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF SAID GRAND LODGE, VIZ.**

**ART. 1.—**The Grand Lodge shall hold their regular grand communication, annually, in the town of Columbus, on the second Monday of December, and special meetings may be called, as the Grand Lodge or Grand Master shall direct.

**ART. 2.—**There shall not be any Grand Lodge opened, to work, unless there be present a representation from fifteen of the subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

**ART. 3.—**The Grand Lodge shall consist of the Masters and Wardens of the Chartered Lodges, within the jurisdiction of the same, or their regularly authorised proxies.—A Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Marshal, Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon and Grand Tyler, all of whom shall be elected annually, and who together with all past Grand Masters, and past Deputy Grand Masters present, shall each be entitled to one vote in the Grand Lodge, except the Grand Tyler, who shall be entitled to vote for Grand Officers only. *Provided, however,* That no one member by vir-



tue of such office or authority shall have more than five votes in the Grand Lodge.

ART. 4.—The title of the Grand Master shall be “Most Worshipful,” Deputy Grand Master, “Right Worshipful,” Past Grand Masters, “Right Worshipful,” Grand Chaplain, “Most Reverend,” and the following officers, whether past, or in office, viz. Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Marshal, Grand Orator, Grand Deacons, and the Masters of Lodges, “Right Worshipful;” the title of the other Grand Officers shall be worshipful.

ART. 5.—The appointment of proxies of the Masters and Wardens of Lodges, shall be in writing certified under their private seals; or certified by the Secretary of the Lodge under the seal thereof, which shall entitle said proxy to three votes.

ART. 6.—When the Grand Master, and Deputy Grand Master are absent, the Senior Grand Warden presides; in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden; in the absence of these, the oldest Past Grand Master or Past Deputy Grand Master; and if no officers of that grade be present, a Past Master shall be elected to preside for the time being.

ART. 7.—The Most Worshipful Grand Master and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, or either of them, shall be invested with the privilege of granting dispensations, at their discretion, during the recess of the Grand Lodge. *Provided, however,* That no dispensation shall be granted, in any case, unless at least one of the petitioners for dispensation be a regular Past Master.

ART. 8.—The duty of the Grand Lodge is to receive and determine appeals, redress grievances, and remove all complaints of the Subordinate Lodges, to grant warrants and authorise new lodges to work to reprehend and control improper conduct in any subordinate lodge, and to require such reasonable fees from subordinate lodges, as will at all times discharge the engagements of said Grand Lodge—and to do and perform all such duties as properly appertain to a Grand Lodge.



ART. 9.—No other than a Past Master shall be elected to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Wardens.

ART. 10.—No elected Grand Officer, shall act as such until he be duly installed. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a Grand Steward, Grand Sword bearer and two Grand Pursuivants.

ART. 11.—On the day appointed for the assembling of the Grand Lodge, a quorum being present, the Grand Lodge shall be opened in ample form, and the proceedings of the last grand communication read: when the following committees shall be appointed, to consist each of three members, viz: a committee to examine the credentials of representatives and proxies; a committee to examine visiting brethren; a committee to examine accounts, and a committee to hear grievances.

ART. 12.—The Most Worshipful Master is not authorised to make or second any motion. But on all questions where there shall be an equal division, he shall be entitled to a casting vote.

ART. 13.—It shall be the duty of the presiding Grand Officer, to subscribe in presence of the Grand Lodge, a fair and true transcript of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at the close of each communication.

ART. 14.—Every subordinate Lodge, which shall not be represented for two successive grand communications, or who shall be in arrears to the Grand Lodge for two years, shall be suspended from all the privileges of the order until they shall comply with both the requisitions, and shall be stricken from the list of Lodges, and be duly notified thereof by the Grand Secretary, for the time being.

ART. 15.—No warrant or dispensation, for the institution of a new Lodge, shall be granted, except upon the petition of eight Master Masons; which petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Lodge nearest to the place where the new Lodge is intended to be constituted; vouching for the moral characters and Masonic Ability



ities of the petitioners, and recommending to the Grand Lodge, under whose authority they act, to grant the prayer.

ART. 16.—No Lodge shall be permitted to work by dispensation longer than until the next grand annual communication, succeeding the granting thereof, at which time, a copy of the by-laws and minutes of their proceedings, duly attested, shall be laid before the Grand Lodge for their inspection.

ART. 17.—Every society of Masons, applying for a dispensation, shall, before the same be granted, pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge forty dollars; to be appropriated as said Grand Lodge shall direct—and any dispensated Lodge, to which a charter shall be granted, shall receive the same gratis. But if a warrant should not be granted, nor the dispensation continued, the said fees shall be refunded to the petitioners, excepting, only such part thereof as shall have been actually expended, by means of their application.

