# 155<sup>th</sup> GRAND LODGE SESSION



JUNE 30, 2019 thru JULY 3, 2019

#### **BALLOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

Tuesday, as you enter the Sessions Hall, there will be specially designated lines to enter the hall for those holding voter credentials and others for non-voting members.

Balloting on resolutions will be by paper ballot. All delegates holding voter credentials should be in place with a paper ballot and voting pencil in their possession. After discussion of each resolution and a vote having been called for, you will mark your ballot "yes" if in favor of the resolution or "no" if not in favor of the resolution. Please do not bend or distort the ballot as it may invalidate your vote.

After completing all voting please pass the ballots and pencils to the right of your section where the ballots and pencils will be collected. Please remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Counting of the ballots will be done outside the main entrance of the convention hall in plain sight of the delegates who wish to view the proceedings. The results will be reported before the end of the day's session.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation!

### SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

**2019-01** To authorize the merger of two or more State Associations.

**2019-02** To provide a procedure for the merger of State Associations.

**2019-03** To require the Officers of the Lodge to perform the Ritual during the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

**2019-04** To make sure that no jewels or regalia are worn outside the Lodge room except during special ceremonies.

**2019-05** To allow Lodges to amend their By-Laws to provide for a different rate of dues for married couples residing at the same address.

2019-06 To add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

**2019-07** To allow caregivers and/or drivers of disabled Members to remain in the Social Quarters during a meeting.

**2019-08** To define a Member in Good Standing and confirm that an Elk who is suspended from Club privileges is still a Member in Good Standing.

**2019-09** To move the definition of an Unaffiliated Elk to the Definition Chapter and confirm that an Elk whose Membership is suspended in any manner is an Unaffiliated Elk.

**2019-10** To transfer the responsibilities for membership marketing from the Fraternal Committee to the Committee on Public Relations and Membership Marketing.

**2019-11** To codify that an Executive Order issued by the Grand Exalted Ruler may suspend a Member's social privileges in the Order.

**2019-12** To require Lodges to meet at least twice in February, March and April and to provide an alternative method of Notice for special meetings called for the sole purpose of Initiation.

**2019-13** To allow District Deputies to be appointed to Districts other than their home District.

**2019-14** To replace the requirement of an Annual Financial Report (audit, review or compilation) with a standardized on-line financial reporting system.

**2019-15** To provide how the Board of Director positions in a for profit corporation shall be constituted.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE III SECTION 20 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER:

#### The above section reads as follows:

**Section 20.** Local Lodges of any State or Territory may organize and maintain a State Association composed of Lodges of that State, and any of the Lodges of the State of Delaware or the District of Columbia may attach themselves to and become a part of a State Association of any contiguous State, and any of the Lodges of the State of Hawaii, Guam and Manila may attach themselves to and become a part of the California State Elks Association, with the consent of the State Association involved. Not more than one Association shall be organized in any one State or Territory and such Association, when formed, shall at all times be amenable and subject to the supervision and control of the Grand Lodge and its properly qualified Officers. Except as set forth below, if an Association is organized within any State or Territory, then all Lodges located within such State or Territory shall belong to such Association.

The New Mexico Elks Association may, with the approval of the State Sponsor(s) of each involved state, the consent of the Texas Elks State Association, and two thirds approval of the El Paso Lodge No. 187 Members voting after 30 days advanced written notice of the date and time of the vote, annex El Paso Lodge No. 187 from the Texas Elks State Association into the New Mexico Elks Association. The annexed El Paso Lodge No. 187 shall thereafter have the same rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of any other member Lodge in the New Mexico Elks Association.

Before they shall become effective the Constitution and By-Laws of each State Association shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, or by some Committee or Officer thereof, in such manner as the Grand Lodge shall from time to time direct.

No State Association shall exercise any legislative, executive or judicial functions, nor power of government except concerning its own internal affairs, nor have any jurisdiction over the Local Lodges of which it is composed, nor their Members.

Subject to these limitations, the powers, rights, duties and authority of the State Association shall be defined and fixed by Statute.

