

THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MOST EXCELLENT GRAND ROYAL
ARCH CHAPTER
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

As amended
March 11, 2019

Corrected for Scrivener's Errors
3/21/2022

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

PREAMBLE

The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Carolina does hereby ordain, establish, and promulgate the following Constitution for its future government, and does hereby make and prescribe the following Rules and Regulations for the government of the Chapters under its jurisdiction:

ARTICLE I

Name

The name, style and title of this Grand Chapter shall be “The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Carolina.”

ARTICLE II

Members

SECTION 1. The Grand Chapter Shall consist of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Chaplain, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, three Grand Masters of the Veils, Grand Sentinel, Six District Deputy Grand High Priests, and the living actual and honorary Past Grand High Priests, and of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes for the time being of the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; and the said enumerated Officers or the proxies of the said Officers of the several Chapters shall be members and voters in this Grand Chapter.

SECTION 2. Every High Priest who has served for twelve months as the High Priest of a Chapter in this jurisdiction, and who continues to be affiliated with a Chapter therein, shall, after his name and past office is listed in the York Rite Information System, be entitled to be present at all Convocations of the Grand Chapter, to assist in its deliberations, to be placed on Committees, and shall be eligible to any office but he shall not be permitted to vote on any subject.

ARTICLE III

Grand Convocations

SECTION 1. There shall be one Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, which shall be Holden at such place as the Grand Chapter may from time to time determine, during the Second Week in March, and such extra Convocations as the Grand High Priest, or, in his absence from the Jurisdiction, the Deputy Grand High Priest, shall think proper and necessary. No business shall be transacted unless five Chapters are represented.

ARTICLE IV

Election of Officers

SECTION 1. The Grand Chapter shall proceed to the election of its officers at such time during its Annual Convocation as may be deemed most expedient. No Companion shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, but a High Priest or Past High Priest of a Subordinate Chapter, nor to any other office in this Grand Chapter (except that of Grand Chaplain and Grand Sentinel). The Candidates having a majority of votes shall be duly elected and shall be installed as soon after the election as may be convenient. The officers elected shall hold office for one year and until their successors shall have been legally elected and installed.

SECTION 2. The Stations of Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the Third Veil, Grand Master of the Second Veil, Grand Master of the First Veil, six District Deputy Grand High Priests, Grand Sentinel and Grand Chaplain shall be filled by appointment of the Grand High Priest, at his installation. Each appointee serving for the period of one Annual Convocation to the next succeeding Annual Convocation.

ARTICLE V

Oath of Supremacy

Every officer of the Grand Chapter as well as of every Subordinate Chapter in this Jurisdiction, shall at the time of his installation, take the oath to support and maintain the Constitution of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

ARTICLE VI

Powers

The Grand Chapter is the highest source of authority in Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction, subject to the ancient landmarks. As such it has the government and control of all Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters, and Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, within the State of South Carolina.

ARTICLE VII

New Chapters

SECTION 1. A Chapter can only be formed by authority of a dispensation from the Grand High Priest or of a charter from the Grand Chapter, and

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

no charter shall be granted to any Chapter until it shall have worked for a time under dispensation.

SECTION 2. Upon the petition of nine or more Royal Arch Masons in good standing 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.

SECTION 3. Such petition 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 members of some Lodge of Ancient Free Mason in good standing, and that it is desirable to establish a Chapter at the place named.

SECTION 4. No warrant of dispensation for the institution of a new Chapter shall be granted for a less sum than ten dollars, and no charter shall be granted for a less sum than eighty dollars, in addition to the dispensation fee herein provided for.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

This Constitution may be altered or amended in the following manner only: The proposed alteration or amendment must be made in writing. If seconded it shall be laid over for consideration at the Next Annual Convocation at which time the Grand High Priest shall put the question and if its adoption is concurred in by three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$'s) of the members present and voting it shall from thenceforth be considered as a part of this Constitution. Provided, that by unanimous consent and proposition as aforesaid may be acted upon at the Convocation which is introduced.

