

**Constitution and Bylaws
Of
The Grand Chapter
Of
Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska**

P R E F A C E

To All Companions of the Capitular Rite under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska:

The revised Law was submitted to and adopted by the One Hundred and Fifty fifth Annual Convocation held at Kearney Nebraska on April 8th, 2022, and is revised to the present date.

Grand Recorder

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**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF NEBRASKA**

PREAMBLE

The Grand Chapter of Nebraska does hereby ordain, establish, and promulgate the following Constitution and By-Laws for its future government, and does make and prescribe the following rules and regulations for the government of the Chapter under its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this Grand Chapter shall be “The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska.”

ARTICLE II

MEMBERS

This Grand Chapter shall consist:

1. Of the following elective officers:
 - Grand High Priest, titled Most Excellent
 - Grand King)
 - Grand Scribe) titled Right
 - Grand Treasurer) Excellent
 - Grand Secretary)
2. Of the following appointive offices:
 - Grand Chaplain) titled Right Excellent
 - Grand Lecturer, _____) titled Right Excellent
 - Grand Captain of the Host)
 - Grand Principal Sojourner)
 - Grand Royal Arch Captain) titled
 - Grand Master of the Third Veil) Excellent
 - Grand Master of the Second Veil)
 - Grand Master of the First Veil)
 - Grand Sentinel _____)

3. All Past High Priests who are members of Chapters in this Jurisdiction, and
4. The High Priests, Kings, Scribes and Secretaries forming the Counsels/Leadership of the Chapters of this Jurisdiction or their duly constituted proxies.

ARTICLE III

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The Grand Chapter shall hold an Annual Convocation in such place as the Grand High Priest-Elect in conjunction with the Illustrious Grand Master-Elect and the Grand Commander-Elect shall designate with the approval of the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE IV

CONSTITUTIONAL NUMBER

The Grand Chapter shall not be opened, nor shall any business be transacted therein, unless there be present representatives from at least five of the Chapters: but a smaller number may meet and adjourn from day to day until a constitutional number shall attend.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The officers of this Grand Chapter shall rank as listed in Article II. Installation shall be necessary to confer rank, and Past Grand Officers shall retain their titles.

1. The elective Grand Officers shall be elected by secret ballot at the Annual Convocation. The appointive Grand Officers shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest immediately following his election.
2. None of the following Grand Chapter officers should be members of the same Chapter: Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe unless there is a lack of attendance by subordinate chapters to where selection of these officers from one Chapter is necessary. Consideration should also be given in those times when a member is a dual member in more than one Chapter. However there shall be a minimum of a one year spacing between these Grand Officer positions.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY

1. No Companion shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest, Grand King or Grand Scribe unless he has been regularly elected, installed and presided over a Chapter.

2. No Companion should be elected or appointed to serve in the advancing line of this Grand Chapter if concurrently serving in the Grand Council or Grand Commandery advancing line. If this option is not possible because of poor attendance in sessions then there should be at least one year separating the relative rank of the offices of the advancing lines of the respective Grand Bodies. This restriction does not include the Office of Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer.
3. The advancing line for this Grand Chapter shall commence with the Grand Principal Sojourner

ARTICLE VII

GRAND COUNCIL/LEADERSHIP

The Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe compose the Grand Council/Leadership. In case of the death, permanent absence from the State or disability of the Grand High Priest, from any cause, to perform the functions of his office, the, the Grand King, the Grand Scribe, in order of their rank, shall succeed to the office of Grand High Priest, and, upon being installed by any Past Grand High Priest, shall thereupon assume the duties of Grand High Priest, and be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Grand High Priest. In the event that the King and Scribe also cannot advance then a special election needs to be held and convened by the next most junior Past Grand High Priest to elect and install officers.

ARTICLE VIII

INSTALLATION

No Grand Officer shall officiate in the station to which he is elected or appointed until he has been installed, except as a temporary appointment.

ARTICLE IX

POWERS & AUTHORITY

This Grand Chapter is the highest source of authority in Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction, subject to the ancient landmarks and to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

1. As such, it has the government and control of all lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters and Chapters of Royal Arch Masons together with the Grand Convention, Order of High Priesthood, within the State of Nebraska.

2. It may grant charters, warrants and dispensations for constituting Chapters of Royal Arch Masons without the consent of the nearest Chapter, and, when expedient, arrest, revoke or annul the same.
3. It may make, alter and repeal, at pleasure, laws for its governments and for the control of its own members.

ARTICLE X

THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST

In the interval between the annual convocations of the Grand Chapter the Grand High Priest shall have power:

1. To issue special dispensations for the following purposes:
 - (a) To elect, or to install officers of a Chapter at a time other than that fixed by law.
 - (b) To act upon petitions for the degrees without requiring the petition to lie over one month for investigation.
 - (c) To confer the degrees of Mark Master and Past Master in the lodge room of any lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepting Masons within the Jurisdiction of the Chapter when it appears for the best interest of Royal Arch Masonry.
 - (d) To confer any of the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry at a place approved by the Grand High Priest and under the supervision of the Grand Chapter when it appears to be for the best interest of Royal Arch Masonry.
 - (e) The Grand High Priest of Nebraska has the prerogative and power to confer the several degrees of Royal Arch Masonry on sight when requested to do so by a constituent Chapter.
 - (I) Initiation to be done by or in the presence of the Grand High Priest and subject to the following conditions:
 - (A) Request must be made in writing and under seal by a Royal Arch Chapter chartered in Nebraska.
 - (B) Request must be submitted directly to the Grand High Priest or the Grand Secretary.
 - (C) The decision to grant the request will be made by the Grand High Priest.

(D) All petitioners for this honor shall have presented a standard petition to aforementioned Royal Arch Chapter together with the accompanying fees. Said Chapter must give unanimous consent at a regular stated meeting. Petitioner would become a regular member of the Chapter presenting the request, and would assume all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership in that Chapter.

(E) Initiation must consist of all four obligations, together with an explanation of the mark as well as selection and recording of a mark, along with the sign and word of all four degrees.

(F) The Grand High Priest may appoint a Past Grand High Priest as a proxy to perform this conferral.

2. To consider, approve, amend or reject all proposed by-laws and amendments of Chapters submitted to him and to see to the review of the constitution and bylaws of this Grand Jurisdiction a minimum of every three years.
3. To fill vacancies that may occur in the offices of the Grand Chapter, excepting those of Grand King, or Grand Scribe and in these the Grand High Priest can only make temporary appointments to fill until next annual convocation or until a special convocation is held for the purpose of electing officers into these positions.
4. To appoint representatives near other recognized Grand Chapters and shall issue an appropriate certificate and will receive and accredit such representatives from them.
5. Such appointment shall continue and remain in force until another appointment is made, the Commission is revoked, or the Companion ceases to be a member in good standing of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the Jurisdiction to which he is accredited, or removal from the Jurisdiction. No one shall be recommended for appointment as representative who represents another Grand Chapter.
6. Representatives shall be entitled to seats and to participate in the deliberation of the Grand Body, but not to vote therein.
7. Any representative not present at one of three (3) successive Annual Convocations of the Grand Chapter shall show cause why he should not forfeit his status as Grand Representative.

8. To suspend any officer of the subordinate Chapter from the exercise of the powers or duties of his office, for good reasons shown, until the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.
9. To convene any subordinate Chapter, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and compel its conformity to Chapter usages.
10. To arrest the charter or dispensation of any subordinate Chapter, for good reason shown, and suspend the operations thereof until the next annual communication.
11. To require the attendance of and information from any Grand Chapter Officer respecting matters pertaining to the duties of his office.
12. Shall review the Constitution and bylaws of the Grand Chapter at a minimum of every two years to ensure currency and that all changes made in previous sessions has been incorporated and acted upon.

ARTICLE XI

GRAND OFFICERS

Any Grand Officer who shall, during the terms for which he was chosen, move from this Grand Jurisdiction or ceases to be a member in good standing of a Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction, thereby vacates his office.

ARTICLE XII

FORMATION OF CHAPTERS

Chapters may be formed by authority of a dispensation from the Grand High Priest or of a charter from this Grand Chapter; and no charter shall be granted to any Chapter until it shall have worked for a time under a dispensation and shall have exhibited to the Grand Chapter suitable specimens of its skill.

1. Upon the petition of fifteen or more Royal Arch Masons being presented to the Grand High Priest, he may grant them a dispensation to open and hold a Chapter and shall therein appoint the High Priest, King and Scribe.
2. Such petition, except by order of the Grand Chapter, must have the recommendation of the Chapter nearest the place where the new Chapter is proposed to be located, certifying under its seal, attested by the Secretary, that the petitioners are Royal Arch Masons in good standing and are also members in good standing of some lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons or Free and Accepted Masons in the case of the Nebraska's Grand Lodge recognition of Prince Hall Lodges.

- a. This petition must be accompanied by a certificate from the Grand Lecturer stating that a suitable room has been provided therefore and that the principal officers are competent to confer the several degrees in a suitable and impressive manner.
 - b. Such dispensation shall terminate on the first day of the month preceding the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, and shall then be returned to the Grand Secretary, together with the proposed by-laws, book of records and statement of work done.
3. No warrant or dispensation for the institution of a new Chapter shall be granted for a less sum than fifty dollars and no charter shall be granted for a less sum than one hundred twenty five dollars, in addition to the dispensation fee herein provided for.
4. No new Chapter shall be named for any living person or for any city, town or village situated in this jurisdiction. Chapter's already named for a city, town or village currently in the Grand Chapter are exempt from this ruling.
5. No dispensation or charter shall be granted for instituting lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters or Most Excellent Masters independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing, specifying the article and section to be amended, at any annual convocation of the Grand Chapter and shall be published in the proceedings and lie over for consideration until the next annual convocation. If then adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present, in the usual manner of voting, they thereby become a part of the constitution of this Grand Chapter, except that by consent of four-fifths of the members present and voting the proposed amendment may be considered immediately.

**BY-LAWS Of THE
GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF NEBRASKA**

CHAPTER 1.

GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION AND COMMITTEES

The Grand Chapter shall hold a convocation annually on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday after the first Tuesday of April at the time and place designated by the Grand High Priest and approved by the Grand Chapter, provided that the convocation days do not conflict with Easter Holiday and are de-conflicted as much as possible with other Grand Convocations in the North Central Region.

