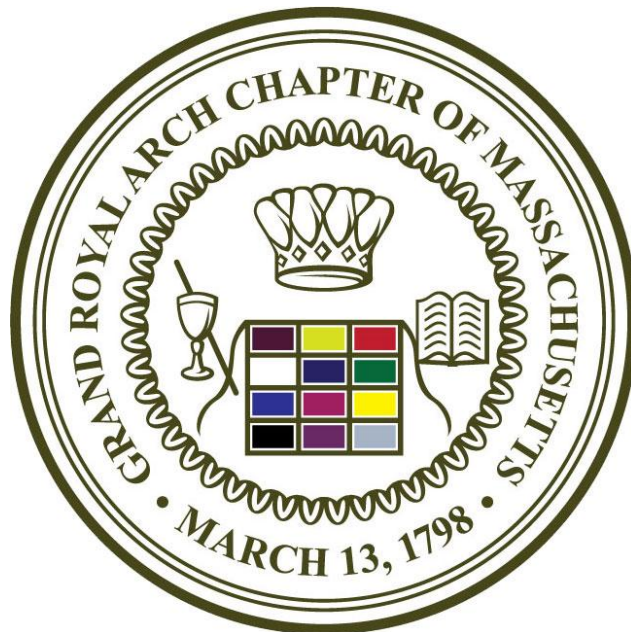


The Constitution and Digest Of

2010 Edition



The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, Inc.

As amended October 15, 2010

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**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts**

PREAMBLE

Capitular Masonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society, adhering to its own peculiar ancient customs and rituals, including the ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. The methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction are secret and thereby a test of membership is provided, though a Companion be traveling in foreign countries and among those who would otherwise be strangers.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Chapter is in session, worship of God is ever a part of its ceremonial, and to its neophytes and Companions alike are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not theological. It is educational in that it teaches a perfect system of morality, based upon the Sacred Law, by a prescribed ceremonial.

It is benevolent in that it teaches relief of the poor and distressed as a duty and exemplifies the duty by relief of sick and distressed Companions and their widows and orphans.

It is charitable in that none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the improvement and promotion of the happiness of mankind.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of training, of worship, and of charity.

**ARTICLE I
Organization**

SECTION 1. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts shall consist of the following officers and members, whose rank and title shall be as herein set forth, to wit:

1. M.:E.: GRAND HIGH PRIEST
2. R.:E.: DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST
3. R.:E.: GRAND KING
4. R.:E.: GRAND SCRIBE
5. M.:E.: PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
6. R.:E.: PAST DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
7. R.:E.: PAST GRAND KINGS
8. R.:E.: PAST GRAND SCRIBES
9. R.:E.: GRAND TREASURER
10. R.:E.: GRAND SECRETARY
11. R.:E.: DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
12. R.:E.: GRAND REPRESENTATIVES (*October 9, 2009*)
13. R.:E.: GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE HOST
14. E.: AND REV. GRAND CHAPLAINS
15. E.: GRAND LECTURERS
16. E.: GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER
17. E.: GRAND ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN
18. E.: GRAND MASTERS OF THE VEILS
19. E.: GRAND STEWARDS
20. E.: GRAND ORGANIST
21. E.: GRAND TYLER

All of whom, together with the Excellent High Priests, Companions Kings and Scribes of subordinate chapters, or their proxies; shall be entitled to vote as members of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Organist and Grand Tyler excepted.

SECTION 2. No officer or Permanent member of the Grand Chapter shall be entitled to more than one vote, unless he be a High Priest, King, Scribe, or proxy of such, of a subordinate chapter under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE II Convocations

SECTION 1. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall hold two Regular Convocations in a year, and the date and place of such Convocations may be determined by the Grand High Priest, so long as they are held in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The time between the first and second Regular Convocation shall be not less than four months and not more than six months. (June 7, 2008)

SECTION 2. The Annual Convocation may be held at any time, place, or location as determined by the Grand High Priest, as long as it is held in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at which time the annual reports and business shall be presented and the annual choice of officers shall be made. The Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, shall be elected by ballot. The other officers shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest so chosen. *(June 7, 2008)*

SECTION 3. The officers of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall be installed at the Annual Convocation. The Grand High Priest shall be installed by a Past Grand High Priest or, in the absence of all Past Grand High Priests, by the senior Past High Priest present.

SECTION 4. In case the Grand High Priest-Elect cannot attend at the time appointed for his installation, he may be installed by proxy on signifying his acceptance of the office. But such proxy must be a Past Grand High Priest, or the senior Past High Priest present.

SECTION 5. In the absence of the Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, they may be installed by proxies, who shall be past officers of corresponding rank or Past High Priests of subordinate Chapters and members of the Grand Chapter. The proxies for all other officers must also be members of the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 6. All Grand Officers, when installed shall retain their stations until their successors are duly elected and installed.

SECTION 7. All Grand Officers at the time of their Installation shall make the following declaration, viz:

I (A.B.) do solemnly promise and swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, and all other Ancient Masonic usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge.

SECTION 8. In case of the death, disability, resignation, or declination of any elective officer, the Grand Chapter may, after due notice, proceed to elect and install a successor at any subsequent regular Convocation. In the interim, the Grand High Priest may appoint and qualify a suitable Companion to act until the office is filled as aforesaid. In case of vacancy, temporary or permanent, for any cause, in any appointive office, the Grand High Priest may act at his pleasure.

ARTICLE III

Qualifications for Office

SECTION 1. No person shall be elected to the office of Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, or District Deputy Grand High Priest, unless he be a Past High Priest in good standing of a subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, and no one of the officers here enumerated shall during his continuance in office be a High Priest, King, or Scribe, of a subordinate Chapter except by Dispensation of the Grand High Priest.

SECTION 2. No person shall be eligible to an office, except that of Grand Chaplain in this Grand Chapter, unless he be a permanent member thereof, or a member of a subordinate Chapter under this jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest for more than three successive years.

ARTICLE IV

Duties of Officers

SECTION 1. It is the prerogative and duty of the Grand High Priest generally to exercise, as occasion may require, all the rights appertaining to his high office, in accordance with this Constitution and the usages of Capitular Masonry; he shall annually make a full report of all his official acts to this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 2. The Grand High Priest shall examine and approve all bills presented against this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 3. The Grand High Priest shall annually cause an audit to be made by a certified public accountant of the accounts, books, vouchers, and securities of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Board of Trustees, whose report shall be submitted at the Annual Convocation.

