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CONSTITUTION AND LAW OF THE GRAND COUNCIL, CRYPTIC MASONS IN NEBRASKA

PREFACE

To All of the Companions of the Cryptic Rite under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons in Nebraska. The revised Law was submitted to and adopted by the One Hundred and Thirty ThirdForty Second Annual Assembly held at Kearney, NE on April 48, 201422.

Grand Recorder

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Constitution of the Grand Council Of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska 2014

PREAMBLE

1. The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, does hereby ordain, establish, and promulgate the following laws for its future government, and does make and prescribe the following rules and regulations for the government of the councils under its jurisdiction, repealing all former laws.

CHAPTER I NAME

1. The name of this Grand Council shall be "The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska."

CHAPTER II MEMBERS

1. The Grand Council shall consist of its Grand Officers named in Chapter V and likewise the Masters, Deputy Masters and Principal Conductors of the Work of the several councils under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, and such Past Grand Masters and Past Illustrious Masters, who are members of councils under this jurisdiction.

CHAPTER III ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Grand Council shall hold an assembly annually on the first two weeks of April on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday each year, providing that said days are not within the week immediately preceding Easter Sunday. If that is the case, then it shall be held on the earliest date possible in April with the time and place be designated by the Grand Illustrious Master-Elect, in conjunction with the Grand High Priest-Elect and the Grand Commander-Elect, with the approval of the Grand Council.

CHAPTER IV CONSTITUTIONAL NUMBER

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

CHAPTER V OFFICERS

1. The officers of this Grand Council shall be styled and take rank as follows:

The Most Illustrious Grand Master
The Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
The Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work
The Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
The Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
Who shall be elected by ballot at the annual assemblies,

AND

The Illustrious Grand Chaplain
The Illustrious Grand Arch Supervisor
The Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
The Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
The Illustrious Grand Steward
The Illustrious Grand Sentinel
Who shall be appointed by the Grand Master

2. The officers of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Captain of the Guard, shall constitute the advancing line.

CHAPTER VI ELIGIBILITY

1. No Companion shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master or Principal Conductor of the Work who has not been regularly elected, installed, and presided over a council. No Companion may be elected or appointed to serve in the advancing line of this Grand Council if concurrently serving in the Grand Chapter or Grand Commandery advancing line unless there shall be at least two years 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-Recorder and Grand Treasurer. The advancing line for the Grand Council shall commence with the Grand Captain of the Guard.

CHAPTER VII INSTALLATION

1. No Grand Officer shall officiate in the station to which he is elected or appointed until he has been installed.

CHAPTER VIII POWER & AUTHORITY

1. The Grand Council is the highest source of authority in Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction subject to the ancient landmarks and, so long as it is affiliated therewith, to the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. As such, it has the government and control of all councils of Cryptic Masons within the State of Nebraska, including councils of Super Excellent Masters, and the Nebraska Council No. 1, Order of the Silver Trowel. It may grant charters, warrants and dispensations for constituting councils of Cryptic Masons, without the consent of the nearest chartered council, and when expedient, may arrest revoke or annul the same. It may make, alter and repeal at pleasure, laws for its government and for the control of its own members.

CHAPTER IX THE GRAND MASTER

1. In the interval between the assemblies of the Grand Council, the Grand Master shall have such powers as are set forth below. He shall have the power:

- a. To issue special dispensations to elect or to install officers of a council at a time other than fixed by law.
- b. To authorize a council to receive and ballot upon petitions for degrees of Cryptic Masonry at a special assembly and that petitions may be received and balloted upon there at.
- c. To authorize any council to confer the degrees of Cryptic Masonry in a city or town within this jurisdiction, other than where such council is located.
- d. May issue special dispensation for a council to temporarily move their charter to a different location for a specific Cryptic Mason activity
- e. The Most Illustrious Grand Master of Nebraska has the prerogative and power to confer the several degrees of Cryptic Masonry on sight when requested to do so by a constituent Council. Initiation to be done in the presence of the M.I. Grand Master and subject to the following conditions
 - 1) Request must be made in writing and under the seal of a Council of Cryptic Masons chartered in Nebraska

2) Request must be made directly to the M.I. Grand Master or the Grand Recorder

3) The decision to grant the request will be made by the M.I. Grand Master

4) All petitioners for this honor shall have presented a standard petition to aforementioned Council of Cryptic masons together with the accompanying fees. Said Council must give a unanimous consent at a regular stated meeting. The petitioner would become a regular member of the Council presenting the request, and would assume all rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership in that Council.

5) Initiation must consist of obligations of the Select and Royal Master, along with signs and passes of both degrees.

6) The M.I. Grand Master may appoint a past M.I. Grand Master to act as a proxy to perform the conferral.

2. He shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in the offices of the Grand Council, expecting those of Deputy Grand Master or Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

a. In the event of a vacancy being created in the offices of Deputy Grand Master or Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for any reason and cannot be filled by ascension, the office shall remain vacant until the next regular assembly of the Grand Council.

1) The vacancy will then be filled by election.

2) In the interval until the next regular assembly of the Grand Council, if there is a need for the vacancy to be filled for ceremonial purposes, a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master may be appointed pro-tem for that ceremony only. Each ceremony requires a new pro-tem appointment, but the appointment may be the same Past Most Illustrious Grand Master and appropriate documentation will be made for such events for jurisprudence review.

3. He shall also have power to appoint representatives near other recognized Grand Councils and receive and accredit such representatives from them. Such appointments 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 council of Cryptic Masons in the jurisdiction to which he is accredited. No one shall be recommended for appointment as representative who represents another Grand Council. Representatives shall be entitled to seats and to participate in the deliberations of the Grand Body, but not to vote therein.

4. The M.I. Grand Master shall appoint a Grand Arch Supervisor whose duties shall be designated by the M.I. Grand Master. The Grand Arch Supervisor subject to the approval of the M.I. Grand Master shall divide the state into nine arches and appoint a Master Workman for each

arch who will be responsible to and work under the direction of the Grand Arch Supervisor by the M.I Grand Master.

- a. The Master Workman shall visit each council in his arch at least once during the year and report the condition of the council to the Grand Arch Supervisor who shall notify the M.I. Grand Master as he has been instructed

CHAPTER X GRAND OFFICERS

1. Any Grand Officer who shall during the term in which he was chosen cease to be a member in good standing of a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction, immediately forfeits his right to be a Grand Officer and will vacate his office.
 - a.Re-appointment of such appointed offices will fall under laws and privileges of M.I. Grand Master in CHAPTER IX above.
 - b.Re-appointment of elected Grand Officers will also fall under laws and privileges of M.I. Grand Master in CHAPTER IX above.
2. In the absence of the M.I. Grand Master from the jurisdiction or in the event of disability or death the Deputy Grand Master shall have the power and authority to perform whatever duties that may be deemed expedient for the good of Cryptic Masonry, during and until the recess of the Grand Council.