COMMITTEES

The Grand High Priest shall appoint the following committees, the first named member being the Chairman:

1. At the time of his installation or within one month after installation:
 - a. Fraternal Relations, three members.
 - b. Necrology, three members.
 - c. Nebraska Masonic Homes, one member, a Past Grand High Priest to serve three years.
 - d. Charters and Dispensations, three members as occasion arises.
 - e. Royal Arch Education, five members.
 - f. Budget and Finance, as provided in Section 10.
 - g. Codification of the Law.
 - h. Perpetual Life Membership.
 - i. Preservation and Restoration of Constituent Chapters.

2. At or before the opening of the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter.
 - a. Credentials, three members,
 - b. Jurisprudence/Doings of Grand Officers,
 - c. Any other committee of three members as occasion requires.
3. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consist of all Past Grand High Priests of this Grand Chapter, the junior Past Grand High Priest, present at the annual convocation, acting as Chairman. The Committee shall consider the address of the Grand High Priest, the reports of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Lecturer, and other Grand Officers, and recommend the distribution of the same to the proper committees
4. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall carefully consider and report upon all matters of law, controversy, and grievance which may be referred to it. It shall also examine all dispensations issued by the Grand High Priest, for new Chapters, and all work, records, and by-laws presented by Chapters under dispensation, and make such recommendation as to granting a charter as it may deem best.
5. The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall review the proceedings of all other Grand Chapters, furnished its Chairman by the Grand Secretary, and shall report there-on at the annual convocation when directed to do so.
6. The Committee on Necrology shall prepare and present to the Grand Chapter, at its annual convocation, suitable memorials to the dead of this and other Grand Jurisdictions. All announcements of the death of members of this or of other Grand Jurisdictions shall be referred, at once, by the Grand Secretary to the Chairman of this committee.
7. The committee on Nebraska Masonic Homes shall attend to all matters that may be referred to it relating to the Homes and shall recommend to the Grand Chapter at each annual convocation the amount it should appropriate for the maintenance of the Homes.
8. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations shall give notice to any Chapter which has not been represented at Grand Chapter for two consecutive annual convocations to appear at the next annual convocation of Grand Chapter to show cause why its charter should not be forfeited and shall report its recommendation to the Grand Chapter for action.
9. The Committees on Royal Arch Education shall consist of five members. The duties of said committee shall be to annually institute and promulgate to the constituent Chapters, a year-long program of an educational and informational program on Capitular Masonry. Such program shall be designed to inspire, hold the interest of and broaden the knowledge of the general membership. The committee shall be prepared, on request, to approve such educational materials as it may deem appropriate to the constituent bodies

of this Grand Chapter. The committee shall annually prepare and present a budget to the Grand Chapter Budget Committee to cover the costs of producing such material.

10. The Committee on Budget and Finance shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be recommended by the Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska and one of whom shall be recommended by the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Nebraska, to the end that its membership shall be identical with a similar committee on Budget and Finance of the Grand Council and Grand Commandery. The members shall be appointed for a term of three years except that in the first appointments the member representing the Grand Council shall serve for one year, the member representing the Grand Chapter shall serve for two years and the member representing the Grand Commandery shall serve for three years. It shall maintain a constant supervision over the financial affairs of the three Grand Bodies so represented to the end that all disbursements for payment of activities and services involving two or three of said Grand Bodies shall be equitably apportioned among them. It shall also examine the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, ascertain the just balance due thereon, and report the amount to the Grand Chapter. It shall take into consideration the condition of the funds of the Grand Chapter, and all propositions and resolutions affecting its revenue shall be referred to it; it shall report thereon, and may recommend any measures which, in its opinion, will operate for the financial benefit of the Grand Chapter. It shall recommend such appropriations as may be necessary for the expenses of the Grand Chapter, and additional ones as may be required from time to time. (1971) It shall further administer the Grand York Rite Endowment Fund, initially established as the \$100,000.00 club, shall invest said funds' monies to the financial advantage of the Grand York Rite, and shall decide appropriate fund disbursements in accordance with the rules of this fund published in the 2005 Grand Chapter Proceedings.

- a) The Grand York Rite Endowment Fund shall be used to support necessary expenses of the Grand York Rite of Nebraska. The principal balance of the Fund must be maintained at a level at least equal to \$100,000.
- b) The Committee shall be responsible for keeping records of all Fund transactions.
- c) The Committee shall present a report of all transactions and the current status of the Fund at each annual meeting of the Grand Bodies.

11. The Committee on Credentials shall examine the credentials of members and representatives attending the annual convocation, and shall report the names of the Grand Officers, Past Grand High Priests, representatives of Chartered Chapters, representatives of other Grand Chapters, and all members not included in the above, who are present.

12. The Codification of the Law Committee shall recommend specific language to effect changes in these by-laws adopted by the Grand Chapter.

13. The Committee of "Perpetual Life Membership" shall be elected at each Grand Chapter Convocation, committee to consist of three, and each Companion to serve a three

(3) year term, and each year one elected to the committee as one expires, for a period of three years.

14. The Committee for “Preservation and Restoration of Constituent Chapters” shall consist of the three (3) immediate Past Grand High Priests, each to serve for a term of three (3) years

CHAPTER 2.

GRAND OFFICERS

1. The Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds and securities of the Grand Chapter and shall pay all orders from the monies on hand that may be directed by the Grand Chapter or otherwise legally drawn.

(a) He shall attend all the convocations of the Grand Chapter, with the books, vouchers for money paid out, and all necessary papers relating to his office, in order that his accounts may be audited by the Committee on Budget and Finance.

(b) Before entering upon the duties of his office, he shall give bond from some approved security company in such sum as the Grand Council may direct the expense of the same to be paid by the Grand Chapter; when approved by the Grand High Priest, it shall be filed and retained by him and transmitted to his successor in office.

2. The Grand Secretary shall carefully examine and correct the annual returns of the Chapters, and submit to the Grand Chapter an abstract showing the number of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters, Royal Arch Masons and suspended members, the gain and loss during the year, and the number on the rolls at the close of the Masonic year, also a statement of the debits and credits of the Chapters.

(a) He shall record the transactions of the Grand Chapter and shall attend personally each annual convocation of the Grand Chapter with the necessary books and papers of his office.

(b) He shall keep the seal of the Grand Chapter, and affix the same with his attestation to all instruments required to be so executed. He shall receive all moneys belonging to the Grand Chapter.

(c) He shall keep a faithful journal of all its proceedings, distribute the same when ordered printed for circulation, and conduct any correspondence required of him under the orders of the Grand Chapter or the directions of the Grand High Priest.

(d) He shall procure all necessary books and stationery, and shall have charge of all records, jewels, papers, parchments, certificates, and documents and shall do and

perform any other duties customary to his office and the established usages of Royal Arch Masonry. He shall be, ex-officio, Librarian of the Grand Chapter and Chairman of the Committee on Fraternal Relations.

- (e) The Grand Secretary shall annually notify the Secretaries of the sums remaining due from or to each Chapter, on the twentieth day of December. On the thirty-first day of December of each year he shall close the accounts of each Chapter preparatory to submitting the same to the Grand Chapter at its annual convocation.
- (f) The Grand Secretary shall be custodian and have charge of the rituals of the Grand Chapter, including the rituals of the Grand Convention, Order of High Priesthood, and shall deliver the same to his successor in office, or during his term of office, to permit the same to be used by such persons as are designated by the Grand High Priest.
- (g) He shall give a bond to this Grand Chapter from some approved surety company, the expense of the same to be paid by the Grand Chapter; when approved by the Grand High Priest, it shall be filed and retained by him, and transmitted to his successor in office.

(I) He shall keep in stock for sale at cost to the Chapters all of the books and blanks enumerated in paragraph 12, Chapter 9, of the By-Laws Relating to Chapters.

3. The Grand Lecturer shall attend all Convocations of the Grand Chapter, and shall, under direction of the Grand High Priest, have the entire charge and supervision of the work of this Jurisdiction. It shall be his duty to see that uniform and established work and lectures of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska are thoroughly taught and practiced by the Chapters throughout this Jurisdiction. If it shall come to his knowledge that any Chapter shall ignore, refuse, or fail to practice in every respect, such uniform and established work, it shall be his duty to instantly report the same to the Grand High Priest, who may arrest the Charter of said Chapter, and shall hold the same until such times as the members promise faithfully to comply with the requirements of the Grand Chapter aforesaid, or until the next Annual Convocation thereof. The Grand Lecturer shall make a full report to the Grand Chapter of his official visits and acts performed during the year and he shall receive as compensation for his services, when sent by the Grand High Priest to visit Chapters, the actual and necessary traveling expenses to be paid out of the funds of the Grand Chapter.
4. Any office in the Grand Chapter shall become vacant if the incumbent shall die, remove from its Jurisdiction or be convicted of a Masonic offense by his Chapter or by a Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.

5. The Past Grand High Priest's jewel should be considered the property of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska if purchased by the Grand Chapter, and shall be returned to the Grand Chapter office at the death of the recipient unless purchased wholly by the Grand High Priest after completion of his term and then it is his decision to pass on to Grand High Priest following his tenure.

CHAPTER 3.

VOTING IN GRAND CHAPTER

1. Each member of the Grand Chapter may cast one vote only.
2. All questions before the Grand Chapter, with the exception of proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or the By-Laws, shall be determined by a majority of the votes given. The yeas and nays may be ordered upon any question at the request of five members.
3. Each Constituent Chapter is entitled to four votes, to be cast by the duly constituted representative or representatives present. Each of the three principal officers plus the secretary of a Constituent Chapter possesses the inherent prerogative of representing his Chapter at all Grand Chapter Convocations; also to appoint his own proxy for that purpose, should he himself be unable to attend. Such proxy shall be a member of the Chapter he represents.
4. In case of the death of any one of the said officers of a Constituent Chapter or Grand Chapter, it may authorize one of its members to represent the officer, by a resolution reciting his death, certified by the Secretary under the seal of the Chapter or Grand Chapter.
5. Each Past High Priest of the subordinate Chapters is entitled a vote at the Grand Convocation. If the Past High Priest is currently holding an elected office in paragraph three above, he may only have the vote of that office.
6. Each person may only hold two proxies to vote at any Grand Annual Convocation

CHAPTER 4.

RESOLUTIONS

1. No resolution shall be entertained by this Grand Chapter unless the same shall have been put into writing and a copy thereof furnished the Grand Secretary.