SECTION 4. The duties of the remaining officers of this Grand Chapter are such as are appropriate to their respective stations, or as may be assigned to them by the Grand High Priest or the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE V

Trustees

SECTION 1. There shall be a board of Trustees of the Funds of this Grand Chapter, consisting of the Grand Treasurer and two companions to be elected by ballot for the term of three years, and provided, should a vacancy shall occur by death, resignation, or any cause, it shall be filled by election at the following Regular Convocation.

SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees shall carefully and judiciously invest the funds in such manner as in their best judgment shall be safest and most productive, and shall keep the securities and vouchers in a suitable place of deposit, where safety from fire and theft shall be assured.

SECTION 3. The Board of Trustees shall keep a full and accurate record of the investments and income, and at each Annual Convocation they shall submit to the Grand Chapter a correct statement of the invested funds in detail, showing their exact nature and condition.

ARTICLE VI Committees

SECTION 1. The Grand High Priest shall appoint annually a Committee on Bylaws, of three members, to which shall be referred all matters appertaining to the Bylaws of subordinate Chapters. They shall report in writing at each Regular Convocation, recommending such action as they may deem advisable.

No Bylaw or amendment thereto, of any subordinate Chapter shall be valid or become operative until the same shall be approved by the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 2. Other committees that may be found necessary or desirable shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest, unless otherwise voted by the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE VII District Deputies, Grand Lecturers and Grand Representatives *(October 9, 2009)*

SECTION 1. The Grand High Priest shall form the Chapters under this jurisdiction into districts, for each of which he shall, annually, appoint a District Deputy Grand High Priest, and commission him under the Seal of the Grand Chapter, attested by the Grand Secretary, which commission shall be in force, unless sooner revoked, until the conclusion of the Annual Convocation in December, and not longer.

SECTION 2. The District Deputy Grand High Priests are the personal representatives of the Grand High Priest to the Chapters of their respective districts. They shall visit the Chapters in their district, and inspect the Charter, Bylaws, Records, Book or Books of Marks, that Chapter's copy of the Constitution & Digest and the Royal Arch Handbook, and mode of work, once a year at least, and before first day of October. They shall communicate edicts and regulations of the Grand Chapter and Grand High Priest; shall generally supervise and advise their Chapters under the direction of the Grand High Priest and perform such other duties as are ordered by him. For necessary expenses in making such visitations, they may be reimbursed by the Grand Chapter.

Past District Deputy Grand High Priests shall be styled "Right Excellent."

SECTION 3. The Grand High Priest shall, annually, appoint one or more discreet and well informed companions as Grand Lecturers, whose duty it shall be, when requested by any subordinate Chapter, to visit and instruct it in the standard work of this Grand Chapter; and the Chapter so employing him shall make him a reasonable compensation for his services. It shall also be their duty, with such assistants as they may require, to exemplify the work of the several Chapter degrees at least one day each year and to rehearse the lectures of the several degrees if time permits, that the officers of the subordinate Chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters. *(October 9, 2009)*,

The system and ritual established by the Grand Chapter, and taught by the Grand Lecturers, shall be the standard for the regulation of all Chapters under this jurisdiction, and no alteration shall be made in the work or lectures without permission.

SECTION 4. District Chapters of Instruction shall be held in every district under this Grand Jurisdiction at least once in two years, the Grand High Priest granting a Dispensation therefore; and it shall be the duty of the Deputy of the District to make all necessary arrangements for holding the same. The officers of every Chapter in the district shall be required to attend.

The Grand Chapter shall pay the Grand Lecturer for his services at a District Grand Chapter of Instruction, all other expenses to be paid by the Chapters in the district where the Exemplification is held.

SECTION 5. Grand Representatives may be appointed by the Grand High Priest to serve at his will and pleasure. They shall be styled "Right Excellent" unless they are already styled Right Excellent or Most Excellent but only during the period of their appointment, which may be terminated at any time by the Grand High Priest. *(October 9, 2009)*

ARTICLE VIII Grand Chapter Seal

SECTION 1. The Seal of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts shall be a circle, two and one sixteenth inches in diameter; on the upper outer circle the words "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts"; on the lower outer circle the date "March 13, 1798," with small Latin crosses between the upper and lower wording.

Within an inner circle of triple triangles, the breastplate, surmounted by a Jewish Mitre; on the dexter side, the pot and rod; and on the sinister side, the Book of the Law; all of proper color.

ARTICLE IX Grand Chapter Regulations

SECTION 1. In the absence of the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, it shall be the duty of the senior Past Officer of those grades respectively, to preside; and in case of the absence of all the past officers, the High Priest of the oldest Chapter present shall preside.

SECTION 2. Every member of this Grand Chapter and representative thereto, must appear properly clothed as a Royal Arch Mason. The officers of subordinate chapters must appear clothed in their proper jewels

SECTION 3. All motions made in the Grand Chapter, the determination of which may require them to be recorded, shall be handed in writing or in an acceptable electronic format to the Grand Secretary, who shall present them in a printed format to the presiding officer for the time being.
(October 9, 2009)

SECTION 4. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall receive for their services such compensation as this Grand Chapter may by vote determine.

SECTION 5. The Grand Secretary shall deliver diplomas only on the written order of the Secretary of the Chapter for whose use they are intended.

SECTION 6. The High Priest of any Chapter under this jurisdiction who has faithfully discharged his duties and complied with the laws of the Grand Chapter, may at the end of his first year of service, or at a later period, be presented with a Past High Priest's Diploma, by the Grand High Priest or, when duly authorized, by the District Deputy Grand High Priest or a Past High Priest.

ARTICLE X General Regulations Governing Subordinate Chapters

SECTION 1. Every petition for a Charter to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be signed by at least nine regular Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

Such petition shall be countersigned by the District Deputy Grand High Priest, within whose district the new Chapter is proposed to be located.

The Grand High Priest may grant his Dispensation for the same, to be in force not exceeding twelve months, and during that time the members of said Chapter shall be examined with regard to their ability to confer the several degrees, and to maintain and support a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, by a Committee appointed by the Grand High Priest; said Committee to report to the Grand Chapter at its Regular Convocation within one year from the date of the Dispensation.