ARTICLE IX

York Rite Life Membership Program – “The Fund”

The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Carolina having adopted the “York Rite Membership Program – “The Fund” at the 1988 Annual Convocation shall together with its subordinate Chapters conform to and abide by the rules and regulations as set forth by the York Rite Life Membership Program – “The Fund”. All amendments to the York Rite Life Membership Program shall be submitted to the Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation for approval.

Article X
Committees

Following each Annual Convocation, the Grand High Priest shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

Audit

1. **Composition:** The audit Committee shall consist of three (3) members, one (1) member to be appointed annually by the Grand High Priest. The Chairman will be designated by the Grand High Priest each year following the Annual Convocation.
2. **Term:** The term of each appointed member shall be three (3) years, and: no appointed member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, except that the terms of the first, and only first members of the Committee appointed under the provisions of this section when adopted shall be: one (1) member with initial term of one (1) year; one (1) member with two (2) years and (1) member with three (3) years.
3. **Duties:** To examine the books of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary and certify to the Grand Chapter the condition, state, and repository of all funds and investments.

Finance

1. **Composition:** The finance Committee shall consist of three (3) member, one (1) to be appointed annually by the Grand High Priest. The Chairman will be designated by the Grand High Priest each year following the Annual Convocation. By their positions the Grand High Priest, The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall automatically be members of the Committee.
2. **Term:** The term of each appointed member shall be three (3) years, and: no appointed member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, except that the terms of the first, and only first members of the Committee appointed under the provisions of this section when adopted shall be: one (1) member with initial term of one (1) year; one (1) member with two (2) years and (1) member with three (3) years.
3. **Duties:** To receive and consider all matters pertaining to finance referred to it by the Grand Chapter. To prepare and submit to the Grand Chapter at its annual convocation, a balanced budget setting forth all the expected revenues and expenditures necessary for the

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

operation of all functions of The Grand Chapter for the ensuing budget year. Such budget, when adopted by the Grand Chapter shall govern all expenditures for the ensuing budget year. And, at the direction of the Grand High Priest, perform all other duties pertaining to The Grand Chapter finances not specifically assigned by the constitution to the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary.

Jurisprudence Committee

1. Composition: The Jurisprudence Committee shall consist of all Past Grand High Priest, and no more. The Grand King, The Deputy Grand High Priest, the Grand Scribe, and the Grand Secretary shall be ex-officio members of this Committee with no vote. The Chairman shall be designated by the Grand High Priest each year.
2. Duties: The committee shall have in its charge the responsibility to determine the validity of all changes and additions concerning Capitular Law. The Committee shall, before the Annual Convocation review the Grand High Priest's Address to ensure that his actions during his term of office are not contrary to Capitular Law.

Special Committees

The Grand High Priest shall appoint all other Committees as needed, which shall serve until their work is complete or the Grand High Priest's term of Office ends. Reports from such committees shall be made to the Grand High Priest.

Article XI

Grand Chapter Officers

1. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest shall govern and preside over this Grand Chapter when present, and in his absence the Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, taking precedence according to rank. The Grand High Priest shall have all the prerogatives and powers of granting dispensations, usually vested in, and exercised by said presiding officer. On the first day of the Annual Convocation the Grand High Priest shall submit to the Grand Chapter a written address, to be printed with its transactions, setting forth an account of his official acts during the past year, and suggesting such recommendations for advancing such views as he may consider to be for the good of the Grand Chapter of its Subordinate Chapters, or for the advantage of Royal Arch Masonry in general.