CHAPTER XI FORMATION OF COUNCILS

1. During the recess of the Grand Council the M.I. Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master (under provisions in CHAPTER X) may grant a letter of dispensation to a competent number of petitioners, empowering them to open a Council of Cryptic Masons for a period in no event to extend beyond the next annual assembly of the Grand Council.
 - a. In all cases of such dispensations, the officer granting the same shall make report thereof at the next annual assembly of the Grand Council, where the Grand Council may either continue the dispensation or grant the petitioners a charter.
 - 1) If a charter is granted at Grand Council to the petitioners, the newly formed Council must further pay a fee of fifty dollars for such granting of charter
 - b. If further dispensation or a charter is not granted at the next Grand Council, then the dispensation shall be returned to the Grand Assembly. Also the proposed bylaws, books of records, any statements of work done and the fees and dues for such will be returned to the Grand Council and Grand Recorder within fourteen days after the stated Grand Council/Assembly.

- c. No warrant or dispensation for the institution of a new Council shall be granted for less than fifteen dollars.
2. The Grand Council, or if it is not in session, the M.I. Grand Master, may transfer any Council which has decided to surrender its charter, or any Council whose charter may have been suspended, to any locality in this jurisdiction desiring a Council.
3. No council shall be named for any living person. Nor may a council be named for any city, town or village situated in this jurisdiction unless voted on at Grand Council.

CHAPTER XII COMMITTEES

1. The committees of this Grand Council shall consist of the following:
 - a. Credentials
 - b. Budget and Finance
 - c. Jurisprudence
 - d. Fraternal Relations
 - e. Necrology
 - f. Charters and Dispensations
 - g. Codification of the Law
 - h. Prepaid Life Membership.
2. All committees (with exception of Jurisprudence) named above shall consist of not less than three nor more than five members, and shall be appointed as follows:
 - a. The M.I. Grand Master shall at the time of his installation appoint the Committees on Budget and Finance, Fraternal Relations, Necrology and Charters and Dispensations
 - b. M.I. Grand Master shall appoint the Committee on Credentials at or before the opening of the next annual assembly.
3. The Committee on Credentials shall examine the credentials of members and representatives, shall report the Councils that are represented, the names of members, representatives and others present.

4. The Committee on Budget and Finance shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be recommended by the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and one by the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Nebraska and one 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 Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery.

a. 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.

b. It shall maintain a constant supervision over the financial affairs of the Grand York Rite Bodies so represented to the end that all disbursements for payment of activities and services involving two or three of said Grand York Rite Bodies shall be equitably apportioned among them.

c. It shall also examine the books and vouchers of the Grand Recorder, ascertain the just balance due thereon, and report the amount to the Grand York Rite Bodies.

d. It shall take into consideration the condition of the funds of the Grand York Rite Bodies, 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 York Rite Bodies.

e. It shall recommend such appropriations as may be necessary for the expenses of the Grand York Rite Bodies to include the Grand Council, and additional ones as may be required from time to time.

f. It shall further administer the Grand York Rite Endowment Fund, initially established as the \$100,000.00 club, shall invest said fund's 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 1995 Grand Chapter proceedings. (2008)

6. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consist of all Past Grand Masters of the jurisdiction, with the junior Past Grand Master present as chairman.

a. To the Committee on Jurisprudence shall be referred the address of the M.I. Grand Master and the reports of the other the other Grand Officers, and it shall consider and recommend to the Grand Council for final disposition all matters affecting the welfare of the Grand Council and the councils under its jurisdiction, excepting such matters as properly belong to the Committee on Credentials, the Committee on Budget and Finance, and the Committee on Necrology.

7. The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall review the proceedings of other Grand Councils consider and report on correspondence with them which affects the general welfare of the Grand Council, and make recommendations in reference thereto as may be deemed expedient.

8. The Committee on Necrology shall prepare and present to the Grand Council suitable memorials of the deceased of this and other Grand Jurisdictions.

a. All announcements of deaths received from other Grand Councils shall be at once referred to this committee.

9. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations shall examine all dispensations issued by the M.I. Grand Master (or Deputy Grand Master in the M.I. Grand Master's absence) for new Councils, and shall examine all work, records, and by-laws presented by Councils under dispensation and shall make suitable recommendations thereon, and shall give notice to any Council which has not been represented at two consecutive Annual Assemblies, to appear at the next Annual Assembly of Grand Council to show cause why its charter should not be forfeited and shall report its recommendations to the Grand Council for action.

10. Committee on Codification of the Law shall recommend specific language to effect changes in the constitution and laws as adopted by the Grand Council.

11. Committee on "Prepaid Life Membership" shall consist of three members. Originally to be elected as follows: One for a one year term; one for a two year term; and one for a three year term, thereafter one member shall be elected at each Grand Assembly for a term of three years.

CHAPTER XIII

THE GRAND TREASURER & THE GRAND RECORDER

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

2. He shall attend all the convocations of the Grand Council, 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.

3. The Grand Recorder shall do and perform all duties customary to his office and the established usage's of the Cryptic Rite.

4. He shall annually notify the Recorders of the sums remaining due from or to each Council on the first day of December. On the thirty-first day of December of each year, he shall close the accounts of each Council preparatory to submitting the same to the Grand Council at its annual assembly.

5. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder shall both be bonded by a surety bond to the Grand Council in such amount as shall be fixed by the Budget and Finance Committee, the premium to be paid by the Grand Council.

CHAPTER XIV VOTING IN GRAND COUNCIL

1. Each member of the Grand Council is entitled to one vote and each Council to four votes for the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Conductor of the Work, and the Recorder to be cast by the representative officer or his proxy, but in no case is entitled to more than one vote.

2. All questions before the Grand Council 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 of the four principle voting officers possesses for himself the inherent prerogative of representing his council at all Grand Council assemblies; also, to appoint his own proxy for that purpose, if by reason of inability he cannot attend in person. Such proxy shall be a member of the council he represents. Lastly no Companion can carry more than four proxies and only for one Council.

CHAPTER XV NEW COUNCILS

1. A Council under dispensation cannot meet or work without its warrant.

2. All who are named in the dispensation creating a new council, together with those greeted therein, are entitled to vote on all matters coming before the that Council.

3. A council under dispensation does not representation in Grand Council until after they have been issued a charter.

4. A Council under dispensation has no power, nor authority except to receive and act upon petitions and confer the Council degrees.

5. Each Council, while under dispensation, shall by resolution, designate the time for its regular assemblies and at such assemblies only can petitions be received, reported or voted upon.

6. No Council is authorized to commence work under its charter until it has been constituted, and the officers have been installed by the M.I. Grand Master or some Past Illustrious Master acting as his proxy.

CHAPTER XVI COUNCIL OFFICERS

1. When the Illustrious Master of a Council is absent, or unable to act, his powers and prerogatives, except installing officers, shall be vested in the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, in succession.
2. A Past Master of a council may not open a council in the absence of the regularly installed Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work.
 - a. At least one of these officers must be present and congregate his Council, and it is their prerogative to open and close.
3. It is the duty of the Illustrious Master to see that his Council is protected against improper propositions, or propositions presented with undue frequency.
4. An installed officer cannot resign or demit; if absent, the Illustrious Master shall fill the station or place by temporary appointment.
5. It shall be the duty of each Illustrious Master to know that all members of his Council are in good standing in some lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, working under a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge, A:.F.:& A:.M.: of Nebraska, and some chapter of Royal Arch Masons, working under a Grand Chapter recognized by the Grand Chapter R:.A:.M.: of Nebraska, and this shall be certified to by the Illustrious Master and Recorder in the annual returns made to the Grand Council, and the Grand Recorder shall provide a place in the annual returns for such statement.
 - a. A suitable blank on which each member shall certify as to his standing in an Lodge and Chapter shall be sent to each member of his Council, and when properly filled out and returned, shall be accepted as proof of his standing.
 - b. If not so certified to and returned to the Council within ninety days the Companion may be considered as not in good standing and shall be notified by registered letter at his last known place of residence to appear and show cause why he should not be suspended for violation of the law of Cryptic Masonry by neglecting or refusing to certify as to his standing in some Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and some Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.
 - c. If the Companion does not appear or answer the notice, on the statement of the Recorder that the required notice has been sent to the Companion,
 - 1) The Council may proceed without his presence and try him for violating this law, and if found guilty, he shall be indefinitely suspended from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry.