ART. 18.—There shall be a charity fund, under the direction and subject to the control of the Grand Lodge, to be styled, ‘The Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Ohio,’ which shall be created by an appropriation of one half of the funds in the treasury of the Grand Lodge, and increased annually, by adding thereto, one half of all the monies annually received by the Grand Lodge, and all donations made to the Grand Lodge, not otherwise specially appropriated by the donors.

ART. 19.—Five members of the Grand Lodge, one of whom shall be the M. W. G. Master, and the other four to be appointed annually, by the Grand Master, and said appointment agreed to by the Grand Lodge, shall be authorized and styled Trustees of the Grand Charity Fund, three of whom shall be a quorum.

ART. 20.—It shall be the duty of the Trustees of the Grand Charity Fund, to apply with care and economy, such portion of said funds as they may deem proper, for charitable purposes, and make report to the Grand Lodge, at each annual communication, of the state of the funds



and of all their proceedings. *Provided, however,* That no single charitable appropriation shall exceed the sum of twenty dollars.

ART. 21.—The Charity Funds, created as aforesaid, shall remain in the Treasury of the Grand Lodge subject to the order of the Trustees aforesaid.

ART. 22.—It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, to record the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, who shall attend personally, or by proxy, at each grand communication with all the books and papers of his office. He shall attest and affix the seal of the Grand Lodge, to all instruments of writing, necessary by the nature of his office to be executed. He shall be entitled to the following fees, to wit — Twelve and an half cents for every hundred words, which he necessarily writes for the use of the Grand Lodge; and also, three dollars for executing and sealing each dispensation, and five dollars for each charter, to be paid by the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, from the funds thereof; and twelve and an half cents for each hundred words, for copies of records, or other instruments of writing, when required, to be paid by the parties employing him.

ART. 23.—The Grand Treasurer, shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, give bonds to such person or persons, as the Grand Lodge shall direct, with sufficient security, conditioned for the faithful performance of his official duties, in double the sum actually in the Treasury at the time of his official investment. He shall account to the Grand Lodge for all monies received by him, and on the first day of each annual grand communication exhibit an accurate statement of his accounts to the Grand Lodge. He shall pay out no money, without the order of the Grand Master, the deputy Grand Master, or the Trustees of the Grand Charity Fund.

ART. 24.—The Grand Lodge shall elect, by ballot, annually, a Grand Lecturer, whose duty it shall be to visit each subordinate lodge within the state, at least once in each vacation of the Grand Lodge; establish an uniform mode of working; inspect their by-laws and records, ma-



sonic qualifications and improvements, and make report in writing of his visits and inspections to the Grand Lodge, at each annual communication; and for his said services, he shall receive such sum or sums as the Grand Lodge may appropriate, to be paid out of the funds of the same.

ART. 25.—The decisions of the Grand Lodge shall be the Supreme Masonic Law of the state, and subordinate Lodges shall be governed thereby.

ART. 26.—All decisions by the Grand Lodge shall be made by a majority of the votes given, except in forming or altering the by-laws—and all elections for Grand Officers, shall be by ballot, and where three or more brethren are balloted for the same office, and no one having a majority for two successive ballotings, the third balloting shall be confined to the same candidates, striking off the lowest in number, and so on each successive ballot until some one obtain a majority.

ART. 27.—The Grand Lodge shall not have original jurisdiction in any case which can be justly decided by a subordinate Lodge

ART. 28.—No by-law of the Grand Lodge shall be altered or done away, or any new one adopted until the proposed alteration, amendment, nullification or addition as the case may be, shall have been presented in open Lodge, and seconded, and remain one whole vacation; unless concurred in by all the members of the Grand Lodge, who may be present: *Provided, however,* That such proposed alteration, amendment, or new code may be further amended in such manner, as to the Grand Lodge shall appear proper and expedient, at the time when the same shall be finally considered and passed.



**ON MOTION**, voted that the following Resolutions be adopted, for the government of subordinate lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*, That no Lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens, shall initiate, craft, or raise, unless a Past master is present to preside.

*Resolved*, That all applications for initiation, or for membership, shall lay over at least from one regular meeting to another, unless three fourths of the members present decide the application to be a case of emergency.

*Resolved*, That no subordinate Lodge shall confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, on any person for a less sum than fifteen dollars, and an unanimous vote shall be necessary to initiate or advance.

*Resolved*, That each subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, at each annual communication, fifty cents for each initiation, and twenty-five cents for each member thereto belonging.

*Resolved*, That no subordinate Lodge shall hereafter take notes of hand, for fees, or grant any time of credit therefor.

Done in GRAND LODGE, at Columbus, December A. D. 1820, A. L. 5820.

*Abram. I. McDowell, G. S.*