

ADDENDIUM A (Original Constitution 1860)

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
GRAND COUNCIL  
OF  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS  
OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

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ADOPTED ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY, 1860

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**ARTICLE FIRST.**

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South Carolina is formed by a power delegated to the several subordinate councils in this State, so to do, by the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the thirty-third degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, from whom their Warrants of Constitution were originally derived, and under the express stipulation that all the rights and privileges of the said Inspectors over the said degrees, except so far as the granting of Dispensations and Warrants, and the exercise of supreme Masonic control over the Councils, and their members shall be reserved inviolate to the said Inspectors, and that the Grand Council will assume no authority to open Councils beyond the limits of the State of South Carolina. And this and the following Article of the Constitution shall be forever unrepealable as fundamental principles of law, except by and with the consent of the said Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General.

**ARTICLE SECOND.**

No Royal and Select Master shall ever be acknowledged as regular, or admitted to visit any Council in this State, if he has been made under the authority of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, nor unless he has received the degrees in a just and legally constituted Council, or, being a Royal Arch Mason, at the hands of a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General.

**ARTICLE THIRD.**

The Grand Council shall consist of the following officers and members: Most Puissant Grand Master, Thrice Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Works, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Captain of the Guards, Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Steward; The Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Conductors of the Works; and the first three officers of every subordinate Council in the State, each of whom, except the Grand Steward, shall be entitled to one vote: Provided, That in the absence of one or two of the representatives of any subordinate Council, his or their vote shall be cast by the representative or representatives present, so that each subordinate council shall be thus entitled to three votes.

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**ARTICLE FOURTH.**

Where it is impracticable for any one of the first three officers of a Subordinate Council to attend the convocation of the Grand Council, the said Council may elect any member of its body to represent it as a delegate to the Grand Council, which delegate shall exercise all the rights of a representative except that of holding office, to which he cannot be elected unless he be a Past Grand Master, Past H. of T., or Past P. C. of the W. of a Council.

**ARTICLE FIFTH.**

The Grand Council shall meet annually, on the Wednesday after the first Monday in February, at the place on which the Grand Council shall, at its previous convocation, have determined by a majority of votes. Three Subordinate Councils shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE SIXTH.**

The Grand Master shall have the power to grant dispensations for the formation of new Councils, which dispensations shall remain of force until the next convocation of the Grand Council.

**ARTICLE SEVENTH.**

The fee for a dispensation shall be twenty-five dollars, to be paid to the Grand Council. And should a warrant be granted by the Grand Council, no further fee shall be exacted. But out of the fee for the dispensation, the sum of five dollars shall be paid to the Grand Recorder for preparing the warrant.

**ARTICLE EIGHTH.**

No Subordinate Council shall confer the degrees for a less sum than ten dollars, which fee must, in all cases, be paid in advance.

**ARTICLE NINTH.**

At every Assembly of the Grand Council the Grand Master shall appoint the following Standing Committees: On Dispensations and Warrants; on Grievances; on Unfinished Business; on the Books of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder.

**ARTICLE TENTH.**

All elections in the Grand Council shall take place annually, on such day, as the Grand Council shall determine.

**ARTICLE ELEVENTH.**

Each Subordinate Council shall make an annual return to the Grand Council, through the Grand Recorder, and shall pay the sum of twenty-five cents for every member, and fifty cents for each degree conferred.

**ARTICLE TWELFTH.**

No candidate can receive the Council degrees who is deformed, maimed or imperfect in his limbs; nor can any candidate be elected, or Select Master affiliated in any Council, without the unanimous consent of all the members present.

**ARTICLE THIRTEENTH.**

No alteration of, or amendment to, this Constitution shall be made unless it shall be read at one convocation, and adopted at a subsequent one, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present: Provided, That an amendment or addition may be made after two readings, at one and the same convocation, by the unanimous consent of all present.

