

CHAPTER 18

PARTICULAR LODGES–JURISDICTION

Constitutional Provisions

The Particular Lodges are the source and foundation of all Symbolic Masonry, and possess inherent rights and powers, sanctioned by immemorial custom and usage, which never can be changed or altered. (Art. X, Sec. 1)

TERRITORIAL

Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge, shall, by regulation uniformly applicable to all Lodges prescribe, define, and regulate the jurisdiction of Lodges in regard to accepting and receiving petitions for the Degrees, administrating Masonic justice and for all other purposes. (Art. X, Sec. 17).

Regulations

18.01 A Lodge has jurisdiction over the territory surrounding the Lodge and extending in every direction one-half the distance to the nearest Lodge. A Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction with other Lodges shall notify such other Lodges of reception of petitions for the Degrees and for affiliations and of acceptance or rejection of such petitions.

18.02 For purposes of receiving petitions for the Degrees, Lodges have concurrent jurisdiction as follows:

- (a) All Lodges meeting in the same building or Temple,
- (b) All Lodges in the same city, town or other incorporated area, and
- (c) All Lodges in the same Masonic District.

18.03 Any two or more Lodges with contiguous territories, without regard to boundaries of Masonic Districts or of cities, towns, or other incorporated areas, may enter into agreement for concurrent jurisdiction for reception of petitions for the Degrees, which agreement shall be in writing approved by adoption of appropriate Resolution at a Stated Communication of each Lodge by majority vote of members present and voting, and shall be effective upon approval by the Grand Master. Such agreement shall not be construed to impair, restrict, or limit the concurrent jurisdiction of a participating Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction with other Lodges under provisions of Regulation 18.02 nor shall such agreement be construed to enlarge the jurisdiction of Lodges not participating in such agreement.

Rulings and Decisions

City of Jacksonville is incorporated area embracing all territory of Duval County and all Lodges therein have concurrent jurisdiction. (1972 Proc. 52, 258)

Regardless of Masonic District lines, Lodges in corporate limits of Jacksonville have concurrent jurisdiction. (1952 Proc. 29)

Where petitioner lives nearer to other Lodges than the one he petitions, it is not necessary to secure waiver of both such Lodges but only to secure waiver of jurisdiction of Lodge having jurisdiction. (1946 Proc. 38)

A Lodge shall not use general Trestleboards or Bulletins to notify other Lodges of rejected petitions for any of the Degrees or affiliation. The notice shall be by sealed first class mail. (1980 Proc. 166)

Lodge Chartered in territory covered by concurrent jurisdictional agreement automatically becomes a party to the jurisdictional agreement. (1965 Proc. 196, 199)

Where a petitioner resides in concurrent jurisdiction of two or more Lodges and petitions a Lodge outside of said concurrent jurisdiction, waiver of jurisdiction is required only from Lodge nearest residence of the petitioner. In the event two or more Lodges meet at a place nearest the residence of the petitioner, waiver should be secured from either of such Lodges. (1966 Proc. 247)

NEW LODGES

Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge is clothed with the power of constituting new Lodges upon the Petition of not less than twenty (20) Master Masons. But no Dispensation nor Charter shall issue to a Lodge except upon written consent of the Lodge nearest the place where the new Lodge is to be located and Certificate of the Committee on Work or its duly authorized representative that the Officers and membership of the new Lodge are qualified and capable of conferring the Degrees of Freemasonry.

In the event that two or more Lodges meet at the place nearest the location of the new Lodge, the consent of any one of such Lodges shall be sufficient. (Art. VII, Sec. 1)

Regulations

18.04 A new Lodge will not be established within the jurisdiction of a Chartered Lodge against its consent (Constitution, Article VII, Section 1), but the Grand Lodge may recommend a favorable consideration of the subject.

References

As to Jurisdiction of U.D. Lodges, See Chapter 42.

PERSONAL

Regulations

18.05 When a Lodge lawfully assumes original jurisdiction, it cannot be rudely divested thereof; therefore, no Lodge can lawfully finish work begun by another surviving Lodge without its consent. Jurisdiction may be waived.

18.06 If an Entered Apprentice of a Florida Lodge removes into another Grand Jurisdiction where a similar rule prevails, or into the jurisdiction of another Lodge in Florida, and wishes to receive

the Fellow Craft Degree where he is, without a desire to transfer his membership or secure his dimit, he should petition his Lodge to request the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides to instruct him in the catechism of the Entered Apprentice Degree, and when proficient to confer the Fellow Craft Degree as a courtesy to that Lodge. The same rule applies for advancement to the Master Mason Degree, but one month's time must elapse or intervene between the time of conferring the different Degrees. When the Master Mason Degree is thus conferred the recipient is a member of the Lodge of original jurisdiction. The above rule would not apply to candidates of another Grand Jurisdiction, which did not require that one month's time elapse between the time of conferring the different Degrees, under the law. In such case this Grand Jurisdiction will respect the law of the Sister Grand Jurisdiction. A petitioner who has been elected to receive the Degrees may also receive the Entered Apprentice Degree by courtesy. (1985)

18.07 The Grand Lodge of Florida claims jurisdiction for its Particular Lodges over the rejected applicants of said Lodges removing to other Grand Jurisdictions, for one year from the date of rejection.

18.08 There can be no waiver of jurisdiction by a Lodge over a non-Mason who has permanently removed, even recently, to another jurisdiction. The jurisdiction ceases immediately upon a removal intended to be permanent.

Rulings and Decisions

A Lodge jurisdiction over non-Mason ceases instantly when he permanently moves out of its jurisdiction. (1942 Proc. 46)

There can be no waiver of jurisdiction by a Lodge over a non-Mason who has permanently removed, even recently to another jurisdiction. The jurisdiction ceases immediately upon removal intended to be permanent. (1962 Proc. 81, 296)

OFFENSES AGAINST MASONIC LAW

References

Penal Code; Chapter 44

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

References

Waiver of Jurisdiction; Chapter 34

Balloting on Waiver of Jurisdiction; Chapter 34

Residence Requirements of Candidates; Candidates, Chapter 31