2) 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 Cryptic Masonry and to membership.

3) 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.

6. The Recorder shall prepare monthly reports of statistical information of his Council on forms provided by the Grand Recorder and shall forward such reports to the Grand Recorder not later than the 10th day of each following month. The Recorder shall also prepare an annual report giving additional information relative to his Council on forms provided by the Grand Recorder and must forward such annual report on or before the 10th day of January following the close of each year.

CHAPTER XVII COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

1. A demitted Cryptic Mason, who is also a demitted Royal Arch Mason, must affiliate with a Chapter before he can become a member of a Council.

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

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

4. A Council cannot elect to membership a Companion who does not last hail from a Council chartered by a Grand Council recognized by the Grand Council of Nebraska.

5. A Council cannot consider a petition for membership unless accompanied by a demit or certificate of Masonic good standing equivalent to a demit under the law of the Grand Jurisdiction whence emanating.

6. An unaffiliated Cryptic Mason never loses his right to petition for admission to a Council, no matter where located.

7. If a Companion who has been suspended in his Council on account of non-affiliation with the Chapter, shall thereafter apply for membership in a Chapter and be rejected, his standing in the Council of which he is a member, becomes, by virtue of such application, that of a member in good standing and upon receiving information as to such application and rejection, it shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master of the Council to announce the reinstatement in open Council.

8. When a Companion has been suspended in his Council on account of suspension in his Chapter, and due notice is given his Council of his reinstatement, the Illustrious Master shall announce his reinstatement in the Council.

9. The Grand Council does not recognize the custom of dropping from the rolls.

10. All Companions who were members in good standing of Councils at the time they ceased to exist, are required to take certificates of membership from the Grand Council within six months from the time the Councils becoming extinct. Upon their failure to apply for certificates of membership as above required, the Grand Council at the following annual assembly shall declare them suspended from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry. When Councils become extinct, the Grand Recorder shall, as soon thereafter as convenient, send a notice to the last known address of each member, notifying him of the above provisions of the law and report to the Grand Council the names of all those who remain on our rolls as former members of extinct Councils.

11. Any Companion desiring to affiliate with another Council of Cryptic Masons must apply in writing to his Council for a certificate of membership good standing for the purpose of securing a demit. Such application must be received and read at a regular meeting of the Council 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 Council, the Illustrious Master shall order such certificate issued, and the Recorder shall make a record of such action. Upon notice by another Council through the return of that portion of the certificate which officially certifies as to his election to membership therein, the Illustrious Master shall order that a demit be issued and mailed to the Council which elected him to membership. The Recorder shall make record of the issuance of such demit.

12. A Cryptic Mason, a member of a Council in this Grand Jurisdiction, may hold Dual Memberships by becoming a member of another Council in this Grand Jurisdiction or by becoming a member of a Council in any other Grand Jurisdiction who also permits Dual Membership, or by becoming a member of a Council under the direct jurisdiction of the General Grand Council of Cryptic 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 in the Council with which he seeks to affiliate. Members of the Council to which the petition is addressed shall be governed by the 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 the dues required by each Council 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 Council, except that he shall not be eligible to hold office in both Councils at the same time. The rights accorded dual membership in Councils of other Grand Jurisdictions shall be governed by the rules of that Jurisdiction.

CHAPTER XVIII CHARTERED COUNCILS - THEIR GOVERNMENT

1. A Council of Cryptic Masons shall consist of as many other members as may be convenient for working together and will assemble for work at least once in three months and the officers of the Council will be as follows;

- a. Illustrious Master
- b. Deputy Master
- c. Principal Conductor of the Work
- d. Treasurer
- e. Recorder
- f. Chaplin
- g. Captain of the Guard
- h. Conductor of the Council
- i. Steward
- j. Sentinel.
- k. Musician/Organist (optional)

2. In the event of the death, expulsion or suspension of a Treasurer or Recorder, the Council may elect and install a successor for the remainder of the term, without dispensation.

3. No Council shall be opened unless there be present nine regular Cryptic Masons and there must be nine members present to transact business.

4. "The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer and Recorder shall be elected by ballot, in the order here named, at the last regular meeting in March of each year, except in cases of new councils, when the election and installation of officers shall be held at the time the Council is constituted.

- a. No Illustrious Master-elect shall be installed until he has received the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master. All other officers shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master."

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

5. It shall be the duty of the Recorder of each Council, immediately after the election and also after the installation of its officers, to notify the Grand Recorder of the names of the officers so elected and installed.

6. "The Order of the Silver Trowel" shall be conferred during annual Grand York Rite Session of each year at which time and place as the Thrice Illustrious Master may direct and the officers of the constituent Councils of this jurisdiction shall be installed on or before the tenth of May following.

7. It is recommended that Councils, designate banks in which the treasurers shall deposit their funds, and when so deposited, the treasurers shall not be liable for any loss that may occur in case of failures of banks where Council funds are deposited.

8. Each Council may enact by-laws for its own government, provided the same are not inconsistent with the law of this Grand Council, or with the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but no such by-laws shall be valid until approved by the M.I. Grand Master, nor shall a by-law or amendment thereto be adopted until a written proposal thereof shall have been presented at some previous regular assembly of the council; and after adoption by a two-thirds vote, two certified copies thereof, with the amended section, if any shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder, one of which shall be retained endorsement of the action taken thereon. Every member of a council must sign its by-laws.

9. A Council cannot change the date of its regular assembly without changing its by-laws.

10. All Councils receiving members by affiliation are required to include in their annual returns the names, numbers, and locations of the Council(s) that issued the demit.

11. Forfeiture of Charters. The failure of any Council to meet for four successive months, or to be represented at two successive Grand York Rite Sessions shall be sufficient grounds for the forfeiture of its charter. It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to give immediate notice thereof to such Council.

CHAPTER XIX PROPERTY

1. When a charter is surrendered or arrested, all the property of the Council, of whatever kind or description, shall be vested in the Grand Council, subject to the debts of the Council.