2. All papers coming before the Grand Chapter, which are referred to committees, shall be placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary and by him passed to the appropriate committee before they shall be considered as matters of record.

CHAPTER 5

HONORS

1. When a Royal Arch Mason, hailing from another Grand Jurisdiction holding fraternal relations with this Grand Chapter, affiliates with a Chapter in this state, he brings with him all the honors, rights and privileges to which he would be entitled had the same been conferred upon him in this jurisdiction; and such official honors, rights and privileges are hereby fully recognized and acknowledged and should be respected by the Chapters in this jurisdiction; provided, the honors involved are of a general acknowledged Masonic character and are officially certified by the body conferring the same to the satisfaction of this Grand Chapter.
2. An official award of merit may be conferred under the following regulations.
 - (a) Recipients of the award shall be designated as “KNIGHTS OF THE ROYAL ARCH.”
 - (b) This honor shall be restricted to Royal Arch Masons in good standing in a subordinate Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction who have held no elective office in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska.
 - (c) This award shall be made upon the nomination by Chapters and after a full consideration of the merits, qualifications and services of such nominees rendered the Royal Arch Masonry in Nebraska by a Board consisting of the Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe and Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska.
 - (d) Not more than four such awards may be made in any one year.
 - (e) Suitable certificates shall be presented, attesting to the meritorious service of such companions.

CHAPTER 6

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

1. These by-laws, or any part thereof, may be altered or amended at any Annual convocation by a vote of three-fourths of the members present.
2. All amendments shall be reduced to writing, signed by five or more members of Grand Chapter and delivered to the Grand Secretary at the time the same are offered in Grand Chapter.
3. The Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter shall insure that the Bylaws of this Grand Jurisdiction are reviewed either personally or by committee every two years in accordance with Article X of the constitution

CHAPTER 7

LAW OF GRAND LODGE TO GOVERN

In all cases for which the Grand Chapter has not specifically legislated law to cover its operation then laws of the Grand Lodge, A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska, is hereby adopted for the government of the several Chapters in this jurisdiction, so far as the same may be applicable,

CHAPTER 8

NEW CHAPTERS

1. A petition for a dispensation to open and hold a new Chapter must be presented for the recommendation of the nearest Chapter at a regular convocation, and must lie over until the next regular convocation before the recommendation is voted upon. No petitioner can vote on the question of granting the recommendation.
2. The Grand High Priest, before granting a dispensation for a new Chapter, must have satisfactory evidence that the proposed officers are duly qualified.
3. A Chapter under dispensation cannot meet or work without its warrant.
4. A Chapter under dispensation cannot admit or demit members, nor discipline offenders.
5. All who are named in the dispensation creating a new Chapter, together with those exalted therein, are entitled to vote on all matters coming before the Chapter.
6. An officer of a Chapter may also be an officer of a Chapter under dispensation.
7. A Chapter under dispensation has no representation in Grand Chapter.

8. The charter members of a new Chapter shall consist of those named in its dispensation, those exalted in the Chapter and such companions as they may select by a unanimous ballot, provided they sign the petition for a charter.
9. A Chapter under dispensation has no power or authority except to receive and act upon petitions and confer the Chapter degrees.
10. Each Chapter while under dispensation shall, by resolution designate the time for its regular convocation and at such convocation only can petitions be received, reported or voted upon.
11. Each Chapter on being chartered shall be furnished by the Grand Secretary, without charge, the following books and blanks, viz., one record book, one ledger, one visitors' register, one book of one hundred blank diplomas numbered with stubs, one book of one hundred blank receipts for dues, one book of one hundred blank orders on the treasurer, one hundred blank petitions for the degrees, and twenty-five blank petitions for admission; and subsequent supplies shall be purchased from the office of the Grand Secretary.
12. No Chapter is authorized to commence work under its charter until it has been constituted and the officers have been installed by the Grand High Priest or some Past Grand High Priest acting as his proxy.
13. Each Chapter, upon being chartered, shall submit to the Grand Secretary its proposed seal; and when the officer shall certify that the device proposed is distinct from the seals already adopted by other Chapters in this jurisdiction, the proposed seal shall be submitted to the Grand High Priest for his approval; and after being so approved an impression thereof shall be filed in the Grand Secretary's office. It shall then be unlawful for any Chapter to change its seal in any particular. The seals of Chapters shall be embossed upon the documents issued, not merely imprinted.
14. Demitted Royal Arch Masons, working in a Chapter under dispensation, notwithstanding they may be named in the dispensation, are non-affiliated Royal Arch Masons.

CHAPTER 9

CHAPTER OFFICERS

1. When the High Priest of a Chapter is absent, or unable to act, his powers and prerogatives, except installing officers, shall vest in the King and Scribe in succession.

- a. A Past High Priest of a Chapter may not open a Chapter in the absence of the regularly installed High Priest, King and Scribe thereof. At least one of these officers must be present and congregate his Chapter and it is his prerogative to open and close. He may, however, waive his right in this respect.
- b. It is the province of the High Priest to install a companion lawfully elected to succeed him in office or he may invite a duly qualified companion to perform the services. The installing officer, must be a High Priest or Past High Priest representing the Grand High Priest during the ceremony of installation, is entitled by courtesy to be recognized as such for the time being. No special dispensation from the Grand High Priest is required.

2. The powers of a High Priest are absolute in his Chapter, and members can only appeal from his decision to the Grand High Priest or the Grand Chapter. In the exercise of sound discretion he has the right to temporarily exclude a member from the Chapter. Such exclusion can be justified only upon grounds warranting charges for un-masonic conduct.

It is his duty to maintain order in his Chapter. To this end he may refuse admission to a member or cause an offending member to be removed from the Chapter. This he does to maintain order, but a member cannot be excluded when he is announced at the door because another member objects to his admission.

3. An installed officer cannot resign or demit. If absent, the High Priest shall fill the station or place by temporary appointment.

4. Serving as High Priest of a Chapter under dispensation does not confer the rank of Past High Priest. Installation makes them High Priest and presiding one year makes them Past High Priest.

5. No Grand High Priest, Grand King or Grand Scribe can, at the same time, be High Priest, King or Scribe of a Chapter.

6. The High Priest shall be responsible to the Grand Chapter for all of the ritual performed in his Chapter, and for ensuring accurate reporting of work through the Chapter Secretary to the Grand Secretary. In performing ritual the Grand High Priest needs to ensure ritual work is performed using the approved ritual of the Grand Chapter

CHAPTER 10

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

1. A demitted Royal Arch Mason, who is also a demitted Master Mason, must affiliate with a lodge before he can become a member of a Chapter in the jurisdiction of Nebraska.

2. Any Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, or Royal Arch Mason, who for six months remains unaffiliated with any lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, is ipso facto, suspended in his Chapter; such suspension to be terminated by his affiliation with a lodge; due notice being given thereof to his Chapter. Provided, that if he has been demitted from his lodge, and shall petition for affiliation to any lodge and be rejected for admission, he shall remain in good standing in the Chapter for a further period of six months, and so on as long as he shall be rejected once in each six months by any lodge to which he may apply for affiliation.

3. An unaffiliated Royal Arch Mason, when rejected by a Chapter, remains in good standing, provided he renews his application as often as once in each six months.

4. No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted as a member or a visitor unless he shall have regularly received the degree of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master.

5. A Chapter cannot admit to membership a companion who does not hail from a Chapter chartered by a Grand Chapter recognized by the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

7. A Chapter cannot consider a petition for membership unless accompanied by a demit or certificate of Masonic standing equivalent to a demit under the law of the Grand Jurisdiction whence emanating. A non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason never loses his right to petition for admission to a Chapter, no matter where located.

8. A Companion must be vouched for or be examined before he can be admitted a member of a Chapter.

9. A Chapter under dispensation cannot admit Royal Arch Masons to membership by demit.

10. The recommendation by a Chapter of a petition for dispensation does not demit such of its members as are petitioners for the new Chapter.

11. A candidate, under all circumstances, is a member of the Chapter which elects him, no matter by what Chapter the degrees are conferred, unless Jurisdiction has been waived by the first Chapter.

12. Each Royal Arch Mason, exalted by, or admitted to be a member of a Chapter, shall sign its by-laws.

13. When a Companion has been suspended in his Chapter on account of suspension in his Lodge, and due notice is given his Chapter of his reinstatement, the High Priest shall announce his reinstatement in the Chapter, and the secretary shall report the date of such reinstatement in his annual returns to the Grand Secretary.

14. The Grand Chapter does not recognize the custom of dropping from the rolls.

15. All Chapters receiving members by affiliation are required to include in their annual returns the names, numbers and locations of the Chapters that issued the demits.

16. A Royal Arch Mason, member of a Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction, may hold dual membership by becoming a member of another Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction or by becoming a member of a Chapter in any other Grand Jurisdiction which also permits dual membership or by becoming a member of a Royal Arch Chapter under the direct jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International when such dual membership is permitted.

(a) A petition for affiliation as a dual member shall be presented by the Companion seeking dual membership to the Chapter with which he seeks to affiliate. Members of the Chapter to which the petition is addressed shall be governed by the same procedure relating to regular petitions for affiliation.

(b)) No fees are to be collected for affiliation as a dual member. However, the dual member shall pay the full amount of dues required by each Chapter of which he is a member.

(c) A dual member in this Grand Jurisdiction shall have all the rights and privileges of the other members in each Chapter, except that he shall not be eligible to hold diais office in both Chapters at the same time. The rights accorded dual membership in Chapters of other Grand Jurisdictions shall be governed by the rules of that Jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 11

CHARTERED CHAPTERS – THEIR GOVERNMENT

1. A Royal Arch Chapter consists of a High Priest, a King, a Scribe, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Chaplain, a Captain of the Host, a Principal Sojourner, a Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of the Veils, a Sentinel, and as many members as are convenient.

2. No Chapter shall be opened unless there be present six regular Royal Arch Masons. A Chapter of Royal Arch Masons May be opened in optional six (6) man opening, if there are at least (6) Royal Arch Masons present but less than nine (9) present, and then only for transactions of regular business. Chapters with over sixty (60) ,members may not open in the six (6) man optional opening and the six (6) man optional opening shall not be used for degree work.