If the Grand Chapter approves, the Grand High Priest may appoint a time for the consecration of said Chapter and the installation of its officers, and direct the Grand Secretary to issue a Charter bearing even date with the Dispensation. Said Chapter shall pay to the Grand Chapter Five dollars (\$5.00) per month for the time it shall have held its Dispensation. **(October 9, 2009)**

SECTION 2. No Charter or Dispensation shall be granted for holding a Mark Master's, Past Master's or Most Excellent Master's Lodge independent of a Royal Arch Chapter.

SECTION 3. The fee for a Charter for holding a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and opening lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters, shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be paid to the Grand Chapter upon receiving the Dispensation.

SECTION 4. Upon the Constitution of a new Chapter, the petitioners thereof become members of that Chapter, and they must sign the Bylaws within six months; failing in which they shall be subject to ballot and fee for membership in the same manner as Companions receiving the degrees in the Chapter and failing to comply with this requirement.

SECTION 5 (a). Every Chapter in this jurisdiction shall make an annual return in duplicate, to the Grand Secretary, of their officers and members, and of all candidates marked, passed, acknowledged, exalted or rejected, for which purpose suitable blanks shall be furnished by the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 5 (b). The annual returns, accompanied by payment of the sum due to the Grand Chapter, shall be made **to the Grand Secretary on or before the first day of October in each year, and the failure of any Chapter to comply** with this regulation before the tenth day of October shall subject such Chapter to a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

SECTION 5 (c). Each Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall pay annually to the Grand Chapter the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), together with Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each candidate of the Chapter who has been advanced to the Degree of Mark Master Mason during the year ended on the preceding August 31. **(October 9, 2009)**

SECTION 5 (d). Each Chapter shall pay, annually, to the Grand Chapter, for its Charitable uses and support a sum so designated and voted by Grand Chapter for each of its members, such payments to be made at such times, in such manner, and with appropriate credits for dual membership, remission of dues, or other causes, as the Board of Directors of the Grand Chapter may from time to time prescribe. For the fiscal year 2010, the sum shall be \$20.00. For each subsequent year, such sum shall be increased by the same percentage increase for the preceding twelve month period as the Consumer Price Index for all items in the Metropolitan Boston area, or closest approximation, rounded to the next higher whole dollar; provided however, that if such percentage increase is less than 1.5%, there shall be no increase in such sum for that year.

The increase shall be determined each year by the Grand Treasurer and forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval sufficiently in advance that adequate notice may be given to the Chapter of the increase for that year.

The Grand Chapter dues hereby established shall be assessed by the Chapter upon its members and shall be in addition to any Chapter dues required to be paid by the member under the Bylaws of the Chapter. **(October 9, 2009)**

SECTION 5 (e). Any member of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter may prepay all future Grand Chapter dues by remitting direct to the Grand Chapter a sum equal to the product of 35 multiplied by the then Grand Chapter dues, reduced however, by an amount equal to one half the then current Grand Chapter dues multiplied by the number of years in excess of eighteen of the then attained age of such member; and thereafter no claim for Grand Chapter Dues shall be made by the Grand Chapter upon such a member or upon any Chapter in respect of such a member. **(October 9, 2009)**

SECTION 5 (f). All money paid to Grand Chapter for prepayment of future Grand Chapter dues shall be kept by Grand Chapter as a separate fund, and no refund shall be made on account of the death or demit of the prepaid member or for any other reason. The investment of such fund shall be under the control of the Board of Trustees as elsewhere provided herein, but the income of the fund shall be paid over annually for the support of Grand Chapter. Payments may also be made from the principal of such fund if and as directed by the Board of Directors of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, Inc., but, unless otherwise voted by Grand Chapter, the expenditures from the principal shall not in any fiscal year exceed a sum equal to **Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)** times the number of prepaid living members of the several Chapters as appearing from their most recent Annual Returns. **(October 9, 2009)**

ARTICLE XI Representation in Grand Chapter

SECTION 1. Every Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be represented by its High Priest, King and Scribe, or either of them, in person or by their respective proxies, at every Regular Convocation of this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 2. If any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall fail to assemble once in any year, or shall neglect to be represented in this Grand Chapter for two years in succession, or shall fail for two successive years to make a return of its officers and members and pay its dues to this Grand Chapter, then, and in either case of delinquency, the said Chapter shall forfeit to the use of this Grand Chapter its Charter, with its Records, Jewels, Regalia and Furniture, together with its monetary and all other property of every description.

SECTION 3. The High Priest, King and Scribe of any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, when not able to attend a Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter, shall appoint their proxies by a commission, signed by them, to which the Seal of their Chapter shall be affixed, which commission shall not continue, in force except for the Regular Convocation as defined in the commission. Said proxies shall be members in good standing of the Chapter of which they are proxies.

ARTICLE XII Applications for the Degrees

SECTION 1. The application of any and every candidate who is a resident in this Commonwealth, for exaltation in any Chapter under this jurisdiction, shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant, and include the following information, to wit: –

- The name of the Chapter to which the application is being made.
- The applicant's full name (no initials).
- The applicant's place of residence and/or mailing address, including Zip Code and telephone number.
- The applicant's date and place of birth.
- The applicant's occupation and place of business.
- The name of the applicant's Lodge, its Grand Jurisdiction, and the date of his membership.
- If the applicant has previously applied to any Royal Arch Chapter, information about the disposition of that application.

Over the applicant's full signature, he shall state that he desires further light in Masonry, is applying for the Degrees in this Chapter, and that he will cheerfully comply with the forms and usages of the Fraternity.

The application shall also be signed by a Companion of the same Chapter, who will attest to the applicant's standing as a Master Mason, his moral character, and will recommend that he be exalted to the sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason in that Chapter.

SECTION 2. Candidates must be proposed at a Regular Convocation, and stand proposed from one Regular Convocation to another, unless a Dispensation permitting other action shall be granted by the Grand High Priest.

SECTION 3. A committee of investigation, consisting of three members of the Chapter, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to carefully and thoroughly investigate the moral character and standing of the applicant and report to the Chapter in person, or in writing over their own signatures.