#### The proposed amendment would read as follows:

**Section 20.** Local Lodges of any State or Territory may organize and maintain a State Association composed of Lodges of that State, and any of the Lodges of the State of Delaware or the District of Columbia may attach themselves to and become a part of a State Association of any contiguous State, and any of the Lodges of the State of Hawaii, Guam and Manila may attach themselves to and become a part of the California State

Elks Association, with the consent of the State Association involved. Not more than one Association shall be organized in any one State or Territory and such Association, when formed, shall at all times be amenable and subject to the supervision and control of the Grand Lodge and its properly qualified Officers. Except as set forth below, if an Association is organized within any State or Territory, then all Lodges located within such State or Territory shall belong to such Association.

The New Mexico Elks Association may, with the approval of the State Sponsor(s) of each involved state, the consent of the Texas Elks State Association, and two thirds approval of the El Paso Lodge No. 187 Members voting after 30 days advanced written notice of the date and time of the vote, annex El Paso Lodge No. 187 from the Texas Elks State Association into the New Mexico Elks Association. The annexed El Paso Lodge No. 187 shall thereafter have the same rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of any other member Lodge in the New Mexico Elks Association.

#### <u>Two or more State Associations may merge in accordance with procedures</u> <u>set forth in Grand Lodge Statutes.</u>

Before they shall become effective the Constitution and By-Laws of each State Association shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, or by some Committee or Officer thereof, in such manner as the Grand Lodge shall from time to time direct.

No State Association shall exercise any legislative, executive or judicial functions, nor power of government except concerning its own internal affairs, nor have any jurisdiction over the Local Lodges of which it is composed, nor their Members.

Subject to these limitations, the powers, rights, duties and authority of the State Association shall be defined and fixed by Statute.

### This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to authorize the merger of two or more State Associations.

## PROPOSAL TO ADD A NEW SECTIONS 18.200, 18.210, & 18.220 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

The proposed new Sections would read as follows:

Section 18.200. In the event two or more State Associations desire to merge, creating one surviving State Association, representatives of the State Associations shall meet to discuss the terms of said merger. Such discussions shall include, but not be limited to, the terms of the new constitution and other governing documents.

Section 18.210. After completing the requirements described in Section 18.200, the respective State Secretaries shall send notice to each Lodge in their State Association of the proposed merger. Such notice shall contain the terms of the proposed merger, with instructions to read said notices at a regular meeting of the Lodge and to post on the Lodge bulletin board. Said notice shall be sent to the Lodges no less than 60 days prior to any meeting of the State Association where said resolution is to be voted upon.

At the State Association meeting the President of the State Association or their designee, shall present the terms of the proposed merger. Upon motion and second discussion shall ensue. The internal rules of the State Association shall control the discussion, but in no case shall it be eliminated or unreasonably limited. After discussion, a vote on the proposed merger shall be taken. The proposition to merge shall be approved by two-thirds of the Members present who are entitled to vote. The Secretary shall notify the Grand Exalted Ruler of the results of the vote. The Grand Exalted Ruler shall either approve or deny said resolutions.

Section 18.220. Members of the merged State Associations are automatically members of the surviving State Association upon approval of the votes taken in 18.210 above by the Grand Exalted Ruler.

This Resolution is dependent upon the ratification of Resolution 19-01.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to provide a procedure for the merger of State Associations.

#### **PROPOSAL TO ADD SECTION 4.490 TO THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:**

The proposed amendment would add the following Section and read as follows:

Section 4.490. The Initiation Ritual shall be exemplified by the Officers of the Lodge during the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. If the Lodge visited does not have a candidate awaiting initiation, the Exalted Ruler or the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler shall select some Member to act as a candidate.

#### This Resolution is proposed by the Massachusetts Elks Association

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Resolution is to require the Officers of the Lodge to perform the Ritual during the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

#### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 12.080 TO THE LAWS OF THE ORDER**

#### The current Section reads as follows:

#### Section 12.080...for that purpose.

He shall remain at his station until the close of all meetings. He shall assume charge of all jewels, regalia and other like Lodge property and see that they are in proper condition for all meetings of the Lodge. He shall furnish all necessary paraphernalia by order of the presiding Officer, have charge of the keys to Lodge doors, and see that all Lodge property is safely stored before leaving the Lodge room. He shall perform other...