3. No Chapter shall hold a public celebration on any occasion without a special dispensation from the Grand High Priest.

The High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected by ballot, in the order named, at the first regular Convocation in March of each year, except in the case of

new Chapters, when the election and installation of officers shall be held at the time the Chapter is constituted. All other officers shall be appointed by the High Priest. In the event of the death, expulsion, or suspension of a Treasurer or Secretary, the Chapter may elect and install a successor for the remainder of the term, without dispensation. The High Priest-elect of a Chapter can only be installed in the presence of the Chapter over which he is elected to preside, except in cases where two or more Chapters are located in the same city and may hold a joint installation. When public installation of officers of a Chapter is held the Chapter need not be opened.

5. Each companion elected to the office of High Priest of a Chapter must receive the Order of High Priesthood before being installed. Each companion elected to the office of King of a Chapter may receive the Order of High Priesthood.

6. It is not indispensable that an officer elected or appointed to succeed himself shall be installed but it is always preferable to install unless there is some reason for not doing so.

7. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Chapter, immediately after the election and also after the installation of its officers, to notify the Grand Secretary of the names of the officers so elected and installed by the 15th of the month following election and installation. The Secretary shall prepare monthly reports of statistical information of his Chapter on forms provided by the Grand Secretary and shall forward such reports to the Grand Secretary not later than the 10th day of each following month. The Secretary shall also prepare an annual report giving additional information relative to his Chapter on forms provided by the Grand Secretary and shall forward such annual report on or before the 10th day of January following the close of each year.

8. “The order of the High Priesthood shall be conferred at the annual Grand York Rite Convocation of each year, and the officers of the constituent Chapters of this Jurisdiction shall be installed on or before the tenth of May following.”

9. Every convocation of a Chapter must be duly closed.

10. A companion is not required to record his mark more than once. This should be done in the Chapter where he is exalted. If a companion joins a Chapter by affiliation, and of his own motion or in compliance with the by-laws of the Chapter, causes his mark to be recorded, it should be a literal reproduction of the mark as recorded in the book of marks where he was exalted, notwithstanding it conflicts with the mark of a companion of the Chapter.

All business must be transacted when a Chapter is opened on the Royal Arch Degree at a regular convocation or at a special convocation due notice of which, together with a statement of the business to be transacted, shall have been given to each member residing within the county where the Chapter is located, and there must be present nine members of the Chapter in order to legally transact business. (See Chapter 15, paragraph 1, and Chapter 19, paragraph 4.)

13. Each Chapter may enact by-laws for its own government, provided the same are not inconsistent with the constitution and by-laws of this Grand Chapter or with the fundamental principles of Free-masonry. But no such by-law shall be valid until approved by the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest, nor shall a by-law or amendment be adopted until a written proposal thereof shall have been presented at some previous regular convocation of the Chapter. After adoption by a two-thirds vote, two certified copies thereof, with the amended section if any, shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary, one of which shall be retained by him and the other returned to the Chapter with an endorsement of the action taken thereon. Every member of a Chapter must sign its by-laws.

14. A Chapter cannot change the date of its regular convocation without changing its by-laws.

15. A Chapter shall not remove its Charter from one building to another in the same place where it is located, nor move to another city, except by authority of the Grand Chapter or by dispensation of the Grand High Priest.

16. Every Chapter shall have a seal with the name and number thereof engraved thereon, an impression of which shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary.

17. As long as nine Royal Arch Masons who are in good standing and who are members of a Chapter desire to retain the charter, the Chapter cannot surrender it.

(A) Consolidation with another Chapter. In which case the receiving Chapter must previously vote by majority ballot to accept all members of the Chapter desiring to consolidate. After consolidation, the closing Chapter must surrender its charter to the Grand Secretary.

(B) Direct Closing. Members of a Chapter which is closing by direct surrender of its Charter to the Grand Secretary, will automatically become members of the Grand Chapter for a period of two years or until each member shall transfer his membership to another Chapter. During membership in the Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary shall each year send a dues notice for dues in the amount of the per capita tax, \$1.50 for handling and mailing and the subscription cost of "THE ROYAL ARCH MAGAZINE."

18. A Chapter cannot be called off from one day or night to another day or night, except in case of trials.

19. A Chapter has no right to bury a deceased Companion nor appear in public procession.

20. A Chapter may enact by-laws providing that a member may be excused from voting on all business except balloting on petitions or for membership.

21. A Chapter cannot instruct representatives as to their voting in Grand Chapter, but it may control the actions of its trustees.

22. All Chapters receiving members by affiliation are required to include in their annual returns the names, numbers and locations of the Chapters that issued the demits.

23. All copies of the Grand Chapter proceedings sent each Chapter are the property of the Chapter and of no officer thereof.

24. A Chapter shall confer the degrees only at the place where its Charter is located, or in another area/location when approved by special dispensation of the Grand High Priest.

25. A regular summons is in writing or printing, issued by order of the Chapter or of the High Priest, signed by the Secretary and authenticated by the seal of the Chapter. But a verbal summons by the High Priest is equally binding upon the Companion to whom it is given.

26. Each Chapter shall have available at all times the law of Royal Arch Masonry in Nebraska, and the addenda thereto. The officers of the Chapter should familiarize themselves with such laws and it is recommended that the laws be read at a regular Convocation at least once each year.

27. Each Chapter shall add a by-law which shall contain a provision for a Committee on Membership consisting of not less than three nor more than seven members to be appointed annually by the High Priest. The duties of such Committee shall be as follows:

- (a) To assist the Secretary in the collection of dues.
- (b) To make efforts to secure reinstatement of Companions suspended for N. P. D.
- (c) To make personal investigation of the cases of all Companions for supervision whenever possible
- (d) To use such influence as may be necessary to make such delinquent Companions see the value of maintaining their good standing.
- (e) To make recommendations to the Chapter prior to time set for final action on suspension.
- (f) To solicit Master Masons in a Masonic manner for membership as well as sojourning Companions.

CHAPTER 12

PROPERTY

1. When a charter is surrendered or arrested, the title to all the property of the Chapter, of whatever kind or description, shall be vested in the Grand Chapter, subject to the debts of the Chapter, but the Grand Chapter shall not be liable for any indebtedness incurred by the Chapter before its charter is surrendered or arrested beyond the actual value of the property received by the Grand Chapter when the Chapter became extinct.

2. A Chapter cannot dispose of the funds of the Chapter for any other than strictly Masonic purposes.

3. Chapters cannot hold real estate jointly, except with Masonic organizations, without the consent of the Grand Chapter or of the Grand High Priest.

4. Chapters shall, at the first regular meeting after the annual installation of officers, designate a depository for the funds of the Chapter. Such funds shall be kept in the name of the Chapter and it shall be the especial duty of the newly installed High Priest to have the Chapter designate the depository.

5. Each Chapter shall purchase a surety bond for its Secretary and its Treasurer, through the Grand Secretary, at the best rate he may be able to secure for such protection. Each Chapter shall report annually the amount of bond required for proper protection against loss of funds, but in no instance shall such amount be less than two hundred fifty dollars for each officer bonded.

6. Immediately following the installation of the High Priest, he shall appoint a Finance Committee of three members, whose duty it shall be to examine the books, accounts and records of the Treasurer and Secretary, audit same and report to the Chapter at its regular convocation prior to installation.

CHAPTER 13.

FEES AND DUES

1. The fiscal year in all Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December. Dues on all members of Chapters shall be payable, in advance, on January 1st annually and shall become delinquent on the thirteenth day of June following. A member requesting reinstatement shall pay a fee of \$25.00 plus one-year's dues.

The Grand Secretary shall furnish to Chapters, books of receipts for dues and it shall be unlawful for any Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction to issue or use any receipts for dues except for the form prepared by the Secretary and furnished directly through his office. Such blank receipts for dues shall be used for no other purpose.

The Grand Secretary shall also furnish books of blank receipts to be used for all other purposes.

On or before thirty days before the last regular Convocation of the Chapter held before June thirteenth of each year, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify each member in writing who may be in arrears for dues for the current year of such fact and request payment thereof before September thirteenth of that year. If such member fails to pay his dues on or before September thirteenth of such year, he shall stand automatically suspended for non-payment of dues, to be restored only on payment of his dues, notice of both the suspension and the reinstatement to be announced in open Chapter and record thereof be made in the minutes by the Secretary. Notice of said suspensions and or reinstatements shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary on the Monthly report for December of said year.

2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify by written notification all members automatically suspended for non-payment of dues, provided when the post office address of the suspended member is unknown, notice shall be mailed to his last known post office address.

3. (a) The regular fees for the Chapter degrees shall not be less than fifty dollars and the amount paid for each degree may be regulated by the Chapter.

(b) Special occasion fees for the Chapter degrees may be authorized by the Grand Council (Art. VII) once each annum, but shall not be less than forty dollars and the amount paid for each degree may be regulated by the Chapter.

(c) No degree shall be conferred until the fee has been paid.

4. No fee shall be charged for affiliation.

5. Each Chapter shall pay annually to the Grand Chapter on or before the thirtieth of January for each Companion exalted the sum of Thirty dollars and for each Companion on the rolls shown by the printed table of statistics, the sum of the current per capita for (Grand Chapter and General Grand Chapter) ; plus the subscription cost of "The Royal Arch Magazine" beginning in 2023. Returns in duplicate and the amount due the Grand Chapter may be sent anytime between January 1st and 30th and the Grand Secretary shall add as a penalty one cent per day for each member shown in the printed table of statistics against all Chapters that neglect to send in their returns and pay the amount of their indebtedness to the Grand Chapter on or before January 10th following.