SECTION 4. An application having been presented and received cannot be withdrawn, either by unanimous consent or otherwise, but must be acted upon by report of committee and ballot; provided, that if at any time before or after the ballot, but before initiation, it is discovered that the applicant does not belong within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, or is not of lawful age, or is otherwise not eligible, further proceedings must be stopped and the application dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. No candidate shall be balloted for at any but a Regular Convocation, unless Dispensation therefore shall be obtained from the Grand High Priest, and then only when written or printed sealed notification of the Convocation, bearing the full name, residential address and occupation of the applicant to be balloted for, has been duly sent to all the members.

No ballot shall be taken until at least a majority of the committee shall have reported to the Chapter in person, or in writing over their own signatures, and no candidate shall be received or admitted to the degrees without a unanimous vote in his favor.

SECTION 6. In balloting for degrees or membership, the High Priest may allow three ballotings at his discretion; in the first ballot, if only two dissenting votes appear, the ballot may be repeated, and if one blackball shall then appear, another ballot may be taken; and if the ballot is not then clear, the candidate must be declared rejected.

In balloting for degrees or membership, all members of the Chapter present must vote, unless excused by vote of the Chapter.

The balloting on an application for the degrees or membership when once commenced, cannot be postponed, but must be completed and the result thereof declared; nor can it be reconsidered.

At any time previous to the ballot on an application for the degrees or membership, the High Priest shall, on request in writing duly signed by a member who is unavoidably absent, or for other good cause, postpone the ballot thereon until the next Regular Convocation, but no longer.

SECTION 7. No candidate whose application has been rejected in any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall again be proposed in any Chapter in this jurisdiction within six months after such rejection; nor in any Chapter in this jurisdiction, other than that in which he was rejected, within five years, without a recommendation duly signed by nine members of said Chapter, of whom the High Priest, King and Scribe shall be three, and the consent of the Chapter by majority vote, attested by the Secretary.

SECTION 8. A Royal Arch Mason exalted in this jurisdiction thereby becomes a member of the Chapter to which he made application and passed ballot, without further ballot, provided he shall sign the Bylaws of such Chapter within six months after his exaltation, failing in which he shall be

subject to ballot and fee for membership, provided that before any action is taken the time may be extended by vote of the Chapter, but if the time exceeds one year a ballot must be taken. The membership fee may be waived by vote of the Chapter.

ARTICLE XIII Applications for Membership (Affiliation)

SECTION 1. The application of any and every Royal Arch Mason for membership in any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant, and shall contain the following information, to wit: _

- The name of the Chapter to which the application is being made.
- The applicant's full name (no initials).
- The applicant's place of residence and/or mailing address, including Zip Code and telephone number.
- The applicant's date and place of birth.
- The applicant's occupation and place of business.
- The name of the applicant's Lodge, its Grand Jurisdiction, and the date of his membership.
- The date of the applicant's Exaltation, and the name of the Chapter to which he belongs or from which he has demitted.

Over the applicant's full signature, he shall state that he is applying for membership. The application shall also be signed by a Companion of the same Chapter, who will attest to the applicant's standing as a Royal Arch Mason, his moral character, and will recommend that he receive membership in this Chapter.

SECTION 2. No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted a member of any Chapter under this jurisdiction unless he shall have regularly received the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

SECTION 3. Any Royal Arch Mason may be a member of one or more Chapters under this jurisdiction, but with the exception of the Massachusetts Chapter of Research, he shall not hold elective office in more than one Chapter at one and the same time, except by dispensation of the Grand High Priest.

SECTION 4. Applications for membership shall be subject to the same procedure as is defined in Article XII governing applications for the degrees.

SECTION 5. Upon the election of any Royal Arch Mason to membership in any Chapter in this jurisdiction he becomes a member thereof, and must sign the Bylaws within six months; failing in which he shall be subject to ballot and fee for membership in the same manner, and subject to the same regulations, as Companions receiving the degrees in the Chapter and failing to comply with this requirement. The Massachusetts Chapter of Research shall be exempt from the requirement that its members sign its By-laws.

ARTICLE XIV Subordinate Chapters - Fees and Dues

SECTION 1. No candidate shall be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason by any Chapter under this jurisdiction who shall not have first recorded his Mark in the Lodge Book, nor for a sum less than twenty-five dollars, and no candidate shall be balloted for until such fee shall be paid. No note of hand, or any other form of a promise to pay, shall be taken by any Chapter for the fees or any part of the fees.

SECTION 2. Every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall provide for annual dues from its members, except Life, Honorary, and any other exceptions especially exempted in their Bylaws. Such dues should be based upon the requirements of the Chapter, but in no case shall be less than four dollars annually.

SECTION 3. Any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter that provides for Life Membership, must comply with the following requirements:

The fee shall not be less than twenty times the annual dues, and in no case shall it be less than eighty dollars.

All moneys received for Life Memberships, and such other moneys as may be added by vote of the Chapter, shall constitute a permanent fund, which shall be invested in the name of the Chapter.

The management and investment of the same shall be placed in the care of a Board of Trustees, who shall be elected by the Chapter at the annual election. The term of office of a Trustee shall begin on the date of the annual installation of officers. The Board of Trustees shall annually make a report in writing to the Chapter, of the condition and amount of funds in their care, and how the same are invested.

Nothing but the income of the said fund shall be used for any purpose whatsoever, unless a notice in writing to that effect shall have been presented at a Regular Convocation of the Chapter, and notice of such intended action shall have been printed on the notices of a subsequent Regular Convocation and mailed to every member of the Chapter at least one week before such action is to be taken, and then by not less than a two thirds vote of the members present.

SECTION 4. Chapters may provide for life membership for its members who have attained the age of 65 years by the payment of the sum of \$100.00 and, in addition, payment of Grand Chapter dues to be in accordance with Article X, Section 5E.

ARTICLE XV Illegality of Chapters and Members

SECTION 1. No Chapter or assembly of Royal Arch Masons that may be formed within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be deemed legal without the sanction of a Charter or Dispensation from this Grand Chapter.

Masonic communication, either public or private, is hereby strictly forbidden between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or between any member of any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, and any Chapter or Lodge that may be so opened, or any member, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge.

The punishment for breach of any part of this Section shall be expulsion and exclusion from the benefits of Royal Arch Masonry.