#### The amended Section would read as follows:

#### Section 12.080...for that purpose.

He shall remain at his station until the close of all meetings. He shall assume charge of all jewels, regalia and other like Lodge property, **make sure that no jewels or regalia are worn outside the Lodge room (except during special ceremonies),** and see that they are in proper condition for all meetings of the Lodge. He shall furnish all necessary paraphernalia by order of the presiding Officer, have charge of the keys to Lodge doors, and see that all Lodge property is safely stored before leaving the Lodge <del>room</del>. He shall perform other...

#### This Resolution is proposed by the Fullerton, California Lodge No. 1993

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Resolution is to make sure that no jewels or regalia are worn outside the Lodge room except during special ceremonies.

#### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 14.300 TO THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:**

#### The current section reads as follows:

**Section 14.300.** All annual dues shall be uniform as to each and every Member and paid at least semiannually in advance of April 1st and October 1st. A Member may at his election pay one year's dues in advance as of April 1st in any year. A Lodge by proper amendment to its By-Laws may require the payment of dues yearly in advance of April 1st in any year. The annual dues shall be fixed by the By-Laws at a specified dollar amount. In addition thereto each Member shall pay the following: a) all Grand Lodge per capita fees and assessments; b) State Association dues. By-Laws relating to annual dues shall not be subject to amendment. All statements for dues, sent out by the Lodge, shall include thereon the annual subscription fee for The Elks Magazine. All statements for annual dues shall be on the official form prepared by the Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary (See Appendix XI).

#### The amended section would read as follows:

Section 14.300. All annual dues shall be uniform as to each and every Member and paid at least semiannually in advance of April 1st and October 1st. A Member may at his election pay one year's dues in advance as of April 1st in any year. A Lodge by proper amendment to its By-Laws may require the payment of dues yearly in advance of April 1st in any year. A Lodge may, in its By-Laws, offer reduced couples' dues to married Members provided they reside at the same address. Each Member is still responsible for their Grand Lodge and State Association assessments. Marriage as defined by the State that has jurisdiction of the Lodge. The annual dues shall be fixed by the By-Laws at a specified dollar amount. In addition thereto each Member shall pay the following: a) all Grand Lodge per capita fees and assessments; b) State Association dues. By-Laws relating to annual dues shall not be subject to amendment unless the amendment be effective as of April 1st following the adoption of such amendment. All statements for dues, sent out by the Lodge, shall include thereon the annual subscription fee for The Elks Magazine. All statements for annual dues shall be on the official form prepared by the Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary (See Appendix XI).

#### This Resolution is proposed by Grand Island, Nebraska Lodge No. 604

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Resolution is to allow Lodges to amend their By-Laws to provide for a different rate of dues for married couples residing at the same address.

### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 16.020 TO THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:**

### The current section in relevant part reads as follows:

**Section 16.020.** A Lodge may incorporate under the laws of the state ... (down to paragraph 6)

The Officers and Committees of all Lodges, whether incorporated or not, shall be designated by the same names or titles and shall possess the same functions and powers, as now obtain, or as may from time to time be provided by the Grand Lodge. The Chief or Presiding Officer of such corporation shall be the Exalted Ruler of the Lodge and shall be designated as such in the corporation and all other Officers of the corporation shall be the respective Officers of the Lodge and shall be known by their respective Lodge titles. All Lodge Members in good standing shall be members of the corporation. An incorporated Lodge may make provision for a Board of Directors which shall be designated in accordance with the requirements of the corporation laws of the State or Territory in which such Lodge is situated and which shall be vested with the powers and duties conferred upon the Board of Trustees by the Laws of the Order, including, but not limited to, Section 12.070. The incorporation of a Lodge...