2. The Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds, securities, and vouchers of the Grand Chapter, and shall pay all budgeted expenses approved by the members of Grand Chapter at its annual convocation, from the moneys on hand and such unbudgeted orders signed by the Grand High Priest and attested by the Grand Secretary. It shall be his duty to attend all the convocations of the Grand Chapter, with the books of accounts, and vouchers records for money paid out. He shall be bonded under the general surety bond provided by the Grand York Rite of SC. For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall be paid such annual salary as the Grand Chapter shall from year to year determine.
3. The Grand Secretary shall record the transactions of the Grand Chapter, and shall attend personally each Convocation of the Grand Chapter with the necessary books and papers of his office, 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, receipt for, and immediately deposit all dues, fees, and other moneys, taking a proper receipt therefore; he shall keep a faithful journal of all the proceedings of the Grand Chapter; post all proceedings to the website as soon as possible after the annual convocation; and conduct any correspondence required of him under the orders of the Grand Chapter or the directions of the Grand High Priest; he shall procure all the necessary books and stationery, to be paid for out of the funds of the Grand Chapter; shall have charge of all the records, jewels, papers, parchments, certificates, and documents other than those belonging to the Grand Treasurer; he shall do and perform any other duties customary to his office under the established usages of Royal Arch Masonry, and for his services he shall receive such annual salary as the Grand Chapter shall from year to year determine. He shall authenticate no diploma that does not bear the signature of the Companion to whom it is to be issued. He shall be bonded under the general surety bond provided by the Grand York Rite of SC.
4. The Grand Sentinel shall be a worthy Royal Arch Mason. It shall be his duty to prepare the room for the Convocations of the Grand Chapter, see that its jewels and furniture are kept in safety and in good order, to deliver all notices handed in by the Grand Secretary, and to guard the door. The Grand Chaplin shall review annual mortality reports and prepare appropriate memorials.

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

5. The Grand High Priest shall appoint annually six Worthy Companions as District Deputy Grand High Priests, whose duties shall consist of:
 - a. Being the direct personal representatives of the Grand High Priest
 - b. Executing and carrying out all his instructions
 - c. Visiting all constituent Chapters in his District.
 - d. Coordinating and scheduling of District visitations and educational meetings.

Article XI

Voting in Grand Chapter

1. Each member of the Grand Chapter (except as provided in Article II, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter) is entitled to one vote, and each chartered Chapter to three votes, to be cast by the representative present or their proxies. Each one of the three principal officers possess for himself the inherent prerogative of representing his Chapter at all Grand Chapter Convocations; 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 Chapter he represents. The Grand Secretary shall be notified of such proxy prior to Grand Chapter Convocations.
2. In case of the death or absence of any of the said officers of any Chapter, it may authorize one of its members to represent such officers by a resolution reciting such death or absence, certified by the Secretary under the Seal of the Chapter.
3. All questions before the Grand Chapter 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. If the votes are equal on any question the presiding officer shall, in addition to his own vote, cast the deciding vote.
4. No Companion shall be allowed to vote both as a member and as a representative but shall be required to give his vote as representative in preference to that as a member if he is present in both capacities.

Article XII

Chartered Chapters – Their Government

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

many members as are convenient.

2. The election of the High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer and Secretary shall be by a majority vote by ballot and shall take place at the stated Convocation next preceding the festival of St John the Evangelist (December) or at the prior Convocation (November) and the officers-elect shall be installed as soon after the election as possible and on or before such festival, and such Officers shall hold office for the space of one year from the festival of St. John the Evangelist next succeeding their election, and until their successors shall have been duly elected and installed. Immediately after the installation the Secretary of each Chapter shall enter the Officers into the York Rite Information System.
3. All other officers named in paragraph I, shall be appointed by the High Priest, with the consent of the King and Scribe and be installed with the elective officers. The Secretary of each Chapter shall enter the Officers into the York Rite Information System. No officer can be recognized as such until he shall have been installed; but the old officers will exercise all the prerogatives of their respective offices until their successors shall have been installed.
4. No officer can resign his office or demit after he shall have been installed.
5. It is not necessary for the due and legal discharge of his functions that a High Priest-elect should receive the Order of High Priesthood. But it is recommended that every High Priest should, as soon as convenient after his election; apply to a Convention of High Priests for admission to that order.
6. Every Chapter under this Jurisdiction shall assemble at least once in every three months, if possible; and any Chapter neglecting to meet for one year shall forfeit its warrant of Constitution, unless some satisfactory cause is assigned to the Grand Chapter for the neglect; and no Chapter can suspend its Convocations for any period between the 1st of September and the 1st of May except by a dispensation of the Grand High Priest. (AMENDED 2001)
7. When the High Priest of a Chapter is absent his duties must be performed by the King and Scribe in succession. If they should likewise be absent, the Chapter cannot be opened. The Warrant of Constitution is granted to the High Priest, King, and Scribe, and their successors in office, and to no one else, and no one else can lawfully act. But a Past High Priest may, at the request and under the authority of a King or Scribe, who is present, take the Chair and preside over the Chapter.