SECTION 2. If any worthy Companion from without this jurisdiction shall present himself to any Chapter in this jurisdiction as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of having received that degree, and that he is in good standing in his own jurisdiction, any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter is hereby authorized to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master, or any of them, on such Companion, to the end that he may be healed, and thereby become a regular Royal Arch Mason, and the subordinate Chapter conferring said degrees, free of charge, shall be exempt from any dues to the Grand Chapter therefore. Such action shall be duly recorded and reported to the Grand Secretary.

SECTION 3. No visitor shall be admitted into any Chapter in this jurisdiction except he has qualified as a Royal Arch Mason, and has produced satisfactory evidence that he is in good standing in his own jurisdiction.

This requirement is essential, irrespective of the degree upon which the Chapter may be opened.

ARTICLE XVI
Subordinate Chapters - Particular Regulations
Changes of Location

SECTION 1. If at least a two thirds majority of the members of any Chapter in this jurisdiction present at a Regular Convocation of their Chapter shall vote to remove their Chapter to any other place, the Grand Chapter may authorize such removal; provided, that the proposed action shall be borne on the notices of the Chapter for three successive Regular Convocations, including that upon which action is taken.

DUPLICATE CHARTERS

SECTION 2. For the better preservation of the Charters of Chapters under this jurisdiction, which are likely to become defaced by age or wear, a copy of such Charter, duly certified by the Grand Secretary, and under the seal of the Grand Chapter, may, with the approbation of the Grand High Priest, be granted to such Chapter on its request, to be used for all Chapter purposes in the same manner and with the same effect as the original Charter.

A Chapter using said copy of its Charter, as hereinbefore provided, shall annually present to the District Deputy Grand High Priest, upon his official visitation, a certificate signed by the High Priest and Secretary under the seal of the Chapter, certifying that the original Charter is in existence in safekeeping and the exact location of the same. Such certificates shall be kept on file by the Grand Secretary.

The Grand High Priest or District Deputy Grand High Priest, whenever he shall deem it expedient may, upon due notice, order the production of the original Charter for inspection or other purposes.

SEAL

SECTION 3. Each subordinate Chapter shall have a Seal, which shall be defined in its Bylaws. The Seal shall be affixed to all communications made to this Grand Chapter, and to all credentials which may be given by such Chapter to any member thereof, and on all other official papers issued by the Chapter.

BYLAWS

SECTION 4. Every Chapter chartered by this Grand Chapter shall adopt Bylaws for its government, and the same must conform to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Chapter. These Bylaws shall fix the date of the Regular Convocations, the fee for the several degrees, the annual dues of the members, the time of the Annual Convocation and election of its officers, and such other regulations as may be deemed advisable.

SECTION 5. The Constitution and Regulations of this Grand Chapter shall govern in all cases arising from inconsistency or lack of provision in the Bylaws of any subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction.

APPEARING IN PUBLIC

SECTION 6. No Chapter in this jurisdiction shall appear in public for any purpose, except to attend divine service, Royal Arch funerals, or for installation of officers, without a Dispensation from the Grand High Priest.

NOTICES OF CONVOCATIONS

SECTION 7. Every Chapter in this jurisdiction shall duly send a written or printed sealed notice to its members, of all Regular Convocations of the Chapter, giving place and time of meeting, business to be transacted, and the full name, residential address and occupation of candidates to be balloted for, with such other information as may be proper. Written or printed notice of a Special Convocation must also be duly sent to all members of the Chapter, and no business shall be transacted other than that borne upon the notice.

Every Chapter in this jurisdiction shall send to the Grand High Priest, and to the Grand Secretary, copies of all notices of Chapter Convocations, mailed on the same day they are sent to their own members.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS

SECTION 8. The High Priest, or presiding officer of each Chapter, when notified of the intended official visit of the District Deputy Grand High Priest, shall convene his Chapter, receive him as the representative of the Grand High Priest, resign the chair to him while making his official visit, and submit to his inspection the Charter, Bylaws, Records, Book of Marks, Constitution & Digest, Royal Arch Handbook, and mode of work.

TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

SECTION 9. The business of the Chapter, and visitations of Grand Officers may be transacted in any of the degrees, with the exception of the installation of officers, and visitations by the Grand High Priest, which must be on the Royal Arch Degree. *(October 9, 2009)*

TIME OF ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

SECTION 10. The Annual Convocation of each and every Chapter shall be held in September or October. The officers may be elected at a Regular Convocation held in May or June, and must be elected not later than the Annual Convocation. The officers may be installed not earlier than the Annual Convocation, and must be installed not later than the next Regular Convocation thereafter, except by dispensation from the Grand High Priest.

CORRESPONDENCE

SECTION 11. Inter-jurisdictional correspondence shall, in all cases, be conducted through the office of the Grand High Priest, except as he may otherwise order.

ARTICLE XVII

Particular Regulations Concerning Candidates and Members

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MASONIC RESIDENCE

SECTION 1. In order to guard more carefully that period of acquaintance and residence which is desirable, and that Chapters may be able to acquire proper knowledge as to candidates, the length of time necessary for a Mason to reside within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, to be entitled to apply for the Capitular Degrees, shall not be less than six months, during which time he shall be under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter where he last resided for not less than six months.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 2. No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall confer the degrees upon any candidate whose physical defects are such as to prevent him from receiving and imparting the ceremonies of the several degrees, unless dispensation shall be granted by the Grand High Priest.

DISPENSATION REQUIRED FOR INTERCHANGE OF WORK

SECTION 3. No Chapter, as a Chapter, except under Dispensation from the Grand High Priest, shall work any degree outside its own Lodge Room, or upon candidates of Chapters in any other jurisdiction.

WORK OF THE DEGREES LIMITED

SECTION 4. At least one day shall intervene between the conferring of the Most Excellent degree and that of Royal Arch, on the same candidate. Of the three degrees– Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master– not more than two degrees may be conferred on the same candidate in one day. All degrees shall be conferred in full form. The Grand High Priest may grant a Dispensation permitting other action.

FAILURE OF CANDIDATE TO APPEAR

SECTION 5. A candidate who fails to appear within six months after he has been notified to present himself to receive the degrees, shall forfeit the fee paid, provided he has no sufficient reason for his absence; and if the time exceeds one year, the previous election shall be void. He may regularly petition again, and if his absence is satisfactorily accounted for to the Chapter the repayment of the fee may be waived by vote of the Chapter.