6. Each Chapter, upon the reinstatement of a Companion who has been suspended, for whatever cause, shall immediately transmit to the Grand Secretary such portion of the dues so collected as would have been paid to the Grand Secretary if such dues had been paid prior to such suspension.
7. When the complete returns of any Chapter shall not have been received by the Grand Secretary by January 30th, he shall notify the Grand High Priest of the delinquency. There upon the Grand High Priest shall order the High Priest of the Chapter to forward the returns or the information asked for and if the order is not complied with promptly, the Grand High Priest shall send the Grand Chapter Officer residing nearest the delinquent Chapter to visit the Chapter and secure as complete returns or information as is obtainable. All expenses of the Grand Officer shall be paid by the Chapter visited, unless the Grand High Priest is satisfied that good reason existed for the delay.
8. It shall be the duty of each High Priest to know that all members of his Chapter are in good standing in some lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, working under a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge, A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska. This shall be certified to by the High Priest and Secretary in the annual returns made to the Grand Chapter and the Grand Secretary shall provide a place in the annual returns for such statement.
9. A suitable blank on which each member shall certify as to his standing in a lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons may be sent to each member of the Chapter, and when properly filled out and returned, shall be accepted as proof of his standing. If not so certified to and returned to the Chapter within ninety days, the companion may be considered as not in good standing and shall be notified by letter at his last known place of residence to appear and show cause why he should not be suspended for violating the laws of Royal Arch Masonry, by neglecting or refusing to certify as to his standing in some lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. If the companion does not appear or answer the notice, on the statement of the Secretary that the required notice has been sent to the companion, the Chapter may proceed without his presence and try him for violating this section of the law, and if found guilty he shall be indefinitely suspended from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, provided, that if the companion furnishes the information asked for within six months after the date of suspension he shall be thereby reinstated to all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry and to membership. But if the information is not furnished within six months from the date of suspension the companion must, if he wishes to be reinstated, petition in writing therefor and the petition must be presented at a regular meeting and shall lie over until the next regular meeting and it shall require a unanimous ballot to reinstate him.
10. Any Chapter neglecting for one year to make full payments without good cause, shown to the satisfaction of the Grand Chapter, shall be punished by the arrest of its charter, to be restored only on the payment of the amount due and satisfactory reasons given for such non-payment.

11. No one is exempt from the payment of the fees fixed by the by-laws of the Chapter, neither can a note be accepted in lieu thereof, or a promise to pay in services, nor can the fees, or any part thereof, be refunded directly or indirectly.
12. A member's dues begin at the date he is exalted or admitted.
13. The floating indebtedness of a Chapter cannot be considered as resting pro rata on its members until it has been regularly assessed as dues and the by-laws are amended accordingly.
15. Members are not liable for dues during the suspension of their charter.
16. A suspended companion cannot be charged with dues during the term of his suspension.
17. Fees paid in advance become the property of the Chapter on a favorable ballot and should then be paid to the treasurer.
18. Fees should be returned to rejected petitioners and to candidates stopped by objection.
19. A candidate pays the fees fixed by the by-laws at the date his petition was received.
20. A Chapter under dispensation does not collect dues nor pay Grand Chapter dues; those named in a dispensation creating a new Chapter pay dues to the Chapter to which they belong.
21. A companion paying his dues to the Secretary is entitled to a receipt therefor as a matter of absolute right.
22. A companion who was a member in good standing of a Chapter at the time of it became extinct and remains unaffiliated shall, for one year after the Chapter ceases to exist, remain and be deemed in good standing, and shall have the same rights and privileges as members of a regular Chapter. But should he fail to pay his dues to the Grand Secretary, and procure a demit within such year, he shall be notified by letter sent to his last known address by the Grand Secretary at least thirty days before the next ensuing annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, to show cause to the Grand Chapter, if any he may have, why he has not paid his dues and secured a demit and if he fails to appear or answer he may be suspended.

CHAPTER 14.

PETITIONS

1. All receptions of petitions, reports on same and all balloting must be had at regular convocations and none are regular convocations except those designated as such in the by-laws of the Chapter. The exception for Degree Festivals is outlined below.

2. Petitions should not be received or acted upon except at a regular convocation and there must be nine members of the Chapter present. In the case of a degree festival for degrees a petition may be received and acted on only if there are nine members of that chapter present to vote on the petition and the Chapter is opened, voting accomplished and then appropriately closed prior to start of degree festival.

3. All petitions for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, for waivers of jurisdiction or for membership may be considered and acted upon at the regular convocation at which they are received and need not lie over until some subsequent convocation.

4. After a petition is regularly received by a Chapter and entered upon its minutes, it cannot be withdrawn.

5. A High Priest cannot fill any vacancies in a committee appointed on a petition and allow it to report at the same time.

6. A petitioner for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, or for admission, who has been rejected must again petition in writing, when the petition must be referred to a committee and lie over one lunar month.

7. After a petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry has been rejected, no new petition shall be received from the applicant within six months.

8. A candidate who has been legally rejected may, upon waiver of jurisdiction, petition any other Chapter.

9. A petitioner has no right to know the names of the committee on his petition.

CHAPTER 15.

JURISDICTION

1. Where a petitioner has been elected to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry and has received one or more of them, it is not necessary for the Chapter to again ballot on the application.

2. A Chapter conferring the degrees at the request of another Chapter has no right to the fees or any part thereof, nor should it spread the ballot, the membership remaining in the Chapter making the request.

3. A petitioner having a lawful Masonic residence within the jurisdiction of a Chapter at the time his petition was received, the Chapter does not lose jurisdiction by his removing himself previous to receiving the degrees.

4. Jurisdiction is not acquired over a petitioner until the petition has been received by the Chapter and entered upon its record.

5. A Chapter has state-wide concurrent jurisdiction.

6. A rejected petitioner for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry of a Chapter that is now extinct, desiring to again petition, must obtain the consent of the Grand High Priest.

7. In the matter of petitions for the Capitular Degrees, the Grand Chapter of Nebraska grants to adjoining Grand Chapters concurrent jurisdiction over all Master Masons residing within the State of Nebraska but near to the boundary of this state and whose residence is nearer and more accessible to a Chapter of any of said adjoining Grand Chapters than to a Chapter of Nebraska; Provided, that in case any petition shall be presented to a Chapter of an adjoining state by a resident of Nebraska, the Chapter receiving such petition shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary and shall take no further action until thirty days after such notification. If the petitioner shall have been rejected by a Chapter of Nebraska, no action shall be taken upon such petition without the consent of that Chapter of Nebraska having jurisdiction over such petitioner; and Provided further, that this regulation shall take effect and be in force only upon and after receipt of official information from the adjoining Grand Jurisdiction that a similar regulation has been adopted by it as to residents thereof, permitting them to apply for the degrees in neighboring Chapters located in Nebraska

CHAPTER 16.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PETITIONERS

1. No petitioner for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry shall be eligible unless he be a member in good standing of a lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.

2. A candidate for the Chapter degrees must have resided six months within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. A brother's legal residence is his Masonic residence.

3. The fee for the Mark Master degree must accompany the petition and no degree shall be conferred until the fee has been actually paid.

No Chapter shall ballot upon a petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry without first being satisfied that the Petitioner has not made application to some other Chapter; Provided, if it shall appear that he has so petitioned, the consent of the Chapter having jurisdiction must be obtained before his petition can be voted upon.

4. A companion, who has regularly received the Royal Arch degree outside of the jurisdiction of the United States, may receive the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master under a dispensation issued by the Grand High Priest.

CHAPTER 17.

BALLOTING AND OBJECTING

1. At any time prior to the obligation of the Mark Master Masons degree, an objection to the High Priest or to the Chapter by a member thereof against the conferring of the degrees of Royal Arch masonry upon a candidate, or an objection, so made, to the admission of a companion prior to the ballot upon his application must be respected; and when objection is made, either verbally or otherwise, the High Priest shall declare the candidate rejected without ballot and the fact shall be recorded. The objector need not give his reasons and no demand shall be made upon him therefor, nor is he bound to prefer charges. His identity shall not be disclosed until the High Priest's retirement from office, and then shall be disclosed to the incoming High Priest only, except in case of the High Priest's removal from the jurisdiction, when it shall be disclosed only to the King. After the degree of Mark Master has been conferred upon a candidate, if an objection is interposed, it must be considered and disposed of by the Chapter as it shall determine by a two-thirds vote. If two-thirds of the members of a Chapter present at the convocation vote in the usual manner in favor of overruling an objection that has been made after the Mark Master degree has been conferred upon a candidate, the Chapter can proceed to confer the remaining degrees of Royal Arch Mason. Where an objection to a candidate, after he has received the Mark Masters degree, has been disposed of as provided herein, the objection cannot again be considered within one year, except as provided hereinafter. After one year, if it is deemed advisable by the Chapter to again consider the objection, the question may be presented at a regular convocation and must lie over until the next regular convocation when it shall be disposed of by the same procedure as when first considered, after due notice is given to the members of the Chapter.

2. An objection remains effective until the objector withdraws it, dies or ceases to be a member in good standing of the Chapter. The ballot must be passed even though the report of the committee is unfavorable.

3. None but members of a Chapter to which the petition is made for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, or for memberships, can vote thereon. However, when objections are made to the High Priest, in either case, by any Royal Arch Mason in good standing, Masonic courtesy requires a suspension of further procedure and the High Priest should fully state to the Chapter the objections made, withholding the name of the objector, and an investigation should be had before proceeding further.

4. A Chapter cannot excuse a member from voting on a petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry or for admission.
5. A unanimous ballot in favor of petitioners for the degrees, waivers of jurisdiction or affiliation is required.
6. When a petitioner elected to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry does not receive any of them within one year after his election, it will be necessary for the petition to again be brought before the Chapter, be referred to a committee, and lie over one lunar month, then be balloted on the same as though the petitioner had not previously been elected.
7. A High Priest may order the ballot passed a second or a third time when he believes that a blackball may have been cast by mistake. The result must be declared at the time and is final.
8. The right of a companion to cast a blackball cannot be questioned, neither should the Chapter or any of its members attempt to find out who cast it. Full protection must be given to the companion casting a blackball.
9. Any Chapter can file objections in another Chapter in this jurisdiction against the conferring of any of the degrees, but the reasons must be given, and if of a trivial nature, they need not be recognized, otherwise they must be respected.

CHAPTER 18

WORK

1. No Mark Master shall be exalted to the Royal Arch degree until his mark is recorded. If degrees are accomplished at a degree festival, the mark may be recorded after conclusion of the festival at the next regular convocation of the Chapter of which the candidate is a member.
2. In conferring the Royal Arch degree, substitutes may be used. The substitute referred to means the placing of some Royal Arch Mason in the group passing through the ceremonies of the degree.
3. Nine members are necessary to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Eight brethren may open and work as a lodge of Mark Masters, seven as a lodge of Past Masters or Most Excellent Masters.
4. It is not necessary to open a Chapter preliminary to opening a lodge of Mark, Past or Most Excellent Masters.
5. It is not lawful for a Chapter to meet for work on the Sabbath day.