### The amended section in relevant part would read as follows:

**Section 16.020.** A Lodge may incorporate under the laws of the state ... (down to paragraph 6)

The Officers and Committees of all Lodges, whether incorporated or not, shall be designated by the same names or titles and shall possess the same functions and powers, as now obtain, or as may from time to time be provided by the Grand Lodge. The Chief or Presiding Officer of such corporation shall be the Exalted Ruler of the Lodge and shall be designated as such in the corporation and all other Officers of the corporation shall be the respective Officers of the Lodge and shall be known by their respective Lodge titles. All Lodge Members in good standing shall be members of the corporation. An incorporated Lodge may make provision for a Board of Directors which shall be designated in accordance with the requirements of the corporation laws of the State or Territory in which such Lodge is situated and which shall be composed of the four Chair Officers of the Lodge. **the Secretary, the Treasurer** and the Trustees, and which shall be vested with the powers and duties conferred upon the Board of Trustees by the Laws of the Order, including, but not limited to, Section 12.070. The incorporation of a Lodge...

### This Resolution is proposed by Slidell, Louisiana Lodge No. 2321

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Resolution is to add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

#### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 16.090 TO THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:**

#### The current section reads as follows:

**Section 16.090.** All Homes, Clubs, Club Rooms and Social Parlors shall be closed during the hours of all regular and special meetings of the Lodge, except those facilities thereof designated for the use of and then being used only by the non-Member spouses and minor children of the Members of the Lodge, providing the use does not interfere with the proper functioning of Lodge meeting. Any Lodge violating this Section under any pretext whatever shall be liable to a forfeiture of its Charter.

#### The amended section would read as follows:

**Section 16.090.** All Homes, Clubs, Club Rooms and Social Parlors shall be closed during the hours of all regular and special meetings of the Lodge, except those facilities thereof designated for the use of and then being used only by the non-Member spouses and minor children of the Members of the Lodge, and caregivers and/or drivers of <u>a disabled Lodge Member/s</u>, providing the use does not interfere with the proper functioning of Lodge meeting. Any Lodge violating this Section under any pretext whatever shall be liable to a forfeiture of its Charter.

#### This Resolution is proposed by John Day, Oregon Lodge No. 1824

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Resolution is to allow caregivers and/or drivers of disabled Members to remain in the Social Quarters during a meeting.

#### PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 14.130 AND TO ADD A NEW SECTION 1.095 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

#### The current Section reads as follows:

**Section 14.130.** A Member shall be termed an Elk. A Member in good standing shall have the same and equal privileges and immunities with every other Member of his Lodge, except as otherwise provided.

Every Member in good standing in a Lodge is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Home or Club connected therewith, whether such Home or Club be incorporated or not. The control of and membership in such Home or Club, whether incorporated or not, shall be limited exclusively to the Members in good standing in the Lodge establishing the same; provided, however, that the governing body of any such Home or Club may elect, as associate Members, upon terms as it may prescribe and for a limited period of time, Members in good standing of other Lodges of the Order.

Subject to state and local laws, the use of the Home or Club facilities shall be limited to Members in good standing in the Order, their spouses and guests of Members, and those receiving Identification Cards under Section 14.140, as provided in the House Rules, so as to preserve the privacy of the use of such facilities to the Members of the Order. Local Lodges shall take appropriate action to conform to the provisions of this Section.

#### The proposed amendment to Section 14.130 would read as follows:

#### **Section 14.130.** A Member shall be termed an Elk. A Member in good standing shallhave the same and equal privileges and immunities with every other Member of his-Lodge, except as otherwise provided.

Every Member in good standing in a Lodge is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Home or Club connected therewith, whether such Home or Club be incorporated or not **unless suspended pursuant to Section 16.041**. The control of and membership in such Home or Club, whether incorporated or not, shall be limited exclusively to the Members in good standing in the Lodge establishing the same; provided, however, that the governing body of any such Home or Club may elect, as associate Members, upon terms as it may prescribe and for a limited period of time, Members in good standing of other Lodges of the Order.

