

CHAPTER 6

GRAND MASTER

**As to Election, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession,
and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers See Chapter 5**

POWERS AND DUTIES GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

Constitutional Provisions

It is the duty of the Grand Master to attend all Communications of the Grand Lodge and, when present, to preside, and at the opening of each Annual Communication, to read an address or report relating to the transactions of the past year, and suggesting such measures for the action of the Grand Lodge as in his opinion the good of the Craft and the prosperity of good Masons may require. (Art. VI, Sec. 2)

The Grand Master is clothed with powers and prerogatives, from ancient usages and customs, besides those conferred by Constitutional Law. When presiding, he is supreme, and no appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question or motion to adjourn be entertained. (Art. VI, Sec. 3)

POWERS IN RECESS OF GRAND LODGE

Constitutional Provisions

In the recess of Grand Lodge, all the executive powers and authority of the Grand Lodge in fraternal matters devolve upon the Grand Master. He can grant Dispensations for new Lodges, and may suspend a Lodge or take possession of its Charter, when he believes the good of the Order requires it, until the next Annual Communication. He can suspend the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, or any of them, and may cause charges to be preferred against the officer or officers so suspended. He can make a Mason at sight; but he must be made in a body of a regularly constituted Lodge, and by the trial of the ballot. He can grant Dispensations for extraordinary processions and in all cases of emergency when in his opinion the good of Masonry will be promoted. In the recess of Grand Lodge all Corporate power and authority of the Grand Lodge devolve upon the Corporate Board. (Art. VI, Sec. 4) (1984)

Digest of Masonic Law

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE

Constitutional Provisions

When the Grand Lodge is in session, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint all committees and to make pro tem appointments; to appoint the Subordinate Officers and install the Grand Officers. He has general supervision of the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and unrestrained access to them; and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, removal, or other cause of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, to make other appointments until the next Annual Communication. And generally, the Grand Master being the representative of the Grand Lodge in recess, may do, order, and direct all matters and things which in his wisdom and judgment may tend to the prosperity of the Craft, not in violation of this Constitution and the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. (1984) (Art. VI, Sec. 6)

All members of the Grand Lodge are entitled to one vote; and in case of a tie, the Grand Master, or Officer presiding, has the casting vote. (Art. II, Sec. 4)

Regulations

6.01 The Grand Master is requested to file in the office of the Grand Secretary, at least ten days before the opening day of Annual Grand Communication, copies of his address or report together with all necessary papers, records, and documents relating thereto and to his other official acts and actions. All other Elected Grand Lodge Officers shall file similar reports as to their official acts and recommendations during the year. The Grand Secretary shall lay before the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence said address or report together with all papers, records, and documents relating thereto and to other official acts and actions, implemented or to be implemented by the Grand Master and all other Elected Grand Lodge Officers and all papers and documents relating to penal appeals, applications for Lodge Charters, relations with foreign jurisdictions, relations with appendant and allied orders, and all matters pertaining to Masonic Law, policy, and practices and the Committee shall review all such matters and things and make report and recommendations thereon to the Grand Lodge.

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

References

The Grand Master may appoint time and place for Annual Communications. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 1; Chapter 12

The Grand Master may call Special Communications of Grand Lodge. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 1; Chapter 12

The Grand Master may call an Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge at any time and place. Reg. 12.02

Rulings and Decisions

An Emergent Communication can be called by the Grand Master at any time for any purpose he may elect. (1951 Proc. 26)

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

References

The Grand Master-elect shall appoint the Subordinate Grand Officers. Const. Art. III, Sec. 5; Chapter 5

The Grand Master may grant Dispensations for installation of Grand Lodge Officers by proxy. Const. Art. III, Sec. 6; Reg. 6.11(a)

Grand Master shall appoint District Instructors. Reg. 10.10

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES

References

Chapter 13, Grand Lodge Committees
Const., Art. IX, Sec. 1 (2) (c), (i), (j), (l)