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

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

CHAPTER XX FEES AND DUES

1. On or before thirty days before the last regular assembly of the Council held before September thirtieth of each year, it shall be the duty of the Recorder 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 December 31st of each year. If not so paid, he shall stand automatically suspended for nonpayment of dues, to be restored only on payment of his dues, notice of both the suspension and reinstatement to be announced in open council and a record thereof made in the minutes by the Recorder.
2. The fees for the Council degrees shall be fixed by the respective Councils but shall in no case be less than twenty-five dollars unless the Grand Elected Dais Officers authorize the fee for a special festival or Masonic occasion, but not less than twenty dollars. No degree shall be conferred until the fee has been paid.
3. A Council may, by a two-thirds vote, exempt any of its members from the payment of dues, but this action will not exempt the Council from the payment of Grand Council dues for such member.
4. Each Council shall pay annually to the Grand Council on or before the 30th of January for each Companion greeted the sum of \$10.00 and for each Companion on the rolls as shown in the statistical table, the sum of \$30.00 beginning in 2023. (*rev. 2022*)
5. When a Companion has been suspended from his Council solely because of non-payment of dues to the Council, and who is reinstated after December 31st may be restored to membership on written application thereof and a majority vote at a regular assembly and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Council may require. Upon such restoration, the Council shall immediately transmit to their Recorder such portion of dues so collected as would have been paid to the Grand Recorder if such dues had been paid prior to such suspension. A member requesting reinstatement shall pay a fee of \$25.00 plus one year's dues.
6. Any Council neglecting for one year to make full payment without good cause shown to the satisfaction of the Grand Council 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.
7. No one is exempt from the payment of the fees fixed by the by-laws of the Council, nor can the fees or any part thereof be refunded, directly or indirectly.
8. Members are not liable for dues during the suspension of their charter.
9. A suspended Companion cannot be charged with dues during the term of his suspension.

10. All Councils when conferring the degree of Super Excellent Master shall be required to confer the degree on any Companions in the state that are duly certified to them as being members in good standing, without charging any fee. The Records of Councils shall notify the council of which the companion is a member of the date and place of receiving the degree.

11. A Council may create Life members in their Councils.

a. A Council shall not issue a Life Membership for a sum less than 20 times the Council's annual dues. (All money received from Life Memberships shall be placed in a Trust Fund and only the income from such Fund shall be withdrawn) but upon the death of any Life Member an amount equal to the sum paid by him may be transferred from the Trust Fund to the General Fund of the Council.

b. In order to retain Life Membership in a Council, a member must remain in good standing in the pre-requisite bodies.

CHAPTER XXI PETITIONS

1. All receptions of petitions, reports on the same and all balloting must be had at regular assemblies, (except as provided for in Chapter IX, paragraph 1) and none are regular assemblies except those designated as such in the bylaws of the Council.

2. Every candidate for degrees or for membership shall present a petition in writing at a regular assembly, subscribed by himself and recommended by two members of the Council, which petition shall lie over until the next regular assembly unless the unanimous consent of the members present be obtained for its immediate consideration.

CHAPTER XXII JURISDICTION

1. Each Council shall have unlimited state-wide concurrent jurisdiction.

2. When Royal Arch Masons, desirous of petitioning for the Council Degrees, and who are residents of Nebraska, shall reside near some subordinate Council in any adjoining Grand Jurisdiction, and shall wish to petition said Council for the degrees, they shall be allowed to do so without first obtaining permission from the M.I. Grand Master of Nebraska; provided, that this regulation shall take effect and be in force only upon and after receipt of official information from such adjoining Grand Jurisdiction that similar permission is given residents thereof to apply for degrees in neighboring Councils located in Nebraska;

a. Provided further, that the Council in the adjoining jurisdiction shall immediately notify the Council in this jurisdiction in whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides, and shall take no further action for thirty days after such notification; and if the petitioner has been rejected by a Council in Nebraska.

b. No further procedure may be had in the Council in the adjoining Grand Jurisdiction without the consent, lawfully given, of the Nebraska Council having jurisdiction. A Nebraska Council receiving a like petition from a Council of another Grand Jurisdiction shall proceed in a like manner.

CHAPTER XXIII QUALIFICATION OF PETITIONERS

1. No petitioner for the degrees of Royal and Select Master shall be eligible unless
 - a. He is a member in good standing of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons;
 - a. Provided, that a petitioner for the degrees of Royal and Select Master may make such petition at the same time he petitions for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry;
 - b. Provided further, that no action be taken by the council to which the petition is made until after such petitioner shall have received the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry.

CHAPTER XXIV BALLOTING AND OBJECTING

1. None but members of a Council to which petition is made for the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, or for membership, can vote thereon.
2. A Council cannot excuse a member from voting on a petition for the degrees of Royal and Select Master, or for admission.
3. A unanimous ballot in favor of petitioners for the degrees, waivers of jurisdiction or affiliation is required.

CHAPTER XXV WORK

1. The use of the ritualistic work promulgated by the General Grand Council, as refined and recomposed by the Grand Council of Nebraska under date of January 1, 1972, is obligatory upon the officers of Councils.

CHAPTER XXVI PENAL POWERS OF A COUNCIL

1. No Companion who has been regularly expelled from a Council of Cryptic Masons can be restored to the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry, except by action of the Grand Council.

2. 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 Councils of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, so far as the same shall be applicable.

3. Suspension or expulsion of a Companion in his Lodge or Chapter suspends or expels him in his Council. When a Companion is suspended or expelled by his Lodge or Chapter, and the Council has official or positive knowledge of the fact, it is the duty of the Illustrious Master, without notice to the Companion, to order his suspension or expulsion to be entered on the record of the Council, and it shall be the duty of the Recorder to report the name of the Companion, giving the date when the order was made by the Illustrious Master in the annual returns of the Council, the suspension dating from the time the order was made in open Council.

CHAPTER XXVII AMENDMENTS

1. All amendments shall be reduced in writing, signed by five or more members of the Grand Council, and delivered to the Grand Recorder at least 90 days prior to the Grand Council Assembly;

a. The Grand Recorder shall upon receipt of such proposed amendment(s), will stamp it received and make copies thereof and send them to the Jurisprudence Committee, The Codification of Law Committee and to the Recorder of each constituent Council, that each committee member may make the necessary study and investigation to verify that it is proper form and not in conflict with any other sections of the Law of Cryptic Masonry in Nebraska.

b. The Recorders of constituent Councils will be instructed to read the amendment(s) to their membership for their consideration, that they may instruct their delegates to the Grand Assembly to vote the wishes of their Council.

c. After above actions the amendment will then be printed with any Committee reports and addresses or other materials to be published as pre-printed reports to be given to the delegates upon their registration except that by unanimous consent the proposed amendment may be considered immediately.

2. An amendment may also be presented at the Grand Council Assembly if reduced to writing, signed by five or more members of the Grand Council, and may be considered by the same Grand Assembly provided four-fifths (4/5) of the voting members registered for the assembly and present vote in favor of such consideration.

3. When an amendment to the law of this Grand Council has been regularly proposed and has lain over the required time, it may be amended when it comes up for consideration, provided that the amendment then proposed is germane to the original amendment.

CHAPTER XXVIII

OFFICIAL AWARD OF MERIT

1. An official award of merit may be conferred as hereinafter provided and the recipients thereof shall be designated as "Knights of the Secret Vault."
2. This award shall be restricted to Cryptic Masons in good standing in a Council within this jurisdiction who have held no elective office in this Grand Council.
3. This award shall be made by a board consisting of the M.I. Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of this Grand Council after a full consideration of merits and qualifications for and services rendered to Cryptic Masonry in Nebraska by Companions being considered for such award.
4. Not more than three such awards shall be made in any one year.
5. Suitable certificates shall be prepared and presented to recipients attesting to the meritorious service of such Companions.