Subject to state and local laws, the use of the Home or Club facilities shall be limited to Members in good standing in the Order, their spouses and guests of Members, and those receiving Identification Cards under Section 14.140, as provided in the House Rules, so as to preserve the privacy of the use of such facilities to the Members of the Order. Local Lodges shall take appropriate action to conform to the provisions of this Section. The proposed new Section would read as follows:

Section 1.095. <u>A Member in Good Standing shall be defined as a Member of the Order who is not currently:</u>

- (a) <u>An Unaffiliated Elk as defined in Section 14.120;</u>
- (b) <u>Delinquent in the payment of dues or Grand Lodge per capita</u> <u>fees and assessments;</u>
- (c) <u>Delinquent in the payment of State Association dues;</u>
- (d) <u>Suspended from Membership under any of the provisions of the</u> <u>Laws of the Order;</u>
- (e) <u>Stricken from the rolls for indebtedness to the Club or Lodge</u> <u>under Section 14.170.</u>

## This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to define a Member in Good Standing and confirm that an Elk who is suspended from Club privileges is still a Member in Good Standing.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 14.120 AND ADD A NEW SECTION 1.300 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

#### The above Section reads in relevant part:

#### Section 14.120...

An unaffiliated Member shall be one who has: (1) been stricken from the rolls for nonpayment of dues, (2) been suspended after due trial, (3) been issued an Absolute Dimit, or (4) been a Member of a Lodge whose Charter was suspended, surrendered or forfeited.

## The proposed amendment to Section 14.120 shall read in relevant part as follows:

Section 14.120...

An unaffiliated Member shall be one who has: *(1)* been stricken from the rolls for nonpayment of dues, *(2)* been suspended after due trial, *(3)* been issued an Absolute Dimit, or *(1)* been a Member of a Lodge whose Charter was suspended, surrendered or forfeited.

#### The proposed new Section would read in relevant part as follows:

#### Section 1.300. Unaffiliated Elk:

An Unaffiliated Elk shall be one who has: (1) been stricken from the rolls for nonpayment of dues, (2) been suspended from Membership under any of the provisions of the Grand Lodge Statutes, (3) been issued an Absolute Dimit, (4) been a Member of a Lodge whose Charter was suspended, surrendered or forfeited and who is not a Member of the Virtual Lodge or who has not affiliated with another Lodge or (5) Stricken from the rolls for indebtedness to the Club or Lodge under Section 14.170.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to move the definition of an Unaffiliated Elk to the Definition Chapter and confirm that an Elk whose Membership is suspended in any manner is an Unaffiliated Elk.

#### PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTIONS 4.355 AND 4.357 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

### The above sections read as follows:

**Section 4.355. The Fraternal Committee** shall promote, support, and oversee the following Grand Lodge Programs:

(a) Americanism, through which the patriotic activities of the Order are maintained.

(b) Flag Day, to assist Local Lodges in holding Flag Day services as prescribed in the Ritual of the Order, as well as generally promoting respect for the flag of our country.

*(c) Elks Memorial Day,* to promote and support the observance of Elks Memorial Day as prescribed in the Ritual of the Order.

*(d) Membership,* to assist Local Lodges in increasing and maintaining membership, including recruitment, investigation, indoctrination, initiation, lapsation and reinstatement.

*(e) Lodge Activities/State Associations,* to promote and assist in all matters relating to Lodge activities and the organization and government of State Associations and the activities sponsored or recommended by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Exalted Ruler.

**Section 4.357. The Committee on Public Relations and Marketing** is charged with the duty and responsibility of implementing a Public Relations and Marketing Program of the Order.

### The proposed amendment would read as follows:

**Section 4.355. The Fraternal Committee** shall promote, support, and oversee the following Grand Lodge Programs:

(a) Americanism, through which the patriotic activities of the Order are maintained.

(b) Flag Day, to assist Local Lodges in holding Flag Day services as prescribed in the Ritual of the Order, as well as generally promoting respect for the flag of our country.

*(c) Elks Memorial Day,* to promote and support the observance of Elks Memorial Day as prescribed in the Ritual of the Order.

*(d) Membership,* to assist Local Lodges in increasing and maintaining membership, including recruitment, investigation, indoctrination, initiation, lapsation and reinstatement.