**ADDENDIUM B (Resolutions Adopted since 1961)****RESOLUTIONS****RESOLUTION OF POLICY**

*BE IT RESOLVED*, That we declare it to be a policy of this Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South Carolina that Representatives to the Triennial Sessions shall be chosen in the following manner: Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Recorder will be expected to attend. If funds permit the Deputy Grand Master and the immediate past Most Illustrious Grand Master shall also be invited to attend. (*Adopted March 13, 1962*)

**RESOLUTION OF UNITY**

*WHEREAS*, It is apparently the unanimous desire of concerned Sir Knights and Companions of Commandery, Council and Chapter to foster and encourage a closer working relationship between the York Rite Bodies.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, That we recommend for all Jurisdictions the following steps in order to achieve this purpose.

- 1) That the meetings of the three York Rite Bodies in cities in which there is a Chapter, Council and Commandery, hold monthly meetings on the same evening, one following the other.
- 2) That the Sir Knight who is Recorder of the Commandery be elected as Secretary and Recorder of the Chapter and Council respectively.
- 3) That the same plans outlined in the first two suggestions be followed so far as the Grand York Rite Bodies are concerned; that is, that provision be made in the Constitution of By-Laws of the three Grand York Rite Bodies to meet in the same city with one following another until all three have completed their deliberations and that the practice be adopted of electing one Sir Knight and Companion as Grand Secretary-Recorder of the three Bodies. (*Adopted March 11, 1968*)

**FLORAL OR MEMORIAL FOR PRESIDING OR PAST GRAND HEAD**

*WHEREAS*, Considerable embarrassment has been caused from time to time when Grand Officers or their relatives have been called by death, because of the lack of a definite policy regarding floral offering or memorials, *THEREFORE*, Be it

*RESOLVED*, That is and shall be the policy of the Grand Body that a suitable floral or memorial offering not to exceed the sum of fifteen (\$50.00) dollars, shall be given following the death of a Presiding Grand Officer or Past Presiding Grand Officer, only. (*Adopted March 9, 1970, Amended 1995 - Amount*)

**SECTIONAL MEETINGS**

*WHEREAS*, Area and Sectional Meetings are constantly being sponsored by the National and International York Rite Grand Bodies, and

*WHEREAS*, It is essential that we have representation at these meetings that we may be well informed of what is transpiring in matters relating to our Grand York Rite and the York Rite in General, Therefore, Be it

*RESOLVED*, That the sum of fifty (\$50.00) dollars be appropriated by the Finance Committee for the M. I. Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, if so much be needed, to help defray the expenses to Area Meetings when called by the General Grand Council. (*Referred to Finance and later adopted, March 9, 1970*)

**FUNDS FOR ENTERTAINMENT OF VISITING LADIES**

*RESOLVED*, The Grand Council should consider a separate appropriation to pay the expenses of the Annual Grand Council Assembly for the entertainment of our visiting ladies.

*MOTION*, That the Finance Committee be instructed to appropriate funds to pay the entire cost of the Annual Assembly being in the neighborhood of \$1,000.00 for the three Grand Bodies. (*Adopted and referred to the Finance Committee March 10, 1975*)

ADDENDIUM B (Resolutions Adopted since 1961)

**RESOLUTION TO RECIPROCATATE FOR VISITING DIGNITARIES**

*WHEREAS*, The Expenses of the Grand York Rite Bodies of South Carolina are experiencing a deficit in present financing, and

*WHEREAS*, other Grand Jurisdictions are finding it necessary to reduce expenditures for visiting Grand Heads:

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Grand York Rite Bodies of South Carolina reciprocate in kind with the visitation policies of other Grand Jurisdictions in the Southeast Region. *(Adopted March 10, 1991)*

**RESOLUTION TO PAY EXPENSES FOR VISITING DIGNITARIES**

The Grand Council pays for two days hotel reservations, banquet, breakfast (KYCH & RCC) for men, and ladies brunch for the following:

General Grand Master or his personal representative

Southeastern Regional Deputy Right Illustrious General Grand Master

The Grand Council will pay for banquet, breakfast (KYCH & RCC) for men, ladies brunch and hotel room (if their state reciprocates) for the following:

Most Illustrious Grand Master

Grand Recorder of the Grand Council

**All other Companions are invited at their own expense.** *(Adopted March 15, 1993)*

**PER DIEM AND MILEAGE**

*WHEREAS*, the three Grand York Rite Bodies of South Carolina, viz: The Grand Royal Arch Chapter; the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters; and the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar plan and hold their annual meetings at the same place and two-day period with each holding a separate meeting within a specified time period; and

*WHEREAS*, present and existing rules and procedures provide for per diem and mileage expenses be paid the certain representatives.