CHAPTER XXIX AWARD PROGRAMS

1. YOUTH AWARD

- a. Each year, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may present the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International to a Cryptic Mason of this Grand Jurisdiction who is a recognized worker for a leading supporter of The Order of DeMolay, International Order of Job's Daughters or The Order of Rainbow Girls.
- b. Such presentation, including medal and lapel pin, shall be made at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

2. CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

- a. The Grand Master shall select a Companion for the General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year Award. This award is for outstanding service to Cryptic Masonry within the jurisdiction as outlined in the General Grand Council International Constitution and Blaws.
- b. Such presentation, including medal and lapel pin, shall be made at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council

CHAPTER XXX PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF NEBRASKA

1. The Perpetual Life Membership Program of the Grand York Rite of Nebraska shall be administered by the Perpetual Life Membership Committee.
2. The Perpetual Life Membership Committee shall consist of nine members as follows:
 - a. The first year three members shall be elected by each of the three Grand York Bodies to serve as follows:
 - (I) One member from each York Rite Body to serve one year.
 - (II) One member from each York Rite Body to serve two years,
 - (III) One member from each York Rite Body to serve three years.
 - b. Each year, each Grand York Rite Body shall elect or re-elect one member to serve on the Perpetual Life Membership committee for a term of three years.
2. The cost of a Perpetual Life Membership Shall be twenty (20) times the yearly dues of the member's constituent Council plus one year of current dues, or a minimum fee of \$500.00 plus one year of current dues, whichever is greater
 - a. This will eliminate paying annual dues to Council and insure against as increase in dues and freeze annual per capita, at the time of joining the program.
 - b. This will provide your Council with a permanent memorial in your name, and provide an income to your Council after your death.
3. Memorial Perpetual Life Memberships may be purchased for a deceased member for any amount, but not less than One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) per York Rite Body.
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 "Perpetual Life Membership Certificate" by paying into The Fund an amount which shall be determined by formula times annual dues according to the paragraph two hereof.
5. The administration of the Fund shall be vested in the Perpetual Life Membership Committee, and under the jurisdiction of the Grand High Priest, the M.I. Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, and the Grand Commander. No Constituent Body shall exercise any control over the fund generated by the sales of Perpetual Life Membership.
6. The Perpetual Life Membership Committee shall be responsible for keeping the records of each individual participating member, the investment of funds, and the remittance to each participating Constituent Body, the pro-rata amount of income. The committee shall present a report each annual meeting of the Grand Bodies. The 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 of the income may be retained by the committee for administration.
8. The Perpetual Life Membership Program shall be administered in accordance with the LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNMENT OF THE PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OF THE GRAND YORK RITE OF NEBERASKA, which has been promulgated by the Perpetual Life Membership Committee and adopted by the Grand York Rite Bodies in the 1981 Annual Session. The Perpetual 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.

CHAPTER XXXI GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC INSIGNIA

1. That the “Grand Council of the State of Nebraska” adopt this “emblem” as the official emblem to be used on stationary and other uses for Cryptic Masons in the state.

CHAPTER XXXII THE GRAND COUNCIL OF NEBRASKA SUPER EXCELLENT DEGREE

1. In order to help promote an expanding understanding of York Rite Masonry in Nebraska, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and the Grand Arch Supervisor at the direction of the M.I. Grand Master will be instructed to formulate, co-ordinate and execute a plan to confer the Super Excellent Master degree at minimum of once a year, to be in conferred in a central location within the state of Nebraska.

- a. All councils shall be notified in writing at least sixty days before the conferring of the aforesaid degree.

CHAPTER XXXIII THE PAST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER’S JEWEL

1. The Past Illustrious Grand Master's jewel be considered the property of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, and shall be returned to the Grand Council Office at the death of the recipient.

CHAPTER XXXIV
LAW OF THE GRAND CHAPTER TO GOVERN

1. In case where these Grand Council Constitution and Bylaws do not cover a specific legislated item, the Grand Council will refer to legislated laws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska.

Attachment One

FORM OF BY-LAWS
RECOMMENDED BY THE
Grand Council in Nebraska
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF COUNCIL UNDER ITS
JURISDICTION

ARTICLE I – NAME, PLACE

1. This Council shall be known as Council of Cryptic Masons, at in the county of, and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERS

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

ARTICLE III – ASSEMBLIES

1. The regular assemblies shall be held on the _____ in each month. The hour of meeting shall be at _____ P.M. Special assemblies may be held at the discretion of the Illustrious Master, or, in his absence, of the Deputy Master, or of the Principal Conductor of the Work, should his superior officers be absent.

2. Special assemblies may be held at the discretion of the Illustrious Master, or in his absence, of the Deputy Master or the Principal Conductor of the Work, should his superior officers be absent.

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The Illustrious Master shall see that the by-laws of the Council, as well as the law, edicts, and regulations of the Grand Council be duly observed;

a. That copies of these, together with the annual transactions of the Grand Council, be kept constantly upon his pedestal or that of the Recorder's table for the ready use of the officers and members of the Council; that all the subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and that the returns be made annually to the Grand Council, and the annual dues be regularly and punctually paid, as prescribed by the law of the Grand Council.

2. The Recorder shall keep a true and fair record of all the transactions of the Council proper to be written, issue all summons for assemblies thereof, open a special account with each member, the Council, and Grand Council, see that each newly received Companion subscribes to the bylaws, promptly pay over all moneys to the Treasurer, make out in due season the annual return of officers, members, etc., notify the Grand Recorder of all rejections, suspensions and expulsions; and for his services shall receive an allotted amount of funding per annum as determined by his respective council

ARTICLE V – FEES AND DUES

1. The fees for the degrees shall be_____ dollars, and no candidate shall be balloted for until said fees shall have been paid. No credit shall be extended for the fees or any part thereof.

2. Each Cryptic 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

1. The first three officers shall be a standing committee. They shall examine all bills against the Council, and no bill shall be paid without the signatures of at least two of said officers.

a. They shall examine the accounts of the Treasurer and Recorder, and make report of the same at the meeting for the election of officers, and shall superintend generally the affairs of the council.

ARTICLE VII ORDER OF BUSINESS, SUBJECT TO THE WILL AND PLEASURE OF THE MASTER

1. The following items are considered essential by the Grand Council to be covered in every regular and well governed Council of Cryptic Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council

- a. Opening.
- b. Reading and approving records.
- c. Reports of committees.
- d. Receiving petitions.
- e. Balloting for candidates.
- f. Unfinished business.
- g. New business.
- h. Work.
- i. Closing.

Attachment Two

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF CHARTERED COUNCILS

1. The annual election of officers of a Council must be held in accordance with the laws of the Grand Council of this jurisdiction.