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

8. It shall be the duty of the High Priest, King, and Scribe of every Chapter to attend all Convocations of the Grand Chapter.
9. All business shall be done only in the Chapter, and nothing shall be done but conferring degrees unless there be present nine or more members of the Chapter.
10. Chapters should hold to a strict account all members who may be guilty of intemperance, gambling, immoral or disreputable conduct, or profane swearing and all who shall disobey the summons of the High Priest or of the Chapter.
11. Chapters may make By-Laws, after the consideration of the same one month, and, on notice given at any stated Convocation, may modify, or abolish any existing By-Law or make a new one, at the next stated Convocation by a two-thirds vote of all its members present; Provided, the same shall not take effect until approved by the Grand High Priest.
12. Every Chapter shall have a Seal, with the name and number thereof engraved thereon, and impression of which shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary.
13. As long as nine Companion Royal Arch Masons in good standing, members of a Chapter, desire to hold the Charter, the Chapter has no power to surrender it.
14. A Chapter cannot be called off from one day or night to another day or night, except in case of trials.
15. The powers of a High Priest are absolute in his Chapter, and members can only appeal from his decision to the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest. In 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 of un-Masonic Conduct.
16. 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.
17. The ordinary correspondence of a Chapter shall be conducted by the High Priest, or by the Secretary under his direction, but all its correspondence with Chapters of foreign jurisdictions pertaining to interchange of Courtesies, such as waiver of Jurisdiction, conferring of degrees, or similar matters, shall be handled through the Grand High Priests of the Jurisdictions at interest.

Article XIII

Property

1. When a Charter shall be surrendered or arrested, 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; provided, that upon the revival of the Chapter the property shall be restored to it by the Grand Chapter.
2. A Chapter cannot dispose of the funds of a Chapter for any other than strictly Masonic purposes.

Article XIV

Candidates

1. No Chapter shall exalt a candidate whose application has been rejected in any other Chapter. Verification will be through the York Rite Information System, and it is hereby made the duty of the Secretary of each Chapter under this Jurisdiction to give notice of the name, residence, and occupation of every rejected applicant by entering them as a petitioner into the York Rite Information System and marking the file as rejected.
2. Every Candidate for initiation must be of sound mind and capable of learning the art and complying reasonably with the requirements as to initiation ceremonies.
3. No Candidate shall be elected to receive the degrees in, nor any Royal Arch Mason, admitted a member of any Chapter in this Jurisdiction without the unanimous consent of all members of the Chapter then present at a Stated Convocation. Nor shall an unaffiliated Mason be accepted as a candidate in any Chapter in this Jurisdiction.
4. Neither more nor less than three candidates can be exalted at one and the same time, but the system of substitutes is permissible.
5. No Petitioner for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry shall be eligible unless he be a member in good standing of some Lodge of Ancient Free Masons.
6. A candidate for the Chapter Degrees must have resided for six months within the Jurisdiction of the Chapter where his petition is presented.