6. No Chapter, in the absence of all of its three principal officers, shall be opened or do any work whatever.
7. A Chapter is under no obligation to confer the degree at the request of another Chapter upon a candidate whom they believe to be unworthy and undesirable.
8. The ritual promulgated by the General Grand Chapter and amended/accepted by this Grand Chapter shall be used by all Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 19

AFFILIATIONS & TRANSFERS

1. Any Companion desiring to affiliate with another Chapter of Royal Arch Masons must apply in writing to his Chapter for a certificate of transfer for the purpose of securing such transfer. Such application must be received and read at a regular convocation of the Chapter, and if no charges are preferred against the petitioner and if he is clear on the books and is not an installed officer of the Chapter, the High Priest shall order such certificate issued, and the Secretary shall make a record of such action.
2. Upon notice by another Chapter through the return of that portion of the certificate which officially certifies as to his election to membership therein, the High Priest shall order that admit be issued and mailed to the Chapter which elected him to membership. The Secretary shall make record of the issuance of such demit.

CHAPTER 20.

VISITORS

1. Chapters must require of all visitors from other jurisdictions, prior to admission, a declaration in the following words: "I do not stand suspended or expelled for any cause whatever, neither has my name been stricken from the roll of members, nor have I been suspended from membership for non-payment of dues in my lodge of Master Masons, or my Chapter of Royal Arch Masons."
2. Exclusion for non-payment of dues in other jurisdictions has the same effect in Nebraska as suspension. (See Chapter 11, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.)
3. Chapters may receive visiting Royal Arch Masons in good standing, but from such jurisdictions only as are recognized by this Grand Chapter. They should be vouched for by one

with whom the companion has sat in Chapter or be examined only under the direction of the High Priest.

4. A visitor is entitled to see the Chapter charter previous to his examination. But he is received by courtesy only and can participate in Chapter proceedings only so far as leave is granted.

5. If a member of a Chapter objects to a visitor's admission, the latter must be excluded. But the objection holds only during the meeting at which it is made.

6. A High Priest has the right to appoint a committee to examine a Mark, Past or Most Excellent Master and admit him as a visitor on such examination.

7. It would be proper to permit a companion to visit a Chapter, even though he were charged with the commission of a crime, but not convicted.

8. A Royal Arch Mason unaffiliated for one year has no Masonic rights whatever in Nebraska, save as provided for in Chapter 11, paragraph 3, and Chapter 14, paragraph 20, of this code, except the right to petition for membership in a Chapter or to be named in a dispensation for a new Chapter.

9. No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted as a member or visitor until he shall have regularly received the preceding degrees.

CHAPTER 21.

PENAL POWERS OF A CHAPTER

1. Chapters have the power of discipline over their own members, and over all Royal Arch Masons residing within their jurisdiction. They may, for cause shown, punish by reprimand, suspension or expulsion. On appeal to the Grand Chapter, the Secretary shall transmit to the Grand Secretary a copy of the charges and of all the proceedings.

2. Whenever an appeal shall be taken from any Chapter, as above provided, the Grand Chapter shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the whole case and may upon investigation:

(a) Dismiss the appeal, approve the proceedings, affirm the decision appealed from or dismiss the charges.

(b) Modify or change a decision or sentence or inflict a penalty where the Chapter has failed to do so.

(c) Set aside the proceedings of the Chapter for informality and remand the case for further proceedings.

3. Whenever the Grand Chapter shall modify or change a decision or sentence adjudged by a Chapter, the same shall be final, and upon notice thereof, the subordinate Chapter shall cause the same to be entered upon its records.

4. Whenever the Grand Chapter, on a review of the trial or other proceedings of a Chapter resulting in the expulsion or suspension of a Royal Arch Mason, shall reverse or annul the judgment of said proceedings, or shall order a new trial, the accused shall be thereby restored to all his rights, privileges and membership.

5. In case the law is violated by a Royal Arch Mason who is a member of a Chapter in another jurisdiction, any Chapter may file charges against him and shall first send to the Chapter of which the offender is a member, charges and specifications, and should such Chapter waive jurisdiction, or refuse or neglect to take action in the premises within sixty days thereafter, then the Chapter preferring the charges may proceed to try the same, in the manner prescribed by the laws of this Grand Chapter, and The result thereof shall be communicated to the Chapter of which the accused is, or shall have last been a member.

5. Suspension or expulsion of a companion in his lodge suspends or expels him in his Chapter. When a companion is suspended or expelled by his lodge and the Chapter has official or positive knowledge of the fact, it is the duty of the High Priest, without notice to the companion, to order his suspension or expulsion to be entered upon the record of the Chapter, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to report the name of the companion, giving the date when the order was made by the High Priest in the annual returns of the Chapter, the suspension dating from the time the order was made in open Chapter.

6. Reinstatement from suspension or expulsion in a lodge by the Grand Lodge reinstates in the Chapter, if the reinstatement is because the sentence of suspension is reversed by the Grand Lodge. If reinstatement follows on petition to the lodge, or because of pardon by the Grand Lodge, reinstatement in the Chapter does not follow.

7. In case of reinstatement from expulsion, on petition or pardon, membership can only be obtained by petition in the regular way.

8. No companion who has been regularly expelled from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons can be restored to the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, except by action of the Grand Chapter.

9. The by-laws relative to discipline adopted by the Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, are to be used in case of Masonic trials in Chapters of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, so far as the same shall be applicable.

10. Any companion restored to good standing in the fraternity, as provided by the law of Ancient Craft Masonry in Nebraska, shall be entitled to a certificate of that fact from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter. Said certificate shall serve in place of a demit in case of application for membership in any Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction. Said certificate shall be

null and void if not presented with a petition to a Chapter of this Grand Jurisdiction within one year.

CHAPTER 22

PREPAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OF THE GRAND YORK RITE OF NEBRASKA

1. The Prepaid Life Membership Program of the Grand York Rite of Nebraska shall be administered by the Prepaid Life Membership Committee.

2. (A) The Prepaid Life Membership Committee shall consist of Nine (9) members as follows: The first year three members shall be elected by each of the three (3) Grand York Bodies to serve as follows: One member from each body to serve one (1) year, One member to serve two (2) years, and One member to serve three (3) years.

(B) Each year, each Grand Body shall elect or re-elect one member to serve on the Prepaid Life Membership Committee for a term of three (3) years.

3. (A) The cost of a Prepaid Life Membership shall be twenty (20) times the yearly dues of the member's constituent Chapter plus one (1) year of current dues, or, a minimum fee of \$500.00 plus one (1) year of current dues, whichever is the greater. (2008)

(B) This will eliminate paying annual dues to Chapter, Council and Commandery and insure against an increase in dues and freeze annual per capita, at the time of joining the program.

(C) This will provide your Chapter, Council, and Commandery with a permanent Memorial in your name, and provide an income to your Chapter, Council and Commandery after your death.

(D) Memorial Prepaid Life Memberships may be purchased for a deceased member for any amount, but not less than One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) per Body. (Chapter, Council and Commandery.)

4. Any member, who is in good standing in any participating constituent body within this jurisdiction, may become a participant in The Fund and receive a "Prepaid Life Membership Certificate" by paying into The Fund an amount which shall be determined by formula times annual dues according to the table referred to in paragraph 3A.

5. The administration of The Fund shall be vested in the Prepaid Life Membership Committee, and under the jurisdiction of the Grand High Priest, the Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, and the Grand Commander. No Constituent Body shall exercise any control over the funds generated by the sales of Prepaid Life Memberships.

6. The Prepaid Life Membership Committee shall be responsible for keeping the record of each individual participating member, the investment of funds, and the remittance to each participating Constituent Body, the prorata amount of income. The committee shall present a report at each annual meeting of the Grand Bodies, said report shall disclose the number of participants, the amount of invested funds, and the distribution of total income to each participating Constituent Body.

7. On or before March 1st of each year, income from investments shall be returned to the participating Constituent Bodies according to their percent of the total investment in the Fund, except an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the income may be retained by the committee for administration.

8. The Prepaid Life Membership Program shall be administered in accordance with the LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNMENT OF THE PREPAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OF THE GRAND YORK RITE OF NEBRASKA, which has been promulgated by the Prepaid Life Membership Committee and which was adopted by the Grand York Rite Bodies at its 1981 Session. The Prepaid Life Membership Committee may promulgate amendments and additions to said Laws and Regulations which shall be voted on at the Grand York Rite Session next following their promulgation, and if passed by the Grand Council, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery, shall take effect immediately.

APPENDIX 1 FORM OF BY-LAWS

RECOMMENDED BY THE

Grand Chapter of Nebraska

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAPTERS UNDER ITS
JURISDICTION

ARTICLE I – NAME, PLACE

This Chapter shall be known as Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at in the county of, and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERS

The members shall consist of the petitioners to whom the charter is granted, and such other Royal Arch Masons as shall be constitutionally admitted, and such candidates as shall be received therein.

ARTICLE III – CONVOCATIONS

The regular convocations shall be held on the in each month. The hour of meeting shall be at P.M.

Special convocations may be held at the discretion of the High Priest or, in his absence, of the King, or of the Scribe should his superior officers be absent.

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The High Priest shall see that the by-laws of the Chapter as well as the law, edicts, and regulations of the Grand Chapter are duly observed; that copies of these, together with the annual transactions of the Grand Chapter, be kept constantly upon his pedestal and the Secretary's table for the ready use of the officers and members of the Chapter that all the subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and that the returns be made annually to the Grand Chapter, and the annual dues be regularly and punctually paid, as prescribed by the law of the Grand Chapter.

Section 2. The Chapter shall keep a true and fair record of all the transactions of the Chapter proper to be written, issue all summons for convocations thereof, open a special account with each member, the Chapter and Grand Chapter see that each newly received companion subscribes to the by-laws, promptly pay over all moneys to the Treasurer, make out in due season the annual return of officers, members, etc., notify the Grand Secretary of all rejections, suspensions and expulsions; and for his services shall receive \$ per annum.

ARTICLE V – FEES AND DUES

The fee for the degrees shall be dollars, and no candidate shall be balloted for until said fee shall have been paid. No credit shall be extended for the fees or any part thereof. Each Royal Arch Mason in good standing shall pay as annual dues dollars per annum, and such sum shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of January of each year.

ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEE

The first three officers shall be a standing committee. They shall examine all bills against the Chapter, and no bill shall be paid without the signatures of at least two of said officers. They shall examine the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, and make report of the same at the meeting for the election of officers, and shall superintend generally the affairs of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VII

ORDER OF BUSINESS, SUBJECT TO THE WILL AND PLEASURE OF THE HIGH PRIEST

-
1. Opening.
 2. Reading and approving records.
 3. Reports of committees.
 4. Receiving petitions.
 5. Balloting for candidates.
 6. Unfinished business.
 7. New business.
 8. Work.
 9. Closing.

APPENDIX 2

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A CHARTERED CHAPTER

At the time appointed for the installation, the Chapter being open, the High Priest (or a Past High acting) will appoint some suitable companion to act as Marshal. The new officers will repair to the anteroom and be invested with their appropriate robes of office, (wearing of robes is optional) and upon their return, the Marshal presents the officers-elect to the Installing Officer, and says:

EXCELLENT HIGH PRIEST: I here present for installation, these companions, who have been duly chosen to serve this Chapter for the ensuing year, and vouch that the High Priest-elect has received the Order of High Priesthood.

All officers kneeling in form of triangle, the Grand chaplain offers the following:

PRAYER

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth! We approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing on the companions chosen to preside over this Chapter, and now prostrate before Thee; fill their hearts with a portion of Thy wisdom, that their tongues and actions may pronounce Thy glory. Make them steadfast in Thy service; grant them firmness of mind; animate their hearts, and strengthen their endeavors; may they teach Thy judgment and Thy laws, and may the incense they shall put before Thee, upon Thine altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto Thee. Bless them O Lord, and bless the work of their hands. Accept us in mercy; hear Thou from heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive our transgressions. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

The Presiding Officer then administers the following obligation to the Officers:

I,, do solemnly promise that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons and the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of the State of Nebraska, and that I will, to the utmost of my knowledge and ability, discharge all the duties of the office to which I have been chosen.

(Cause Officers to arise, and all be seated except the High Priest-elect.)

The Installing Officer then addresses the High Priest-elect, as follows:

EXCELLENT COMPANION: It is my duty as Installing Officer, to install you into the office of High Priest of this Chapter. It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties belonging to it. Your reputed Masonic Knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties. I shall now propose certain questions to you, relative to the duties of your office, to which I must request your unequivocal answer.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your companions who have attained to this sublime degree?

2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons?

3. That you will never suffer more nor less than three brethren to be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time?

4. That you will not exalt anyone to this degree, who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition; or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the preceding degrees?

5. That you will promote the general good of our Order, and, on all proper occasions, be ready to give and receive instruction, and particularly from the General and State Grand Officers?

6. That to the utmost of your power you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave, in open Chapter, with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your companions?

7. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional warrant or dispensation?

8. That you will not admit any visitor into your Chapter, who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his first being formally healed?

9. That you will observe and support such by-laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska?

10. That you will pay respect and due obedience to the instructions of the several Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign the chair to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter?

11. That you will support and observe the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, under whose authority you act?

Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practice them faithfully?

Answer: I do.

The Installing Officer will then cause the High Priest to be conducted to the East and invested with the badge of his office, and will address him as follows:

EXCELLENT COMPANION: In consequence of your cheerful acquiescence with the charges which you have heard recited, you are qualified for installation as the High Priest of this Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; and it is incumbent upon me to point out some of the particulars appertaining to your office, duty, and dignity. The High Priest of every Chapter has it in special charge to see that the by-laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons and the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Chapter, are duly observed; that all the Officers of his Chapter perform the duties of their respective offices faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their companions; that true and accurate records of all the proceedings of the Chapter are kept by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keeps and renders exact and just account of all the moneys and other property belonging to the Chapter; that the proper returns be made annually to the Grand Chapter; and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter, be regularly and punctually paid. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter together at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, which, in his judgment, may require their meeting. It is his privilege and duty, together with the King and Scribe, to attend the meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy; and the well-being of the Institution requires that this duty should on no occasion be omitted.

You will now assume your station.

(The remaining officers are then severally presented by the Marshal, and charges severally delivered as follows):

CHARGE TO THE KING

COMPANION: The important station to which you are chosen in this Chapter, requires from you exemplary conduct; its duties demand your most assiduous attention. Should casualties at any time prevent the attendance of the High Priest, you are to succeed him in the performance of his duties.

Your badge (the Level surmounted by a Crown) should remind you, that although you are the representative of a King, and exalted by office above your companions, yet that you remain upon a level with them as respects your duties to God, your neighbor, and yourself.

You are entitled to the second seat in the Council of your Companions.

CHARGE TO THE SCRIBE

COMPANION: The office of the Scribe, to which you are chosen, is very important and respectable. In the absence of your superior officers you are bound to succeed them, and to perform their duties.

Your badge, (a Plumb surmounted by a Turban) is an emblem of rectitude and vigilance.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

COMPANION: You are chosen Treasurer of this Chapter, and I have the pleasure of inducting you into your office. The qualities, which should recommend a Treasurer, are accuracy, fidelity, and rendering a just account of his stewardship, whenever he is called upon for that purpose.

CHARGE TO THE SECRETARY

COMPANION: The office of Secretary, into which I now induct you, is a most important one. On the proper exercise of your duties greatly depends the prosperity of your Chapter. The qualities which should recommend a Secretary, are promptitude in issuing the notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the Convocations of the Chapter; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is important to be committed to writing; regularity in making his annual returns to the Grand Chapter; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands; and fidelity in paying the same over into the hands of the Treasurer.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN.

COMPANION: The position of Chaplain has been entrusted to your care.

In the discharge of your duties, you will be required to conduct the devotional exercises of our convocations, and to perform the functions of your calling at our public ceremonies.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOST.

COMPANION: The office with which you are entrusted is of high importance, and demands your most zealous consideration.

Your office corresponds with that of Marshal, or Master of Ceremonies. You are to superintend all processions of your Chapter, when moving as a distinct body, either in public or private. I induct you into your office, and presume that you will give, to your duties, all that study and attention, which their importance demands.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

COMPANION: The office entrusted to you is very important. It corresponds to that of Senior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. Among the duties required of you, the preparation and introduction of candidates is not the least. Your office requires that you be qualified to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

CHARGE TO THE ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN.

COMPANION: Your office corresponds with that of Junior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. It is your province, co-jointly with the Captain of the Host, to attend the examination of

all visitors and to take care that none are permitted to enter the Chapter, but such as have traveled the rugged path of trial and evinced their title to our favor and friendship.

I induct you into your office in expectation of your performing your duties with intelligence, assiduity, and propriety.

(Marshal presents the three Masters of the Veils).

CHARGE TO THE MASTER OF THE THIRD VEIL.

COMPANION: The Scarlet Banner is the ensign of your office, and you are invested with a sword to protect and defend it.

CHARGE TO THE MASTER OF THE SECOND VEIL.

COMPANION: The Purple Banner is the ensign of your office, and you are invested with a sword to enable you to maintain its honor.

CHARGE TO THE MASTER OF THE FIRST VEIL.

COMPANION: The Blue Banner is the ensign of your office, and you are invested with a sword for its defense and protection.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL.

COMPANION: You are appointed Sentinel of this Chapter, and I induct you into your office. The sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of all cowans and eavesdroppers and suffer none to pass or repass, but such as are duly qualified.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPTER.

COMPANIONS: The exercise and management of the sublime degrees of Masonry in your Chapter, hitherto, are so highly appreciated, and the good reputation of the companions composing this Chapter are so well established, that I must presume these considerations alone, were there no others of greater magnitude, would be sufficient to induce you to preserve and perpetuate this valuable and honorable institution.

May your Chapter become beautiful as the Temple, peaceful as the Ark, and sacred as its most holy Place. May your oblations of piety and praise be grateful as the incense, your love warm as its flame, and your charity as diffusive as its fragrance. May your hearts be pure as the Altar and your conduct acceptable as the offering. May the exercise of your charity be as constant as the returning wants of the distressed widow and helpless orphan. May the

approbation of heaven be your encouragement, and the testimony of a good conscience your support; may you be endowed with every good and perfect gift while traveling the rugged path of life, and finally be admitted within the veil of heaven, to the full enjoyment of life eternal. So mote it be. Amen.

The Marshal then makes the following proclamation:

In the name of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of the State of Nebraska, I now proclaim the officers of Chapter, No., to be duly installed into their respective offices.

APPENDIX 3

INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND OFFICERS

Preliminary Notes: At a suitable time the newly chosen Grand High Priest shall select the installing Officers who will install the new officers of the Grand Chapter. They shall consist of an Installing Grand High Priest, who shall be a Past Grand High Priest, a Marshal, a Chaplain, and a Secretary. Music and other arrangements may be made as desired.

The new Grand Officers will repair to the anteroom and be invested with the appropriate apron of their office. Upon their return the Installing Grand Marshal will present the officers chosen to the Installing Grand High Priest and say:

“Most excellent Grand High Priest; I here present for installation, these Companions, who have been duly chosen to serve this Grand Chapter for the ensuing year.”

All officers will kneel in the form of a triangle with the Grand High Priest-elect at the altar.

The Installing Grand Marshal will conduct the Installing Grand Chaplain to the East side of the altar.

The Installing Grand Chaplain will offer the following prayer or one of his own choosing:

PRAYER

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth! We approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing on the Companions chosen to preside over this Grand Chapter, and now prostrate before Thee; fill their hearts with a portion of Thy wisdom, that their tongues and actions may pronounce Thy glory. Make them steadfast in Thy service; grant them firmness of mind; animate their hearts, and strengthen their endeavors; may they teach Thy judgment and Thy laws, and may the incense they shall put forth before Thee, upon Thine altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto Thee. Bless them O Lord, and bless the work of their hands. Accept us in mercy; hear Thou from heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive our transgressions. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

The Installing Grand High Priest then administers the following obligation to the Officers:

Say “I”, pronounce your name and repeat after me, do solemnly promise that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International and the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of the State of Nebraska, and that I will, to the utmost of my knowledge and ability, discharge all the duties of the office to which I have been chosen.

(Cause the Officers to arise, and all be seated except the Grand High Priest-elect.)

The Installing Grand High Priest then addresses the Grand High Priest-elect, as follows:

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION: It is my duty as Installing Officer, to install you into the office of Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter. It is an office of High Honor to all those who diligently perform the important duties belonging to it. Your Masonic knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties. I shall now make

certain statements and propose certain questions to you, relative to the duties of your office, to which I must request your unequivocal acquiescence.