- a. Officers re-elected or re-appointed need not, but may be installed
2. It is the prerogative of the Illustrious Master to install his successor, but installing officer may be an affiliated Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master. One who has not attained the rank of Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master cannot act as installing officer.
3. The installing ceremony may be conducted in public. If in public the Council need not be opened. If the Council has been opened, it must be closed or called at ease before the public is admitted.
4. The installing officer is addressed as Most Illustrious Grand Master or Illustrious Master, according to rank.
 - a. The rank of the installing officer determines the title of the others assisting in the ceremonies.
 - (1) If M.I. Grand Master or a Past Illustrious Grand Master presides at an installation, they are addressed as “Most Illustrious Grand Master”, the Chaplain and Marshal take the rank of Grand Officers and are addressed as “Companion Grand Chaplain” and “Companion Grand Marshal”
 - (2) If an Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master presides they are addressed as “Illustrious Master” the Chaplain as “Companion Chaplain” and the Marshall as “Companion Marshal”
5. All officers, elective and appointive, should appear on the date fixed for installation, if possible; failure to appear does not, however invalidate the installation of other elective officers who do appear. Officers unavoidably detained may be installed at any subsequent assembly. No officer can be installed by proxy.
 - a. The selection of all appointive officers enumerated in the code is vested in the newly elected Illustrious Master. His appointees, however, cannot be installed unless he is.
 - b. The Illustrious Master-elect, together with the Committee on Installation (if any), shall select competent Companions to act as Installing Officer, Installing Marshal and Installing Chaplain, but the Illustrious Master-elect should be allowed the courtesy of selecting these installing officers if he so desires.
6. If the Council has a set of officer’s jewels, the Marshal will see that they are placed on a stand at a convenient point at the right (or left) and in front of the East.
7. The essential parts of the installation ceremony are the invocation, the obligation of the officers, the constitutional questions to the Illustrious Master and the proclamation by the Installing Marshal.

a. These are mandatory, but the remainder of the ceremony is optional with the Installing Officers and may be altered to meet local conditions of circumstances

8. The Illustrious Master will see that all is in readiness and will then announce to the Companions the names of those selected to act as Installing Officer, Installing Chaplain and Installing Marshal. He will ask these Companions to assume their respective stations, turn the gavel over to the Installing Officer and request the installation proceed.

CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions, the installation of the officers in Council marks the completion of one year's work and the beginning of the next. It teaches the peculiar art of laying aside the insignia of rank with willingness and gracefulness, and assuming the honors and responsibilities of office with humility. As the present officers relinquish their stations in token of the completion of the past year's duties, we are once more reminded of the equality that should always among the members.

Companion Recorder (Recorder rises), you will announce the names of the officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year.

Companion Marshal (Marshal rises), as the names are called you will place the officers in proper position.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The officers, as their names are called, take their positions (under direction of the Marshal) west of the Altar, facing east. The Illustrious Master-elect should be on the extreme right of the line. Chairs should be provided, one for each officer, but at this point officers remain standing. After all are in position, the Marshal says)

MARSHAL: Illustrious Master, I present for installation these worthy companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year.

INSTALLING OFFICER (addressing Council): Companions of _____, Council No. _____, you see before you the Companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year. If any Companion knows of a just cause why they, or any of them, should not be installed, let him now make it known or forever hold his peace.

INSTALLING OFFICER: That we may have the needed strength and guidance to accomplish the task before us, let us invoke the blessing of Divine Providence. Companion Chaplain (Chaplain rises), you will lead us in prayer.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(Installing Officer calls up Council and audience if present). The Chaplain may be led to East side of altar or may give prayer from his position. The below prayer is merely suggested, the Chaplain may elect to offer a special prayer suitable for the occasion))

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

CHAPLAIN: O' Thou Grand master of Heaven and Earth, we approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing upon these Companions who are about to assume the duties of their important offices. Grant them firmness of mind and kindness of disposition, that they may govern the affairs of this Council with justice and moderation. Bless them, O' Lord, and bless those whom Thou has placed under them. May Thy richest blessing rest upon all our Companions, whenever dispersed throughout the world. Amen.

RESPPONSE: So mote it be

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Companions, before proceeding to officially install you, it is necessary for you to take upon yourselves a solemn obligation. You will all therefore place your right hand over your heart, say I, pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me.

OBLIGATION

I _____, do solemnly promise on my honor as a Royal and Select Master, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Nebraska, the bylaws of _____ Council, No _____, and all ancient Masonic usages: that I will to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duties of the office with which I am now to be invested. (*Rap* gavel*)

FLOORWORK NOTE

(Officers drop hands. Installing officer seats Council and audience if present including the other officers with exception of the Illustrious Master who remains standing)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will present the Illustrious Master-elect for installation.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The Marshal will approach the Illustrious Master-elect from the south, and takes him by the right arm and conducts him by the most convenient route to the Altar, placing him directly in front of the same Altar)

MARSHAL: Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____ who is ready to be installed Illustrious Master of this Council.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(Each time the Marshal presents an officer, he shall use the above wording, or other wording appropriate to the occasion, changing only the name of the officer and the office)

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Companion, I feel great satisfaction in installing you into the office of Illustrious Master of this Council.

It is a station highly honorable to him who diligently and faithfully performs the important duties connected therewith. But, before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your office, it is mandatory that I propound to you certain questions to which, I must require your unequivocal answer which you may ascent to at the end.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will use your utmost endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals and promote the happiness of your Companions?
2. That you will never suffer your Council to be opened unless there are present at least nine Select Masters?
3. That you will not suffer any person to receive the degree in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence?
4. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority?
5. That you will admit no visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the Council Degrees?
6. That you will faithfully observe the bylaws of your Council, and the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Council?
7. That in the government of your Council you will administer justice tempered with mercy?
8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers when duly installed, and sustain them in discharge of your duties?

Do you submit to all of these requirements, and do you promise to observe them faithfully?

ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER-ELECT: I do

CHARGE TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: With entire confidence in the rectitude of your intentions, and in the integrity of your character as a Select Master, I now declare you duly installed as Illustrious Master of this Council.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(In case the Council has jewels, The Installing Officer will add “You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.” The Installing Officer will then present the gavel to the Illustrious Master-elect at the appropriate time.)

Having been elevated by the voice of your Companions to the highest station in their gift, you are now to assume the functions of that office. It is your duty to set an example of diligence, industry, and fidelity; to see that the officers associated with you faithfully perform their respective duties, and that the interests and reputation of your Council are not endangered by imprudence or neglect. The important trust committed to your care will call for the utmost exertions, and the exercise of your best faculties. As the representative of Solomon, King of Israel, it will be your duty to recite the secret traditions, illustrate the moral principles of our order, cherish the worthy, and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

I now present you with the charter under which your Council will work; you will receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than those expressed therein.

And may He, without whose approbation all labors are in vain, give wisdom to your counsels and strength to your endeavors. You will assume your station in the east.

FLOORWORK NOTE

*(The Illustrious Master returns the gavel to the Installing Officer and assumes his station in the east. If the installation is a public installation the Illustrious Master will be seated; If the installation is not public the Installing Officer will call up the Council with three raps of the gavel (***) and say “Illustrious Master behold your Companions. Companions behold your Illustrious Master. Let us salute him with the Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three.” When done the Installing Officer seats the Council with one rap (*))*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will present the remaining officers in order of their rank.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The Marshal will conduct each officer by the right arm, using most convenient route, and places them directly in front of the Installing Officer)

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, the duties of your office will require your constant and earnest attention. You are to occupy the second seat in this Council and it will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office. In his absence you are to preside and perform his duties; in his presence you are to assist him. In this important trust it will be your duty, and should be your pleasure, to justify the confidence of your Companions. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

FLOORWORK NOTE

(In case the Council has jewels, The Installing Officer instead of saying you will be conducted to your station to each officer will close each charge by saying "You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.")

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, in the absence of both your superiors you will be called upon to preside. As the interests of the Council should never be permitted to suffer through lack of intelligence in its officers, you will allow me to urge upon you the necessity of being always prepared and qualified to meet such an emergency. You will be conducted to your Station. (Done).