Article XV

Jurisdiction

The Territorial Jurisdiction for each Chapter, whether chartered or under dispensation, shall extend in all directions throughout the State of South Carolina. When a petition for Chapter Degree has been properly received,

it becomes the Masonic material of the Chapter so received and can only be waived by action of the Chapter. (AMENDED 2000 and 2001)

Article XVI

Petitions

1. All receptions of petitions, reports on same, and all balloting must be had at Stated Convocations, and none are Stated Convocations except those designated as such in the By-Laws of the Chapter.
2. All petitions for degrees or membership shall be entered into the York Rite Information System to verify the petitioner has not petitioned or been rejected by another Chapter, after which the petition may be received, and balloted upon at the same Stated Convocation.
3. After a petition is regularly received by a Chapter and entered upon its minutes; it cannot be withdrawn.
4. A petitioner for degrees or affiliation who has been rejected must again petition in writing, and the petition must be referred to a committee and lie over one lunar month.
5. After a petition for the degrees conferred in a Chapter has been rejected, no new petition shall be received from the applicant under six months.
6. A petition that may have been rejected by the Chapter having jurisdiction thereof may, upon the recommendation by a unanimous vote of such Chapter and the consent of its Council, be received and acted upon by any other Chapter.
7. A petitioner has no right to know the names of the committee on his petition.

Article XVII

Balloting and Objecting

1. A ballot need not be had on an unfavorable report.
2. A Chapter cannot excuse a member from voting on a petition for degrees or affiliation.
3. A unanimous ballot in favor of petitioners for degrees or affiliation is required.
4. A new ballot is required in case a petitioner does not take the degrees for one year after his election, and a new petition shall be required if the Chapter desires it.
5. A High Priest may order the ballot passed a second or perhaps a third time when he thinks that a black ball may have been cast by mistake. The result must be declared at the time and is final.
6. The right of a Companion to cast a black ball cannot be questioned

in any case where a secret ballot is had; 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 the black ball.

7. Any Chapter can file objections in another Chapter 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; but if such as justify the preferring of charges, they must be respected.

Article XVIII

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.
2. Any Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, or Royal Arch Mason, who for twelve months remains unaffiliated with, and Lodge of Ancient Free Masons is ipso facto suspended in his Chapter, and every member of a Chapter is required to furnish the Secretary, at least once a year, with satisfactory evidence of his affiliation with some Lodge.
3. A Chapter should not consider a petition for membership unless accompanied by a demit or a certificate of Masonic standing equivalent to a demit under the law of the Grand Jurisdiction whence emanating.
4. A non-affiliating Royal Arch Mason never loses his right to petition for admission to a chartered Chapter, no matter where located.
5. A Companion must be vouched for or be examined before he can be elected a member of a Chapter.
6. A candidate, under all circumstances, is a member of the Chapter which elects him, no matter by what Chapter the Degrees are conferred.
7. No Companion shall be expelled, suspended, or otherwise punished by any Chapter in this Jurisdiction unless written charges have been preferred at a stated Convocation, a copy of which is to be delivered to him if his place of residence be known, and trial has been had at some subsequent stated Convocation, when opportunity shall be given him to make his defense and power granted to summon witnesses if Companions, or to examine them by Commission if they are not.
8. The Only punishments recognized as Masonic are expulsion, suspension, definite or indefinite, reprimand, and censure.

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

9. It shall require a vote of two-thirds to expel or suspend, but a majority may reprimand or censure.
10. No Mason having been expelled or indefinitely suspended can be restored except by a unanimous vote of the Chapter after petition and reference.
11. A Mason expelled or suspended by a Symbolic Lodge shall stand in the relation of an expelled or suspended Royal Arch Mason without further trial.
12. Any member may appeal from the decision of the Chapter to the Grand Chapter, whose decision shall be final; and the sentence of the Chapter in cases of trial shall be held in abeyance until the decision of the Grand Chapter is had when notice of appeal is given.
13. All trials of Companions shall take place in the Royal Arch Degree, but a brother who is not a Royal Arch Mason shall be tried in the degree to which he has attained, but the final decision must be taken in the Royal Arch Degree.