*THEREFORE*, be it resolved that the following guidelines be adopted as the proper procedure of qualification and payment of expenses:

- 1) Payment shall be made to the Presiding Officer of a Constituent Body – or – to his legal representative if the Presiding Officer is not present at any time during the above described meetings schedule.
- 2) No member shall be paid expenses more than once regardless of the number of Grand or constituent body offices he may represent.
- 3) No representative of the Presiding Officer shall receive expenses payment in either of the above bodies if the Presiding Officer has received payment in any capacity of any of the above bodies.

*(Adopted March 10, 1997)*

**ANNUAL BANQUET GUIDELINES**

In the past some of the banquets of the Grand York Rite have exceeded a normal time, praying that would be enjoyed by most those in attendance, which forced the need for guidelines for those planning the auspicious occasion.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that those planning the banquet consider the following guidelines:

1) Arrange the dining and program to a two-hour limit, bearing in mind that the Most Worshipful Grand Master must be introduced last. There should be no program or introductions after he is introduced.

2) Awards – The proper place to present all awards is considered to be at the open meeting of the appropriate body and not at the banquet. Those receiving awards and distinguished guests may in the discretion of the presiding officers, be asked to stand as a group and be recognized at the banquet.

**ADDENDIUM B** (Resolutions Adopted since 1961)

3) Because of the extraordinary amount of time consumed by introductions of our distinguished guests of the Grand Bodies, the Grand Secretary-Recorder should plan so that when a distinguished guest registers he is asked to list his current most important title and he should be introduced by this title only. If the presiding Marshal feels that more veracity is needed he may add that this distinguished visitor has many Masonic achievements.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the foregoing standing resolution should be printed prominently in each pursuing proceedings. *(Adopted March 9, 1998)*

**YORK RITE RING**

The Columbia York Rite Bodies have thoroughly discussed the needs and requirements of a York Rite ring, and they have requested Balfour Jewel Manufacturers to design a ring for York Rite use which will consist of the emblems of the Chapter, Commandery and Council on it.

*WHEREAS*, In order to have one official design for the entire jurisdiction and to avoid having local York Rite Bodies who might decide to use a York Rite ring selecting a design that they would choose, we request that the Grand Council adopt this design as the official ring for South Carolina. This request is made in order that we may have only one ring for our use in the State and that each York Rite Body would be able to purchase rings at a less expensive price than if they use a particular design that they might decide on locally. There have been many requests for information as to whether or not there is an official York Rite ring, and if so, where it could be purchased. This ring may also be purchased by those members who so desire to have one. *(Adopted March 11, 1974)*

**ROTATION OF ANNUAL MEETING TIMES**

*WHEREAS*, the By-Laws and Constitution of these Grand York Rite Bodies have been diligently searched for any statement with regards to the order of the meetings of these Grand Bodies, *AND*

*WHEREAS*, the search could find no reference to any order designating date of meeting except the Grand Chapter, it being stated only the second week in March, *AND*

*WHEREAS*, the procedure of meeting has only been by custom and agreement, *AND*

*WHEREAS*, the past custom has been that the Grand Commandery meet on Monday a.m., Grand Council on Monday p.m. and Grand Chapter on Tuesday a.m. of the second week in March, *AND*

*WHEREAS*, a rotating system would be more agreeable to the Craft, *AND*

*WHEREAS*, the Grand Commandery could retain their church service on Sunday evening with no interruption.

*NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED* that beginning with these Grand York Rite Meetings in the year 2010, they should be rotated as follows:

Monday a.m. - Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Carolina.

Monday p.m. - Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South Carolina.

Tuesday a.m. - Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of South Carolina.

*AND FURTHER*, each Grand Body would move up one space each year and the presiding officer of that Grand Body at the top of the list will be responsible for presiding at the consolidated meeting on Monday a.m. and the introduction of the visiting dignitaries. *(Adopted March 15, 1999 - Amended 2008)*