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, your interest in this Council, your attachment to the Craft, and your known integrity of character are a sufficient assurance that the duties of your office will be faithfully performed. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, the possession of the requisite qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for this office and I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with diligence and fidelity. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, as we are taught never to enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the Blessing of Deity, it becomes your duty to administer the devotional exercises of the Council when called upon. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful, and the worthy. Obey the commands of your chief and be near at hand to see them duly executed. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, in the discharge of your duties pertaining to your office, be fervent and zealous. You will thus merit the respect and esteem of your Companions and the approbation of your own conscience. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, your duty is to guard the entrance to the Secret Vault with sleepless vigilance and suffer none to pass it without permission of the Illustrious Master. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, as the first application from visitor is usually made to the Sentinel, it is therefore essentially necessary that you exemplify that spirit of friendship which is manifest in the Council. You will be conducted to your station. (Done)

ADDRESS TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Master, you now occupy the highest office in power of your Companions to bestow. You have accepted a trust to which is attached a responsibility that will require your best efforts to discharge with honor to yourself and satisfaction of your Council.

You are to have a watchful eye over the general conductor of the Council, see that the members are properly instructed and that due solemnity be observed in the practice of our rites. Moreover, you should be the example to your officers and members which they need not hesitate to follow, thus securing for yourself the favor of Heaven and the approval of your brethren and Companions.

FLOORWORK NOTE

*(Installing Officer calls up Companions with three raps (***) of the gavel)*

CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions, from the nature of the constitution of every society, some must rule and others obey. While justice and moderation are required of the officers in discharge of their official duties, subordination and respect are equally demanded of its members. The relation is reciprocal. The interests of both are inseparable. Without mutual cooperation the labors of neither can succeed. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Let brotherly love, therefore, prevail among you. Let each be emulous of the others in promoting peace and unity and in striving to see who can best rule and best obey.

And may He whose watchful care is over all those who put their trust in Him, ever keep and preserve this Council to His own name and glory.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will make the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

INSTALLING MARSHAL: (Raises right hand) In the name of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Nebraska, I proclaim the officers of _____ Council No _____ duly installed with the Grand Honors of Cryptic Masonry. All Interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

INSTALLING OFFICER: I now place in your hand this gavel an emblem of authority, as an additional insignia of your rank, a rap of which will command attention and maintain order in the Council. Wield it well, my Companion, and with prudence and discretion.

Attachment Three

GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF NEBRASKA INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND OFFICERS

PRELIMINARY NOTES

At a suitable time, the newly chosen Grand Illustrious Master shall elect the Installing Officers who will install the new Officers of the Grand Council. They shall consist of an Installing Grand Illustrious Master, who shall be a Past Grand Illustrious Master, an installing Marshal, and installing Chaplain and an installing Recorder. Music and other arrangements may be made as desired.

The recent Past Grand Illustrious Master will announce and introduce those Companions who have been selected to act as the Installing Officers, invite them to assume their respective stations, and turn the gavel over to the Installing Grand Illustrious Master and the installation begins.

The newly chosen Grand Officers will repair to the anteroom and be invested with the appropriate apron of their office. The Installing Grand Illustrious Master will then call upon the Installing Grand Recorder and Installing Grand Marshal.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Grand Recorder (installing Recorder rises), you will announce the names of the officers elected and appointed to serve this Grand Council for the ensuing year.

Companion Grand Marshal (installing Marshal rises), as the names are called you will place the officers in the proper position for installation.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The newly chosen Grand Officers, as their names are called, take their positions (under the direction of the Installing Marshal), west of the Altar, facing east. The Grand Illustrious Master-elect should be on the extreme right of the line. Chairs should be provided, one for each officer, but at this point the officers remain standing. After all are in position, the Installing Marshal addresses the Installing Grand Illustrious Master)

INSTALLING MARSHAL: Most Illustrious Grand Master, I here present before you these Illustrious Companions, who have been duly chosen to serve this Grand Council for the ensuing year.

FLOORWORK NOTE

*(The Installing Grand Illustrious Master will there upon arise and with three raps (***) will call the entire Grand Council to their feet and proceed with the ceremony)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companions, before proceeding to invest you with the honors and responsibilities of the office to which you have respectively been chosen, it becomes my duty to administer to you the obligation of your office.

OBLIGATION

INSTALLING OFFICER: You will therefore say I, pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me

I, (each Companion inserts and states his name), do solemnly promise on my honor as a Cryptic Mason, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, the Constitution of the General Grand Council International, and all ancient Masonic usages; and that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duties of the office with which I am now to be invested. So help me God.

INSTALLING OFFICER: The Installing Grand Marshal will conduct the Installing Grand Chaplain to the East side of the Altar.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The installing Grand Chaplain will offer the following prayer or one of his own choosing)

PRAYER

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN: Most Holy and Glorious God! The Grand Master of Heaven and Earth! We approach Thee with reverence and, and implore Thy blessing on the Companions appointed to preside over and conduct the affairs of this Grand Council for the ensuing year. Fill their hearts with Thy fear that their tongues and actions may promote Thy glory. Make them steadfast in Thy service; grant them firmness of mind and kindness of disposition that they may rule over their Companions with justice and equity; animate their hearts and strengthen their endeavors to do good. May they teach Thy judgments in truth, and Thy laws in righteousness, and perform the duties of the high offices they occupy with an eye singly to Thy glory and the good of the craft. Bless them O' Lord! And bless those whom Thou has placed under them; and grant that when we shall have finished the work Thou hast assigned us in the earthly temple, we may be admitted to the glories of that sacred temple, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

RESPONSE: So mote it be

FLOORWORK NOTE

(Installing Grand Illustrious Master then seats the Grand Council and audience with one rap (), the Grand Marshal will then introduce the Grand Illustrious Master-elect)*

INSTALLING MARSHAL: Most Illustrious Grand Master, I here present for installation Illustrious Companion _____, who has been elected the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Nebraska and who now declares himself ready for installation.

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The Installing master will then deliver the charge to the Most Illustrious Master-elect)

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Most Illustrious Companion _____, by the voice of your Companions you have been chosen to occupy the most honorable office in their power to bestow, and to me has been entrusted the pleasing duty of investing you with its insignia.

FLOORWORK NOTE

The Installing Officer will then cause the Most Illustrious Grand Master to be invested with the Insignia of his office, after which he will continue)

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Most Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office

I do not doubt that you will watch with fidelity and judgment the conduct of the subordinate bodies within your jurisdiction; and while tempering justice with mercy will require from every member a due obedience to the rules and regulations of our institution. May He, without whose approbation all labors are in vain, give strength to your endeavors and support your exertions.

You will now assume your appropriate station

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The other Officers, elected and appointed, are then presented singly to the Installing Officer with the Marshal each time presenting the Officer with the same wording as when he did the Most Illustrious Master above, or other wording appropriate to the occasion, changing only the name of the officer and the office, upon which the Installing Officer will give each a charge)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Installing Grand Marshal, you will present the remaining officers in order of their rank.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Right Illustrious Companion _____, the important station to which you have been elected requires from you exemplary conduct, and its duties demand your most assiduous attention. In the absence of the Most Illustrious Grand Master you are to

preside; In his presence you are to strengthen and support his authority by your counsel and advice.