Article XIX

Work

1. No Mark Master shall be exalted to the Royal Arch until his mark is recorded.
2. Nine members are necessary to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Eight brethren may open and work as a Lodge of Mark Masters, and seven as a Lodge of Past Masters or Most Excellent Masters.
3. It is not necessary to open a Chapter preliminary to opening a Lodge of Mark, Past, or Most Excellent Masters.

Article XX

Visitors

1. Chapters subordinate to the Grand Chapter of South Carolina must require of all visitors for examination 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 of my Chapter of Royal Arch Masons."
2. Chapters shall admit visiting companions from such Chapters only as hold warrants from Grand Chapters recognized by the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.
3. A visitor has the right to see the charter of the Chapter previous to

his examination.

4. A visiting Companion is presented in a Chapter by courtesy only and can participate in the Chapter proceedings simply to the extent that leave is granted, and his action is simply advisory.
5. If a member of a Chapter objects to the admission of a visitor, the objection must be respected, and the visitor denied admission.
6. Royal Arch Masons hailing from foreign Jurisdictions where the intermediate degrees are not conferred may be healed in and Chapter in this State without further expense and in such cases the Grand Chapter will exact no fee from the Chapter so conferring the intermediate degrees.

Article XXI

Chapter Fees and Dues

1. Every Chapter under this Jurisdiction shall pay four (4.00) dollars for every Companion Exalted therein.
2. Every Chapter under this Jurisdiction shall pay Eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50) per capita per annum for every preputial life member and annual member of the Chapter, except Ministers of God who may be exempt from dues by its by-laws.
3. And further that any companion who has been in good standing for a period of sixty years, either consecutive or accumulative, shall be exempt from the payment of per capita to the Grand Chapter. Those with forty years as of March 11, 2019, will be grandfathered and exempt from payment of per capita.
4. Chapters under dispensation shall be required to make returns and pay fees for all degrees conferred, as well as those working under warrants of Constitution; and as soon as a charter is ordered to be issued to a Chapter working under dispensation it shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Chapter, and the officers named in the dispensation shall be the officers under the warrant until their successors shall have been elected and installed.
5. Every Royal Arch Chapter under this Jurisdiction shall make an annual return in the prescribed form, which shall be the York Rite Information System containing full information of its members, number of degrees conferred, and dues up to December 31st of each calendar year, and pay the amount due thereon to the Grand Secretary before the first day of February following the close of the calendar year. The Grand Secretary shall add and collect, as a part of the dues and fees of chartered Chapters, ten per centum of the gross amount thereof upon all such returns that are not, and

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

payment not remitted before the first day of February following the close of the calendar year.

6. Chapters may relieve or exempt any member from payment of dues to such Chapter, but such action will not relieve or exempt such Chapter from payment of the Grand Chapter per capita for such members., except ministers of God, who may be exempt by its By-Laws.
7. Any Chapter neglecting for one year to make payments without good cause shown to the satisfaction of the Grand Chapter shall surrender its charter, to be restored only on the payment of the per capita due and satisfactory reasons given for such non-payment.
8. A member's dues begin at the date he is exalted or affiliated.
9. Members are not liable for dues during the suspension of their charter.
10. A suspended Companion cannot be charged with dues during the term of his suspension.
11. No Chapter shall confer the degrees for less than twenty dollars upon and candidate, except upon ministers of God.
12. It is unlawful to accept notes or other promises in payment of fees; and any rebate, donation, or other device which in effect reduces the fees below twenty dollars is unlawful, and upon prima facie evidence that such has been done the Grand High Priest shall arrest the charter of such Chapter until the next annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.
13. All dues to the Subordinate Chapters shall be payable annually in advance on December 31. Any companion failing to pay said dues on or before the following October 31 shall stand automatically erased from the roll of members. Should any Companion so erased pay said dues, or should the same be remitted by the Chapter, on or before the following December 31, he shall become automatically reinstated as of October 31 preceding.
14. 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 chartered Chapter to which they belong.