DEMITTS

SECTION 6. A demit is the severance of Chapter membership. A member desiring a demit must make a written application to the Secretary. If he is clear on the books, and no charges are preferred against him, it must be granted.

A demitted Companion is in good standing as such, and may apply to any Royal Arch Chapter, at any time, for membership.

A Companion applying for membership within this jurisdiction must have a demit from the Chapter of which he was previously a member, or present a certificate of membership in a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

PREFERRING CHARGES

SECTION 7. When any member of any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be accused of any offense, which if proved against him would subject him to suspension or expulsion, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted agreeably to the following rules:

First. The accusations shall be made in writing, over the signature of a Royal Arch Mason, and given in charge to the Secretary of the Chapter, who, under the direction of the High Priest, shall serve, or cause to be served, an attested copy of the charges to the accused, fourteen days at least previous to the time appointed for his examination; provided the residence of the accused shall be known and is within twenty miles of the place where the Chapter is located. If at a greater distance, but within the Grand Jurisdiction, a summons to appear and show cause, forwarded to him by mail or other conveyance, twenty days at least before the time of trial, shall be sufficient service. If the residence of the accused be unknown, the Chapter may proceed to examine the charges ex-parte.

Second. The examination of the charges shall be had in a Chapter specially notified and convened for the purpose, at which no visitors shall be admitted, except as counsel or witnesses.

Third. The accused may select his own counsel, and the witnesses shall testify on their honor; hearsay evidence shall be excluded.

Fourth. The question "Is the accused guilty or not guilty" shall be distinctly put to each member of the Chapter present, by name. The answer shall be given standing, and in a distinct and audible manner. The Secretary shall record each answer as given.

Fifth. If the verdict be suspension or expulsion, the proceedings shall be forthwith presented to the Grand High Priest, for examination at the ensuing Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

Sixth. A sentence of expulsion shall not take effect until confirmed by the Grand Chapter, but shall operate immediately as a suspension of the delinquent.

Seventh. A companion shall have the right of an appeal to the Grand Chapter from the decision of a subordinate Chapter, he having given due notice to the subordinate Chapter, in writing, of his intention to appeal from its decision.

Eighth. Whenever this Grand Chapter shall reverse the decision of a subordinate Chapter, suspending or expelling a Companion, and shall restore him to the benefits and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within the Chapter from which he was suspended, or expelled, without its unanimous vote.

Ninth. In all other respects than those herein specified, the proceedings shall be conducted agreeably to the regulations of Ancient Craft Masonry.

ARTICLE XVIII

Amendments

SECTION 1. This Constitution and these Particular Regulations shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be proposed in writing at one Regular Convocation of this Grand Chapter, and at a subsequent Regular Convocation receive the approval of not less than two thirds of the members then present.

DIGEST OF CAPITULAR LAW
As Adopted by
The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts

1. Appeal. No appeal can be made to a Chapter from a decision of its High Priest. His decision can be reviewed only by the Grand High Priest during the recess of the Grand Chapter, or by appeal directly to the Grand Chapter.
2. Ballot. (a) In a ballot for officers, a blank piece of paper or a vote for an ineligible candidate thrown into the ballot box, contains no expression of the will, desire, or preference of the voter, and is not to be counted as a vote.

(b) The ballot on an application for the degrees or membership must be held absolutely sacred, and no member shall be required to give his reasons for the ballot which he has deposited, or disclose the manner in which he voted, under any circumstances whatever.
3. Bylaws. No Chapter shall suspend the operation of a Bylaw nor at a Special Meeting alter or amend any part of the proceedings of a Regular Convocation.
4. Candidates. (a) After an application for the degrees or membership is read, and before a committee of investigation has been appointed, it is the right of a member to object to the application being received, in which case the High Priest shall order it to be returned to the applicant without further action on the part of the Chapter; but such objection shall not prevent the applicant from again applying at a subsequent Convocation.

(b) In case of objection to the conferring of the degrees on a candidate who has been elected, unless the objector announces his objections as temporary and only for the purpose of further inquiry, it shall be considered as having the effect of a black ball. The fee shall be returned, and the candidate may be permitted to apply again after the expiration of six months from the date of objection.

(c) Should objections be made to the advancement of a candidate after he shall have received one of the Chapter degrees, it shall be the duty of the High Priest to order the Companion so objecting to file written charges forthwith.

All objections to advancement, after a degree has been conferred, shall be recorded, together with the name of the objector.

The objecting Companion shall prefer formal charges within two months, based on the grounds of his objection previously filed, and a trial shall be had thereon without delay.

Should the objecting Companion fail or refuse to prefer charges within the time specified, the Chapter shall have the right to proceed in conferring the remaining degrees, unless objection on other grounds is made by some Companion.

(d) A Chapter cannot waive its jurisdiction over a candidate for advancement against whom objection has been duly made.

5. Office. (a) No Companion shall be installed High Priest of a Chapter who has not served at least one year in the office of either King or Scribe. A Companion who has served as either King or Scribe in a Chapter acting Under Dispensation is eligible for election as its High Priest.

(b) The officers of a Chapter are elected to serve for a term of twelve months, except when chosen to fill vacancies, and in all cases shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and installed.

(c) The High Priest, King or Scribe of a Chapter cannot resign, but any other officer may do so. An installed officer cannot demit while in office.

(d) Past High Priests of subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction, having satisfactorily completed a term in office, shall retain the title "Excellent."

(e) Past District Deputy Grand High Priests in this jurisdiction, having satisfactorily completed a term in office, shall retain the title "Right Excellent."

(f) Should any Companion, elected as Treasurer or Secretary, have reached the age of seventy years, an **Assistant** Treasurer or **Assistant** Secretary, as appropriate, shall be elected by the Chapter without any change in its Bylaws; said Deputy Treasurer or Deputy Secretary only to be authorized to fill the office in the event of any incapacity of his principal certified in writing by the High Priest. *(October 9, 2009) (October 15, 2010)*

6. Installations. (a) An installation of the officers cannot be held either in public or in private without first opening the Chapter. The records of the Chapter must show the installation of its officers, and records should be made only of business transacted while the Chapter is in session.

(b) None but present or Past High Priests of this jurisdiction, are qualified to install the officers of a Chapter and no one may participate in an installation unless he is a Royal Arch Mason in good standing.

