

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

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RULING AND DECISION NO. 2

The question has been raised concerning the use of Side Degrees, i.e. Yellow Dog Degree, Water Buffalo Degree, Armadillo Degree, etc.

Digest of Masonic Law CHAPTER 47 CLUBS AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS

Regulations

47.01 All Masonic affiliated clubs, societies, or similar organizations, including Masters and Wardens Association, formed, organized, and operating within the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida shall be subject to the jurisdiction and approval of The Grand Lodge of Florida and subject to the direction and control of a central or general authority recognized by the Grand Lodge. Any Mason joining, having membership in, or affiliated with any club, society, or similar organizations, including Masters and Wardens Association, not recognized or approved in accordance with this Regulation, who, upon order or directive from the Grand Master fails or refuses to withdraw therefrom shall be subject to Masonic discipline. (1991)

Currently, there are seventy-three clubs excluding the Masters & Wardens or Master Masons Associations, none of which have reported to the Grand Lodge since their inception and are believed to be defunct; documentation does not exist to confirm this assumption.

Adding to this problem, we have many other clubs that have sprung up as mentioned in the heading without the proper review and approval of the Allied and Appendant Orders Sub-Committee of the Jurisprudence Committee and approval at an Annual Grand Communication.

Therefore, based on Regulation 47.01 any Mason who is a member of any club, society, or similar organization not approved by the proper procedures at an Annual Grand Lodge Communication must withdraw his membership therefrom or shall be subject to Masonic discipline.

Fraternally,



Donald W. Cowart
Grand Master