1. You have been installed as the High Priest of your own Chapter and promised to submit to certain requirements and to practice certain duties pertaining to the station. Do you rededicate yourself to these requirements in so far as they apply to the duties of Grand High Priest? (Answer – I do)

2. To the best of your ability, will you endeavor to provide dedicated leadership to this Grand Chapter, direction for the Officers of the subordinate Chapters of which it is constituted, and promote enthusiasm?

M.E. Grand Marshal, you will now present the Grand High Priest to the East.

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION:; You have now advanced to the highest station in Royal Arch Masonry that it is in the power of your Companions in Nebraska to confer upon you. Your known Masonic abilities and your cheerful acquiescence to the charges you have here heard recited, indicate to us that you are fully qualified to occupy this high position and we congratulate you on its attainment. I am sure that you are aware of the many responsibilities accompanying this station and its requirements in time, dedication, and substance. I also feel certain that your love for Free Masonry and the Royal Arch will insure the successful accomplishment of your goals in this position. I pledge to you my whole hearted support in this endeavor and am sure you can expect the same from those who have gone before. In addition, I would admonish each Companion of this Grand Chapter to put forth a dedicated effort in support of not only Royal Arch, but all Free Masonry, one of the most important Institutions of our modern life.

M.E. Grand Marshal, you will invest the Grand High Priest with the Jewel of his office And not it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to your station at the head of this Grand Chapter.

M.E. Grand Marshal; You will now present the other officers in the order of their rank.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND KING.

R.E. COMPANION; The important station of Grand King to which you have been elected in this Grand Chapter requires that you also be thoroughly prepared to fill the important stations of your superiors. It places you in a position where you can carefully observe their activities and the requirements of their stations and gives you an excellent opportunity to improve your abilities in Capitular Masonry in preparation for the more extensive and important duties that lie ahead. It is with pleasure that I now invest you with the Jewel of your office. You will assume your station at the right of the Deputy Grand High Priest.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SCRIBE

R.E. COMPANION; You have been elected to the station of Grand Scribe in this Grand Chapter. It is also a position of much importance, for it completes the Grand Council, the Dais Officers. While below them in rank, your duties are commensurate with theirs and so too are some of your prerogatives. You should be well prepared, as we expect them to be, to fill your station with honor to yourself and well being for the institution of Royal Arch Masonry. I am pleased to invest you with the Jewel of your office. You will assume your station on the left of the Grand High Priest.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND TREASURER.

R.E. COMPANION; You are chosen Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter, and I have the pleasure of inducting you into your office. The qualities, which should recommend a Treasurer, are accuracy, fidelity and rendering a just account of his stewardship, whenever he is called upon for that purpose. It is my great pleasure to invest you with the Jewel of your office. You will assume your station on the right of and in front of the Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SECRETARY.

R.E. COMPANION; The office of Grand Secretary, into which I now induct you, is a most important one in this Grand Chapter. Because of his usual continuance in this position, the R.E. Companion who occupies this station is a link through whom the activities and general policies of the Grand Chapter are maintained from year to year. On the proper exercise of your duties greatly depends on the prosperity of your Grand Chapter. The qualities required by a Grand Secretary are promptitude in issuing the notifications and orders of his superior officers; correctness in recording the activities and proceedings of the Grand Chapter; maintaining in his office the complete records of the Grand Chapter, so that the Grand Officers, the Grand Officers and the Chapter Companions may have reasonably ready reference to necessary information concerning Capitular Masonry in Nebraska; and integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands in the performance of his duties. It is with much pleasure that I invest you with the Jewel of the Grand Secretary. You will assume your station on the left and in front of the Grand Council.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.

R.E. COMPANION; The station of Grand Chaplain has been entrusted to your care. In the discharge of your duties, you will be required to conduct the devotional exercises of our Grand Convocations, and to perform the functions of your calling at the public ceremonies. I now, with pleasure, invest you with the Jewel of the Grand Chaplain. You will assume your station on the left of the Grand Scribe.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND LECTURER.

R.E. COMPANION; The station of Grand Lecturer has been committed to your care. It is a position of vital importance to the ritualistic work of Royal Arch Masonry in Nebraska. To you is entrusted the maintenance of good, accurate and proper ritual, and correct floor work in its presentation. Good and inspiring ritualistic work is a tie that binds us together in a firmer bond of fraternal companionship and promotes the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry, for from it we receive the real meaning of Capitular Masonry to us as individual Companions. You will now be presented with the Jewel of the Grand Lecturer. You will assume your station on the left of the Grand Principal Sojourner.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE HOST.

E. COMPANION; The office to which you are entrusted is an important station in this Grand Chapter and demands your most zealous attention and consideration. It corresponds to that of Marshal or Master of Ceremonies. You should be available to assist in arrangements and be on hand to carry out the orders of the Grand High Priest and your superior officers during Grand Convocations and to perform other duties during the year which may be assigned to you. You are now presented with the Jewel of the Grand Captain of the Host. Your station is on the right and in front of the Grand King.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

E. COMPANION; You have also been entrusted with a responsible office. It corresponds to that of Senior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. During the Grand Capitular year, your Grand High Priest will assign you specific duties to which you should give your special attention and abilities. The office of Grand Principal Sojourner has another connotation so far as the Grand Chapter of Nebraska is concerned. It is considered the beginning of the advancing line of the Grand Chapter Officers. You have been chosen for this station because of your considered abilities to advance through and occupy the stations of your superiors to the top station of this Grand Chapter line, that of Grand High Priest. Learn well your duties as you pass through this line that you may excel in each station and thus advance the cause of Capitular Masonry in our Grand Chapter. We now present you with the Jewel of the Grand Principal Sojourner. Your station is on the left and in front of the Grand Chaplain.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN.

E. COMPANION ; Your office corresponds with that of Junior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. It is your duty to assist the Captain of the Host in the discharge of his duties and be prepared to obey the commands of your chief. I induct you into your office in expectation of your performing your duties with intelligence, assiduity and propriety. You are invested with the Jewel of the Grand Royal Arch Captain and will be conducted to your station at the head of the Veils.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER OF THE THIRD VEIL.

E. COMPANION; The Scarlet Banner is the ensign of your office, and you are inducted into the Third Veil with the expectation that you will perform the duties assigned there-in with zeal and dedication. You are invested with the Jewel of the Grand Master of the Third Veil and will be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER OF THE SECOND VEIL.

E. COMPANION; The Purple Banner is the ensign of the Second Veil, and you are likewise inducted into your office with the expectation that you will perform your assigned duties with zeal and a desire to promote the good of Royal Arch Masonry. You are invested with the jewel of the Grand Master of the Second Veil and will be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER OF THE FIRST VEIL.

E. COMPANION; The Blue Banner is the ensign of the First Veil. It is the color of basic Masonry. Guard it well. As with your Companions in the Second and Third Veils, we induct you into your office with the expectation that you will perform your assigned duties well and be a real credit in the advancement of our Masonic Institution. You are invested with the Jewel of the Grand Master of the First Veil and will be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SENTINEL.

E. COMPANION; You have been chosen Grand Sentinel of this Grand Chapter and I induct you into your office. It is your duty to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and suffer none to pass or repass, but such as are duly qualified. Your knowledge of, and acquaintance with, Chapter Masons throughout this Grand Jurisdiction is a valuable asset in the performance of your duties in this office. You are invested with the Jewel of the Grand Sentinel and will be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CHAPTER.

Companions of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, the officers who will manage the affairs of your Grand Chapter for the ensuing year are installed into their respective stations. I now charge you with an obligation to support those officers in the duties and labors of their respective offices. No institution can long endure without the support of its membership to its officers, and the greater the support the greater the success of the institution. Grand Chapter Officers spend much time and effort in performing their duties without the hope of fee or reward and they can be inspired to greater effort by the encouragement and enthusiastic support of the Companions from the whole Grand Jurisdiction.

THE M.E. GRAND MARSHAL WILL MAKE THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION:

“In the name of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Nebraska, I now proclaim the Officers of this Grand Chapter to be duly installed into their respective offices for the ensuing Grand Chapter year.”

APPENDIX 4

RECEPTION
of
GRAND OFFICERS

The reception of visitors with the honor due their rank is an ancient custom of the Fraternity. It is an act of great discourtesy to a visiting officer to omit his formal reception by the Chapter, and in an official visitation the visiting office should ordinarily require it. On the occasion of visits not official it will be found to greatly increase a true fraternal feeling when this courtesy is properly shown.

THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST, or his personal representative, should be received with the Grand Honors. Past Grand High Priests are entitled to Grand Honors.

When a visit from the Grand High Priest is expected, the High Priest will see that a convenient apartment is provided for his use. When the Grand High Priest's presence is announced, the High Priest directs a Past High Priest and the Captain of the Host, to escort him into the Chapter room. A procession is formed in the following order:

Captain of the Host, followed by the Past High Priest on the left of the GRAND HIGH PRIEST. As the Grand High Priest enters the Chapter Room, the High Priest calls up the Chapter and uncovers.

The Past High Priest then says:

Excellent High Priest, I have the honor and pleasure of introducing to you Most Excellent Companion GRAND HIGH PRIEST, ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF NEBRASKA.

The High Priest goes to the altar, welcomes the GRAND HIGH PRIEST, Presents the gavel, conducts him to the East, and introduces him by saying:

OFFICERS and MEMBERS of Chapter No., and visiting Companions: I have the honor and pleasure of introducing you to, MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION, GRAND HIGH PRIEST, ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF NEBRASKA. Salute him with the Grand Honors of ROYAL ARCH Masonry.

Should there be any other Grand Chapter Officers or Past Grand Priests, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest may want to introduce them or instruct the High Priest to do so.

It is not good form to call on other speakers after the message by the Grand High Priest, or some other Grand Chapter Officer, who is visiting your Chapter officially with a special message from the Grand Chapter.

APPENDIX 5

RECEPTION of GRAND MASTER Of MASONS

The following procedure for the reception of the Most Worshipful Grand Master in affiliated bodies whose membership is predicated on membership in a lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons and who are recognized by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master, when received in and by such bodies, shall be received by the presiding officer in the same manner as he would be in a Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, conducted to the East, and be given the Grand Honors due him by virtue of his office, which outranks any office of any other body insofar as Masonry is concerned.