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVES

References

Grand Lodge Representatives are appointed by the Grand Master. Reg. 15.03

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE RITUAL AND CEREMONIES

References

Chapter 38, Ritual and Ceremonies
Const., Art. XV, Sec. 3

POWER TO REINSTATE EXPELLED MEMBER

References

See: Chapter 44. Reg. 44.67

**POWERS WITH RESPECT TO
PARTICULAR LODGES
CHARTERS AND ACTIONS OF LODGES**

Constitutional Provisions

In the recess of Grand Lodge, all the executive powers and authority of the Grand Lodge in fraternal matters devolve upon the Grand Master. He can grant Dispensations for new Lodges, and may suspend a Lodge or take possession of its Charter, when he believes the good of the Order requires it, until the next Annual Communication. He can suspend the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, or any of them, and may cause charges to be preferred against the officer or officers so suspended. (1984) (Art. VI, Sec. 4)

Regulations

6.02 The Grand Master, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, may in the exercise of proper discretion, restore a suspended or surrendered Charter, or he may arrest or suspend a Lodge Charter until the next Annual Grand Communication.

6.03 Any act or decision of a Lodge, or Master, may be reviewed by the Grand Lodge, or in the recess of the Grand Lodge, by the Grand Master, subject to the action of the Grand Lodge.

6.04 When a Charter is lost or destroyed, the Grand Master may order a certified copy thereof to be issued in lieu of the original. (As to forfeiture of Charter see Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 22)

6.05 It is not competent for the Grand Master to appoint a Brother to represent a Particular Lodge in the Grand Lodge.

References

Grand Master's approval is necessary for consolidation of Lodges. Reg. 16.03 (c)

APPEALS FOR AID

References

Grand Master's approval is necessary before a Lodge can issue an appeal for aid. Reg. 25.38

LODGE BY-LAWS

References

Lodge By-Laws have no validity until approved by the Grand Master. Regs. 24.01; 24.04

**BUILDING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS
AND FINANCING**

References

Grand Master's approval of plans and specifications for buildings and financing must be obtained. Reg. 28.03

Rulings and Decisions

If properly designed, the Grand Master may permit construction of ground floor Temple. (1952 Proc. 31)

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS

References

Grand Master may grant Dispensation for public processions. (See Dispensations below)

OFFICERS OF PARTICULAR LODGES

References

The Grand Master is privileged to install a Master-elect. Const. Art. X, Sec. 9; Chapter 19.
The Grand Master may suspend the Master of a Lodge. Const. Art. VI, Sec. 4; Chapter 19; Reg. 19.12

As to Dispensations for election and installation of Lodge Officers, see Dispensations below.

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY LODGES

Regulations

6.06 The Grand Master has authority to establish Military Lodges; but it is inexpedient for him to do so, except under specific Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO DEFUNCT LODGES

PROPERTY

References

With approval of Grand Master the Grand Secretary may sell personal property of defunct Lodges. Reg. 43.02

With approval of Grand Master the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties may sell real and personal property of defunct Lodges. Reg. 13.13

See Constitution, Article V, Sec. 5, for restoration of property to Lodges upon restoration of Charter. Chapter 43

RESTORATION OF CHARTER

References

As to restoration of Charters, See Chapter 17

POWERS WITH RESPECT TO U.D. LODGES

References

U.D. Lodges are creatures of Grand Master. Regs. 42.07; 42.08

Grand Master may grant Dispensations for new Lodges. Const. Art. VII, Sec. 2; Chapter 42

Grand Master controls roll of members of U.D. Lodges. Reg. 42.07; Chapter 42
 Grand Master shall open and set to work U.D. Lodges. Reg. 42.06; Chapter 42

PREROGATIVES

Constitutional Provisions

A Landmark of Freemasonry is:

“The government of the Fraternity by a presiding Officer who, since the advent of Speculative Masonry, has borne the title of Grand Master and been elected from the body of the Craft, and the prerogatives inherent in that office, among which are:

The prerogative of the Grand Master to enter into and preside over every assembly of Masons within his jurisdiction and, corollary thereto, to supervise and regulate the affairs of Masonry within that jurisdiction, between Communications of the Grand Lodge, subject to the Constitution and lawful Regulations duly enacted by the Grand Lodge.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant his Dispensation.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make a Mason at sight in the body of a regularly constituted Lodge and by trial of the ballot.” (Art. XIII, Sec. 2 – Excerpt)

Regulations

6.07 The prerogatives of a Grand Master are commensurate with his high and honorable position, and circumscribed only by Masonic propriety and usefulness. They are so extensive as to need no legislation to enlarge them, but they are restricted by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, so far as they are specifically embraced within the scope of such laws.

6.08 The Grand Master may make a Mason at sight, but only as the Constitution provides.

DISPENSATIONS

Regulations

6.09 Dispensations may be granted for public processions on extra-ordinary occasions. A Worshipful Master may summon the members of his Lodge to turn out in public procession without Dispensation on the anniversaries of the Saints John, for Masonic funerals, or to attend with the Grand Master or his special Deputy in the ceremony of laying a cornerstone. A Lodge may meet and attend Divine Services, but not in Masonic regalia, and the members shall not be summoned for the occasion.

6.10 The Grand Master may grant Dispensations to a Particular Lodge to provide material for Degree work, conformably to the Constitution, the ballot being required in each case, for example:

- (a) To receive and ballot on a petition short of the Constitutional time.
- (b) To ballot and confer the Degrees short of time at Stated and Called Communications.
- (c) To reopen a dark ballot.
- (d) To confer more than one Degree on the same candidate at the same Communication.
- (e) To confer the M.M. Degree upon a F.C. who, after election, becomes badly wounded or crippled in pursuit of his regular vocation.
- (f) To allow a Lodge to accept a petition from a rejected candidate.

References

As to fees for Dispensations to confer Degrees short of time, see Reg. 14.18.

Regulations

6.11 Dispensation may be granted and shall be required for election and installation of officers in the following cases:

- (a) To install an Elected Grand Officer under the provisions of Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution.
- (b) To elect and install Officers when election did not take place as set forth in Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution.
- (c) To elect and install any Officer when the Officer-elect remains permanently beyond the Lodge jurisdiction.
- (d) To elect and install any elective Officer when the Brother named in the Charter, or elected to office, declines installation, and another Brother cannot be elected on or before December 27th.
- (e) To fill vacancies in elective offices to Particular Lodges for unexpired terms. (See Reg. 19.19)
- (f) To permit joint installation of the Officers of Lodges outside of their respective territorial jurisdiction, within this Grand jurisdiction.

6.12 Dispensations may be granted and shall be required for Lodge Communications in the following cases:

- (a) To authorize a Lodge to continue its work in the absence of its Charter when lost, stolen, or destroyed, until the Charter is returned or a certified copy issued.
- (b) To authorize a Lodge to change its place of meeting within its jurisdiction, but without changing its jurisdictional lines, until and unless Grand Lodge makes such changes permanent, in which case its jurisdictional lines will measure from its new location.
- (c) To authorize a Lodge to hold its Communications in ground floor rooms when necessity demands, and the approval of the District Deputy Grand Master has been secured.

6.13 Dispensations cannot be issued to Lodges to hold their annual election of Officers prior to their first Stated Communication in December, nor to install their Officers prior to December 27th, since both are prohibited by Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution.

6.14 Public installation of Officers may hereafter be held by the Lodges in their territorial jurisdictions without Dispensations.

References

A Dispensation may be granted to a Lodge to elect a Master. Reg. 19.19

A Dispensation may be granted to fill the office of Senior or Junior Warden. Reg. 19.21

DUTY TO VISIT LODGES

Constitutional Provisions

It is the duty of the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Deputy Grand Master, or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters, to visit the Particular Lodges in his jurisdiction at least once a year, and to examine their work and condition; and, when necessary, to have access to books and papers, and to preside, with the Master of the Lodge at his left. (Art. VI, Sec. 5)