*(e <u>d</u>) Lodge Activities/State Associations,* to promote and assist in all matters relating to Lodge activities and the organization and government of State Associations and the activities sponsored or recommended by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Exalted Ruler.

Section 4.357. The Committee on Public Relations, Marketing, and Membership and Membership Marketing is charged with the duty and responsibility of implementing a Public Relations and, Marketing Program, and Membership Program of the Order, which will include the recruitment, investigation, indoctrination, initiation, lapsation and reinstatement of Members.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to transfer the responsibilities for membership marketing from the Fraternal Committee to the Committee on Public Relations and Membership Marketing.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTIONS 9.010 AND 9.011 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

#### The above sections read in relevant part as follows:

**Section 9.010**. The Grand Exalted Ruler, by written Executive Order specifying the grounds, may remove any Lodge Officer or officer of a separate corporation formed pursuant to Section 16.030 who neglects the duties of his office, is guilty of contumacy or of conduct injurious to the Order. . . . The Executive Order may provide for suspension from club privileges for a period not to exceed three years and/or ineligibility to hold a Lodge office or separate corporation office for a period not to exceed three years.

**Section 9.011**. The Grand Exalted Ruler, by written Executive Order specifying the grounds, may suspend a Member from being a Lodge Officer and from club privileges when that Member has neglected the duties of an office, or is guilty of Contumacy or Conduct Injurious to the Order. . . . The Executive Order may provide for suspension from club privileges for a period not to exceed three years and/or ineligibility to hold a Lodge office for a period not to exceed three years.

#### The proposed amendments would read in relevant part as follows:

**Section 9.010**. The Grand Exalted Ruler, by written Executive Order specifying the grounds, may remove any Lodge Officer or officer of a separate corporation formed pursuant to Section 16.030 who neglects the duties of his office, is guilty of contumacy or of conduct injurious to the Order. . . . The Executive Order may provide for suspension from club social privileges in all Lodges or organized Elk functions within the Order for a period not to exceed three years and/or ineligibility to hold a Lodge office or separate corporation office for a period not to exceed three years.

**Section 9.011**. The Grand Exalted Ruler, by written Executive Order specifying the grounds, may suspend a Member from being a Lodge Officer and from club <u>social</u> privileges <u>in all Lodges or organized Elk functions within the Order</u> when that Member has neglected the duties of an office, or is guilty of Contumacy or Conduct Injurious to the Order. . . . The Executive Order may provide for suspension from club <u>social</u> privileges <u>in all Lodges or organized Elk functions within the Order</u> when that not to exceed three years and/or ineligibility to hold a Lodge office for a period not to exceed three years.

#### This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to codify that an Executive Order issued by the Grand Exalted Ruler may suspend a Member's social privileges in the Order.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTIONS 3.090 AND 15.070 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

#### The above sections read in relevant part as follows:

**Section 3.090.** The annual election shall be held at the monthly regular meeting in February if held monthly and at the second regular meeting in February by each Lodge holding regular semi-monthly meetings, and at the third regular meeting in February by each Lodge holding weekly meetings or tri-monthly meetings, and by a new Lodge as soon as instituted. . . .

**Section 15.070**. Lodges shall meet in regular session at least once a month, but may meet twice a month, three times a month, four times a month, or weekly, as provided in the Lodge By-Laws. The Lodge By-Laws may designate any three months of the year, except the months of February, March, and April, in which only one regular meeting is required to be held. The Grand Exalted Ruler or the District Deputy may grant a dispensation to omit or reschedule a regular meeting except during the month of February. A regular meeting may be rescheduled upon five days' notice to all Members of the Lodge. Special meetings may be called by the Exalted Ruler upon three days' notice to all Members of the Lodge. The notice shall state the special business to be considered; no other business shall be considered or transacted. No Lodge meeting shall be held outside the jurisdiction of the Lodge, without the prior written consent of the Grand Exalted Ruler.