Article XXII

Chapters Under Dispensation

A Petition for dispensation to open and hold a new Chapter must be presented for the recommendation of the nearest chartered Chapter at a stated Convocation. No Petitioner can vote on the question of granting the

recommendation.

The Grand High Priest before granting a dispensation for a new Chapter, must have satisfactory evidence that the proposed officers are duly qualified.

A Chapter under dispensation cannot meet or work without its warrant. A Chapter under dispensation cannot admit or demit members, nor discipline offenders.

All who are named in a dispensation creating a new Chapter, together with those exalted therein, are entitled to vote on all matters coming before the Chapter.

An officer of a chartered Chapter may also be an officer of a Chapter under dispensation.

All who are named in a dispensation has no representation in the Grand Chapter, except by special vote of the Grand Chapter.

The charter members of a new Chapter should consist of those named in its dispensation, those exalted in the Chapter, and such Companions as the Chapter may select by a unanimous ballot.

A Chapter under dispensation has no power or authority except to advance Masons, and for that purpose has the same territorial jurisdiction as chartered Chapters.

Article XXIII

Miscellaneous

1. No Chapter can suspend its By-Laws even by unanimous consent.
2. All balloting for candidates must take place in the Royal Arch Degree.
3. No Chapter can at an extra Convocation alter or expunge the proceedings of a regular one.
4. The only Royal Arch apron acknowledged in this Jurisdiction is a square one, edged with scarlet ribbon, having the triple Tau Cross within a triangle, and that within a circle inscribed upon its flap. Silk or linen should not be used and are strictly prohibited as being wholly un-Masonic.
5. On all subjects upon which these By-Laws, together with the Constitution of this Grand Chapter are silent, the laws, usages, and customs of Ancient Craft Masonry prevailing in this Jurisdiction shall govern.
6. Every motion or resolution shall be reduced to writing, if required, and the member offering the same shall read it in his place and then present it to the presiding officer.
7. All papers coming before the Grand Chapter which are to be

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

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 for record.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject, unless to explain, without permission from the chair.
9. Every member wishing to speak on a question must rise and address the Chair.
10. No member shall interrupt the Presiding Officer or any member when speaking.
11. No Companion shall be permitted to sit as a visitor in the Grand Chapter without the consent of the Presiding Officer of the Grand Chapter.
12. No member or visitor shall retire during the transaction of business without permission from the Chair.
13. All Committees shall be appointed by the Chair.
14. There can be no appeal from the decision of the Chair, except to the Grand Chapter.
15. On all subjects upon which these By-Laws, are silent, the laws, usages, and customs of Ancient Craft Masonry prevailing in this Jurisdiction shall govern.

Article XXIV

RULES OF ORDER FOR GUIDANCE OF CHAPTERS

1. When a Companion desires to speak, he shall arise from his seat and address the High Priest, and not proceed to speak until recognized by that officer.
2. The High Priest shall decide all questions of order.
3. There can be no appeal from the decision of the presiding officer except to the Grand Chapter.
4. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same question (unless to explain) without the permission of the Chapter.
5. No motion shall be entertained until seconded, and no debate had thereon until it is stated by the High Priest.
6. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to postpone, indefinitely or to a time certain, to refer, or to amend, which motions shall always be in order, and shall take precedence in the order named.
7. Any member may call for a division when the vote may appear doubtful.
8. The usual rules of parliamentary practice, as far as they agree with Masonic usage, and do not conflict with these By-Laws, or

Constitution of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina

the laws of the Grand Chapter, shall be the guide in all questions that may come before this Chapter