7. Summons. (a) A summons issued by a Chapter must be written or printed and under the Seal of the Chapter, and need not contain anything beyond the requisition to attend.

(b) On complaint of a Royal Arch Mason, the Chapter may issue a summons to the party accused, and try, and sentence him subject to the approval of the Grand Chapter.

(c) Every Royal Arch Mason is bound to obey the summons of his Chapter, and present himself, if within the scope of his ability.

8. Suspension. (a) Any member in arrears for dues may be suspended from membership at a Regular Convocation of the Chapter, by a majority vote of members of the Chapter present; provided, that he must first have been duly notified by the Secretary, under Seal of the Chapter, of his delinquency, and of the time and place of the proposed action thereon, at least thirty days before action is taken.

(b) The payment of dues shall reinstate a suspended Companion. The Secretary shall report the same to the Chapter, and the fact of such payment shall be noted in the records; provided, however, that no Companion who shall remain in arrears one year after his suspension shall be reinstated except by a majority vote of the members of the Chapter present, and until all past dues are paid or remitted.

(c) Suspension for nonpayment of dues of a member of any Chapter shall operate as a suspension of his right to attend the Convocations of any Chapter in this jurisdiction until such dues are paid or remitted.

9. Visitors. No visitor shall be admitted into a Chapter if a member of such Chapter, who is present, objects; provided, that no objection shall be valid against any Grand Officer visiting in an official capacity; nor against anyone specially deputized by the Grand High Priest to visit said Chapter; nor against a Royal Arch Mason in good standing who is acting as counsel

for a Companion on trial. Such objection shall not extend beyond the Convocation at which it is made and shall not be recorded.

10. Vote, Reconsideration of. A Chapter may reconsider any vote, except balloting on candidates or for membership, at the same or next succeeding Regular Convocation; provided that the same has not gone into effect, and that due notice of such proposed action be given.

11. Work. Every Chapter shall practice the work as adopted by this Grand Chapter, and exemplified by the Grand Lecturers. The ritual of the Past Master degree shall be confined exclusively to the text as laid down by the Grand Chapter, and shall be conferred without any intermission or interruption in the order of progression. In the Royal Arch degree the candidates for exaltation shall be under the exclusive control of the proper officers, and without interference by any other Companion. Any Chapter willfully violating these provisions shall be subject to discipline.

12. Honors. No Chapter under this jurisdiction has the authority to create an Honorary Past High Priest.

REGALIA **Grand Chapter**

SECTION 1. The aprons of the Officers of the Grand Chapter shall be as follows: 15 x 17 inches with scarlet satin center 11 ½ x 10 ¼ inches, with white satin border 1 ¾ inches wide, with heavy twisted pattern gold fringe two inches deep on apron and flap. Flap shall be of white satin, with twisted cord of gold to define the body of the same. (Gold may be interpreted to mean of gold color.)

Aprons for Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe shall have white satin tabs with gold flat tassels on the ends, and shall be embroidered on the lower comers, flaps and tabs, in lily of the valley gold embroidery.

The emblems on the flaps of the aprons shall be: Grand High Priest, triple triangle, or nine-pointed star, within a circle of gold. This is presented upon installation and becomes his permanent property. Deputy Grand High Priest, square with Jewish Mitre on top; Grand King, level with crown on top; Grand Scribe, plumb with turban on top, all within a circle of gold. . *(October 9, 2009);*

Aprons will be lined with scarlet satin and have scarlet satin ribbons or belts.

Aprons for other officers to be same as above, except without the two tabs, and without any embroidery whatever except on the flap, which will have a triple-tau and triangle within a circle, embroidered in gold and with twisted cord of gold to define the body of the same.

Past Grand High Priests' aprons shall be the same as that of the Grand High Priest. *(October 9, 2009)*

Aprons of Past Deputy Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings and Past Grand Scribes shall be the same as the aprons of the active officers, except there shall be no circle around the emblems.

Aprons of Past District Deputy Grand High Priests shall be the same as a Past High Priest except that the breastplate shall be surmounted by the numerical designation of the District, and all to be within a wreath of gold.

Aprons for members of the Grand Chapter, other than above, shall be white with flap, the apron and flap bordered with scarlet.

SECTION 2 The jewels of the Grand Officers shall be as follows: Grand High Priest, breastplate of Jewish High Priest; Deputy Grand High Priest, square with Jewish Mitre on top; Grand King, level with crown on top; Grand Scribe, plumb with turban on top; Grand Chaplain, open Bible within a circle; District Deputy Grand High Priests, breastplate within a circle; Treasurer, crossed keys; Secretary,

crossed pens; Grand Lecturer, 47th Problem of Euclid; Captain of the Host, Knight with sword and shield; Principal Sojourner, pilgrim with staff; Royal Arch Captain, suspended sword; Master of the Third Veil, signet of Zerubbabel; Master of the Second Veil, hand; Master of the First Veil, serpent; Stewards, cornucopia; Organist, harp; Tyler, crossed swords.

The jewels of all officers of the Grand Chapter, except that of Grand High Priest, shall be enclosed within a triangle.

The jewels of Past Grand High Priests shall be of the style and pattern now in use.

The jewels of other permanent members of the Grand Chapter shall bear the emblems of the offices represented, enclosed within an equilateral triangle whose sides shall be not more than 1 ½ inches in length, and to conform to designs provided by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. They may be suspended from a pin or bar ornamented with emblems or initials appropriate to the Chapter or to the recipient of the jewel.

The collars of the Grand Officers shall be chains of gold or gilt metal, lined with scarlet velvet.

The jewel of Past District Deputy Grand High Priests shall be a breastplate within a circle, not to exceed 1 ½ inches in diameter, suspended from a pin or bar bearing the number of the District over which they have presided, the whole to conform to the design on file in the office of the Grand Secretary.

Subordinate Chapters

SECTION 3 The aprons of members shall be of white fabric, not more than 15 inches deep and 17 inches wide, the body and flap of white, with scarlet edging not in excess of two inches wide on the body and 1 ½ inches wide on the flap. The ties shall be of scarlet ribbons or belts.

The aprons of officers shall be of white fabric, not more than 1 ½ inches deep and 17 inches wide, the body and flap of white, outlined with a gold braid; beyond this a scarlet border with the same dimensions as above. The flap must be triangular in shape. Apron and flap may be trimmed with gold fringe. The ties shall be of scarlet ribbons or belts. The jewel of their offices may be embroidered in the center of the apron.