#### The proposed amendments would read in relevant part as follows:

**Section 3.090.** The annual election shall be held at the monthly regular meeting in February if held monthly and at the second regular meeting in February by each Lodge holding regular semi-monthly meetings, and at the third regular meeting in February by each Lodge holding weekly meetings or tri-monthly meetings, and by a new Lodge as soon as instituted. . . .

Section 15.070. Lodges shall meet in regular session at least once a month, but may meet twice a month, three times a month, four times a month, or weekly, as provided in the Lodge By-Laws. The Lodge By-Laws may designate any three months of the year, except the months of February, March, and April, in which only one regular meeting is required to be held. Lodge By-Laws shall provide for a regular meeting monthly except in February, March and April when a minimum of two regular

monthly meetings are required. Lodges may elect to hold more than one regular meeting in any month or months provided the By-Laws designate the specific days and months for all meetings. The Grand Exalted Ruler or the District Deputy may grant a dispensation to omit or reschedule a regular meeting except during the month of February. A regular meeting may be rescheduled upon five days' notice to all Members of the Lodge. Special meetings may be called by the Exalted Ruler upon three days' notice to all Members of the Lodge. The notice shall state the special business to be considered; no other business shall be considered or transacted. Notwithstanding the provisions of GLS Section 1.115, if a special meeting is called for the sole purpose of Initiation, any required notice may be made by posting on the Lodge bulletin board provided all candidates participating have been elected to membership and no other business is conducted at the special meeting. No Lodge meeting shall be held outside the jurisdiction of the Lodge, without the prior written consent of the Grand Exalted Ruler.

#### This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to require Lodges to meet at least twice in February, March and April and to provide an alternative method of Notice for special meetings called for the sole purpose of Initiation.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTIONS 4.480 AND 4.500 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

#### The above sections read as follows:

**Section 4.480.** A District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler or a Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler shall receive the actual necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by him in performing special services and in attending special meetings, when directed by the Grand Exalted Ruler. The actual necessary transportation expenses of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in making official visits to Lodges in his District, not exceeding the mileage allowance provided for in Section 4.240(a) for each mile traveled in making such visits, shall be paid by the Order. If conditions existing in a Lodge require additional visits, the Grand Exalted Ruler may order other visits made and may require the actual traveling expenses of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler to be paid by the Lodge.

**Section 4.500.** Any Past Exalted Ruler in good standing, who attends or shall have attended one Grand Lodge Session, shall be eligible to be installed as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the District in which his Lodge is located.

#### The proposed amendments would read as follows:

**Section 4.480.** A District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler or a Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler shall receive the actual necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by him in performing special services and in attending special meetings, when directed by the Grand Exalted Ruler. The actual necessary transportation expenses of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in making official visits to Lodges in his **assigned** District, not exceeding the mileage allowance provided for in Section 4.240(a) for each mile traveled in making such visits, shall be paid by the Order. If conditions existing in a Lodge require additional visits, the Grand Exalted Ruler may order other visits made and may require the actual traveling expenses of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler to be paid by the Lodge.

**Section 4.500.** Any Past Exalted Ruler in good standing, who attends or shall have attended one Grand Lodge Session, shall be eligible to be installed as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the District in which his Lodge is located in any assigned <u>District</u>.

## This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to allow District Deputies to be appointed to Districts other than their home District.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTIONS 4.330 AND 13.040 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:

#### The above sections read as follows:

**Section 4.330.** The Committee on Auditing and Accounting after competitive bidding shall employ certified public accountants to examine the books, records and accounts of the Officers, Commissions and other agencies of the Order, and it shall report the result of audits to the Grand Lodge and file the reports with the Grand Secretary.

The Committee shall prepare and distribute a Uniform Chart of Accounts for Lodges. Each Lodge shall adopt and use the Uniform Chart of Accounts.

The Committee shall review a copy of the annual financial report of each Lodge. It shall evaluate the report and make recommendations to the Lodge. It shall report suggestions to the Grand Lodge for improvement in accounting procedures.