Let the bright example of the illustrious monarch of Tyre, who by his power and wealth, gave strength to the labors of King Solomon, stimulate you to the faithful discharge of your duties; and when the King of Kings shall summon you to His immediate presence, from his hands may you receive a crown of glory that shall never fade.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Right Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND PRINCIPLE CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion_____, the office to which you have been elected is one of great importance. In the absence of your superior officers it is your prerogative to succeed them, and to perform their duties; you will therefore perceive the necessity there is of your possessing such qualifications as will enable you to accomplish those duties which are incumbent upon you in your appropriate station, as well as those which may occasionally devolve upon you by the absence of your superiors.

Remember the example of that illustrious artist at Jerusalem, who was ever ready, as a mediator, to cause justice to be tempered with mercy, and to preserve peace and order among the craft. Let it remind you that the harmony and unanimity of the order should be your constant aim; and as the glorious sun at its meridian height dispels the mists and clouds which obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the clouds of jealousy and discord whenever they may appear

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND TREASURER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion_____, you have been elected to the important office of Grand Treasurer, it is your duty to receive all money from the hands of the Grand Recorder, make due entries thereof, and pay the same by the order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Council.

The office to which you have been elected embraces an important trust, and the choice of you by your Companions is evidence of the high opinion they entertain of your fidelity and discretion.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND RECORDER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion_____, you have been elected to the office of Grand Recorder, it is your duty to receive all money due the Grand Council and pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore; to observe the proceedings of the Grand Council, and to make a true record of all things to be written. You are

also the official organ of the Grand Council, and in that capacity will conduct its various correspondence, and act as the medium of intercourse between the fraternity and their presiding officers. In the discharge of these extensive duties, let your carriage and behavior be marked with that promptitude and discretion that will at once reflect credit on yourself and the honor of the body whom you represent.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CHAPLAIN

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion_____, the position of Grand Chaplain has been in trusted to you care. In the discharge of your duties you will be required to lead the devotional exercises of our annual assemblies, and to perform the sacred functions of your holy calling at our public ceremonies. I do not doubt that you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well doing.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND ARCH SUPERVISOR

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion_____, you have been chosen as Grand Arch Supervisor. It is your duty to guide and assign Master Workman in each of the nine arches as appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master. It is your further duty to see that each Master Workman contacts each Council, offers his assistance in doing of the work, and sees that the Council in doing ritual work, and sees that the Council is proficient receiving the Most Illustrious Grand Master or any of his appointed Grand Officers and that they receive the appropriate proficiency certificates for their labors. You shall also act when requested by the Most Illustrious Grand Master at the election of the Grand Council at annual assemblies.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion_____, you have been chosen as the Grand Captain of the Guard in this Grand Council and are at the start of the advancing line. It is your duty to guard well your post, and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful,

and the worthy. Be ever attentive to the commands of your chief and prompt to see them duly executed. I present you with this sword as the appropriate implement of your office.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion _____, you have been selected as the Grand Conductor of the Council. I charge you to be fervent and zealous in the discharge of your duties, let justice and mercy mark your conduct, and predominate in your character through life.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND STEWARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion _____, As the Grand Steward of this Grand Council your station is near the door, where you will receive all reports from the Grand Sentinel. In the discharge of your duties you will announce the name and Masonic rank of all who desire admission into our Grand Council. You will see that none enter except such as are duly qualified.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SENTINEL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Companion _____, you have been appointed Grand Sentinel and I place this sword in your hands, the more effectually to enable you to repel the approach of intruders, and to guard against surprise. It is your duty to guard the door of the Grand Council, on the outside; to report to the Grand Steward those who desire to be admitted; to place the Council chamber in order for assemblies, and to attend to such other duties as may be required of you by the Grand Council. Your early and punctual attendance is essentially necessary.

Installing Grand Marshal you will invest my Illustrious Companion with the jewel of his Office and conduct him to his appropriate station.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MUSICIAN/ORGANIST (OPTIONAL)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been appointed as the Grand Musician/Organist of this Grand Council, it is your duty to provide all the appropriate music selections during our grand assemblies and installations. Your presence is essential in

providing for the flow and calming environment essential to good order and decorum in the Council

Installing Grand Marshal you will conduct our Companion to his appropriate station.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Installing Grand Marshal you will now make proclamation of this Grand Council

FLOORWORK NOTE

(The Installing Marshal will go west of the Altar and raise his right hand and make the proclamation)

PROCLAMATION

INSTALLING MARSHAL: By the authority of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, I proclaim that the Grand Officers have been installed in ample form for the ensuing year.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Most Illustrious Grand Master, I now place in your hand this gavel, the emblem of your authority. Wield it well, my Illustrious Companion, and with prudence and discretion.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

The installation of the General Grand Council International Officers is the same as the Grand Council but substitute title of the General Grand Council Officers

It should also be noted that several jurisdictions have changed the official name from “Royal and Select Masters” to “Cryptic Masons”. When appropriate, please make this change in the ceremony. This rule applies to the General Grand Council.

Attachment Four

CONSTITUTION OF THE THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS DEGREE OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF NEBRASKA

ARTICLE I
NAME

This body shall be known as NEBRASKA COUNCIL NO.1, ORDER OF THE SILVER TROWEL

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Council shall be predicated on election as Illustrious Master of any recognized Council of Royal and Select Masters or upon properly-attested status as Past Illustrious Master of such Council and shall be conditioned on maintenance in good standing of membership in such subordinate Council

ARTICLE III
PETITIONING AND FEES NEBRASKA COUNCILS

Any Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master presenting an attested certificate of election in a Council of Royal and Select Masters shall be entitled by virtue of such certificate, to petition for membership in this Council

The fee for membership shall be \$15.00 with each application

ARTICLE IV
PETITIONING FOR NON NEBRASKA COUNCILS

Any Illustrious Master or Past Illustrious Master, not a member of a Nebraska Council of Royal and Select Masters may be received only if there be no Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters in his jurisdiction, except by dispensation of his Grand Council or Thrice Illustrious Master's Council, as the case may be.

ARTICLE V
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary membership may be conferred on qualified Companions in any jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VI
ELECTION OF MEMBERS

All members shall be elected unanimously by ballot; provided that honorary membership shall be conferred by vote of the Assembly

ARTICLE VII
OFFICERS OF COUNCIL, ELECTION AND DUTIES

Sec 1. The Officers of this Council, whose duties shall be as their titles indicate, shall be elected annually for a term of one year and shall be ranked as follows:

1. Thrice Illustrious Master
2. Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden
3. Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden
4. Thrice Illustrious Registrar
5. Thrice Illustrious Steward
6. Thrice Illustrious Sentinel

There shall also be a Thrice Illustrious Chaplain who shall be appointed by the Thrice Illustrious Master

Sec 2. The Thrice illustrious Master shall not be elected to succeed himself more than once

Sec 3. The Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska shall be elected Thrice Illustrious Registrar of this Council

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

This Council shall meet annually on the same day and in the same city as the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska and at such other times and places as the Thrice Illustrious Master may direct.

ARTICLE IX ENTITLEMENTS

Only recognized members of the Order of the Silver Trowel shall be entitled to sit in a meeting of this body.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons in Nebraska in accordance with the rules and regulations governing amendments to the Constitution of that body.