Aprons of Past High Priests shall be the same as above, with a triple-tau and triangle within a circle embroidered in gold on the flap, a breastplate surmounted by a Jewish Mitre, also embroidered in gold, on the body, and without tabs.

SECTION 4 The jewels of subordinate Chapters shall be as follows: High Priest, breastplate of Jewish High Priest; King, level surmounted by a crown, embossed on a gilt metal circular plate; Scribe, plumb surmounted by a turban, embossed on a gilt circular plate; Treasurer, crossed keys; Secretary, crossed pens; Chaplain, circle; Captain of the Host, knight with sword and shield; Principal Sojourner, pilgrim with staff; Royal Arch Captain, suspended sword; Master of Third Veil, signet of Zerubbabel; Master of Second Veil, hand; Master of First Veil, serpent; Stewards, cornucopia; Organist, harp; Tyler, crossed swords.

The jewels of all officers of the Chapter, from and including the Captain of the Host to the Tyler, shall be enclosed within a triangle.

The jewel of a Past High Priest shall be a breastplate surmounted by a Jewish Mitre within the square and compasses, suspended from a bar or heading which may display emblems or initials appropriate to the Chapter or to the recipient of the jewel.

The collars of the Officers shall be of gilt metal. The ornamentation shall be significant of Royal Arch Masonry. The collars may be lined with scarlet velvet.

SECTION 5 The use of robes for officers is optional with the Chapter. When used, must be appropriate in character and have the approval of the Grand High Priest.

Swords and belts must be provided for the Captain of the Host, Royal Arch Captain, and three Masters of the Veils, and Tyler.

The banners shall be as follows: Royal Arch Captain, white, with figure of Eagle and name Dan; Third Veil, Scarlet, with figure of Man and the name Ephraim; Second Veil, Purple with figure of Ox and the name Ruben; First Veil, Blue, with the figure of Lion and the name Judah.

The veils shall correspond in color with the banners.

MASONIC CALENDAR

Ancient Craft Masons commence their era with the creation of the world, calling it *Anno Lucas* (A.L.), "in the year of light."

Scottish Rite, same as Ancient Craft, except the Jewish chronology is used, *Anno Mundi* (A.M.), "in the year of the world."

Royal Arch Masons date from the year the second temple was commenced by Zerubbabel, *Anno Inventionis* (A.I.), "in the year of the discovery."

Royal and Select Master Masons date from the year in which the temple of Solomon was completed, *Anno Depositionis* (A. Dep.), "in the year of the deposit."

Knights Templar commence their era with the organization of their order, *Anno Ordinis* (A.O.), "in the year of the order."

Order of High Priesthood dates from the year of the blessing of Abraham by the High Priest Melchizedek, *Anno Benefacio* (A.B.), "in the year of the blessing."

RULES FOR MASONIC DATES

Ancient Craft Masons. Add 4000 years to the common era. Thus: 2001 and 4000 = 6001.

Scottish Rite. Add 3760 to the common era. Thus: 2001 and 3760 = 5761. After September add another year.

Royal Arch. Add 530 years to the vulgar era. Thus: 2001 and 530 = 2531.

Royal and Select Master Masons. Add 1000 to the common era. Thus: 2001 and 1000 = 3001.

Knights Templar. From the Christian era take 1118. Thus: 1118 from 2001 = 883.

Order of High Priesthood. To the Christian era add 1913, the Year of the Blessing. Thus: 2001 and 1913 = 3914.

CEREMONY OF CONSTITUTION OF A NEW CHAPTER

The new Chapter U. D. will meet in its hall and open on the Royal Arch Degree; the Grand Officers will meet in an adjoining room, and on being notified by a committee of the new Chapter that its members are ready for their reception, they will proceed to the Chapter room, where being received by the new Chapter with the Private Grand Honors, the officers of the new Chapter resign their stations to the Grand Officers.

Anthem.

Prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

Almighty and Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth! Who is there in Heaven but thee? And who upon earth can stand in competition with thee? Thy Omniscient Mind brings all things in review, past, present and to come; thine Omnipotent Arm directs the movements of the vast creation; thine Omnipresent Eye pervades the secret recesses of every heart; thy boundless beneficence supplies us with every comfort and enjoyment; and thine unspeakable perfections and glory surpass the understanding of the children of men! Our Father, who art in Heaven, we invoke thy benediction upon the purposes of our present assembly. May this Chapter be established to thine honor, and consecrated to thy glory; may its officers be endowed with wisdom to discern, and fidelity to pursue, its true interests; and may its members be ever mindful of the duty they owe to their God, the obedience they owe to their superiors, the love they owe to their equals, and the goodwill they owe to all mankind Glory be to God on high!

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. So mote it be. AMEN.

The Companions are seated.

Oration.

The Deputy Grand High Priest says:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, a number of Companions, duly instructed in the sublime mysteries, being desirous of promoting the honor, and propagating the principles of the Art, have applied to the Grand Chapter for a Warrant to constitute a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which having been obtained, they are now assembled for the purpose of being constituted, and having their officers installed in due and ancient form.

Grand High Priest. Let the Warrant of Constitution be read.

The Grand Secretary reads the Charter, and each Companion rises in his place as his name is read.

Grand High Priest. Companions, do you still approve of the officers as named herein?

Companions. We do.

Grand High Priest. By virtue of the high powers in me vested, I do form you, my respected Companions, into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. From henceforth you are authorized and empowered to open and hold a Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; and to do and perform all such things as thereunto may appertain; conforming in all your doings to the Constitution and Digest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts. And may the God of your Fathers be with you, guide, and direct you, in all your doings.

The Grand Chaplain, with the pot of incense in his hands, says:

To our most excellent patron Zerubbabel, we solemnly dedicate this Chapter. May the blessing of our heavenly High Priest descend and rest upon its members, and may their felicity be immortal. Glory be to God on high!

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

The Companions are seated.

Music or an Ode.

The Deputy Grand High Priest then requests the Grand Captain of the Host to present the High Priest of the new Chapter to the Grand High Priest for installation, saying:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, I present you Companion..... nominated in the Warrant, to be installed High Priest of this new Chapter. I find him to be skillful in the royal art, and attentive to the moral precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity.

Then follows the ceremony of installation.