**Section 13.040**. The Auditing & Accounting Committee shall:

(a) Engage an accountant with the approval of the Lodge to prepare the Annual Financial Report (Audit, Review or Compilation), provided that the Sponsor may waive the requirement of an Audit, Review or Compilation in accordance with the Grand Lodge Auditing, Accounting & Management Manual. The Annual Financial Report must include

all books, records and activities of the Lodge, Home, Club, separate corporation and any other entity affiliated with the Lodge for the fiscal year ending March 31st. The accountant shall be one who is independent of the accounting and bookkeeping operations of the Lodge or any entity thereof, except as provided in paragraph (j).

(b) Deliver to the accountant the Annual Financial Report forms furnished by the Grand Secretary.

(c) Receive from the accountant and deliver to the Lodge by June 15 the accountant's report which will include the required standard Annual Financial Report forms with budget comparison and applicable Federal and State tax returns, complete for all entities of the Lodge.

(d) Send one copy of the Annual Financial Report, prior to June 30, to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Auditing & Accounting. Failure to timely submit the report may subject the Lodge to an immediate fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and a subsequent fine of an additional

one hundred dollars (\$100) for each calendar month thereafter, not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500). Payment of a fine does not relieve the Lodge of the duty to file the report and continued refusal will be considered Contumacy.

(e) Secure a financial report of any entity affiliated with the Lodge, which has a fiscal year other than March 31, within sixty (60) days after the close of the fiscal year.

(f) Require the use of the Uniform Chart of Accounts provided in Section 4.330.

(g) Act on other matters of finance as the Lodge may direct.

(h) The Members of the Committee shall continue with their duties until the Annual Financial Report is completed for the fiscal year in which appointed and reported to the Lodge and filed with the Grand Lodge as herein directed.

(i) The Committee shall, in the months of July, October and January, review the required record-keeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge and Club and compliance with the approved budget, and report at the last regular meeting of the Lodge during those months.

(j) A Local Lodge may apply to Grand Lodge for permission to prepare its own Annual Financial Report using in-Lodge personnel under the supervision of the Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee.

Minimum requirements for in-Lodge preparation of Annual Financial Report are:

1. Lodge must make application under guidelines promulgated by Grand Lodge.

2. Lodge application must be approved by Grand Lodge Area Sponsors via their Area Member of Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee.

3. Lodge receiving written approval must use Grand Lodge Chart of Accounts in conjunction with number placement recommendations contained in the Grand Lodge Auditing, Accounting & Management Manual.

4. Unless waived by the Sponsor, Lodge Federal and State Tax Returns must be prepared by a Licensed Tax Professional who is independent of the Lodge and independent of preparation of the Grand Lodge Annual Financial Report. The same financial information used to prepare the Annual Financial Report must be independently used to prepare the applicable Federal and State Tax Returns.

(k) No Lodge Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, Director, or any member of the Supervising or Managing Body of the Club, Social Parlor or other facility established in connection with the Lodge shall serve as a member of the Auditing & Accounting Committee.

## The proposed amendments would read as follows:

**Section 4.330.** The Committee on Auditing and Accounting after competitive bidding shall employ certified public accountants to examine the books, records and accounts of the Officers, Commissions and other agencies of the Order, and it shall report the result of audits to the Grand Lodge and file the reports with the Grand Secretary.

The Committee shall prepare and distribute a Uniform Chart of Accounts for Lodges. Each Lodge shall adopt and use the Uniform Chart of Accounts.

## The Committee on Auditing and Accounting shall establish an on-line

**Financial Reporting System (FRS) for Local Lodges.** The Committee shall review a copy of the annual financial report **Financial Reporting System report (FRS)** of each Lodge. It shall evaluate the report and make recommendations to the Lodge. It shall report suggestions to the Grand Lodge for improvement in accounting procedures. **The annual cost of the system shall be assessed to each Local Lodge, to be paid at the time of payment of Grand Lodge per capita assessments, beginning on April 1, 2020.** 

Section 13.040. The Auditing & Accounting Committee shall:

(a) Engage an accountant with the approval of the Lodge to prepare Oversee the preparation of the Annual Financial Report (Audit, Review or Compilation), provided that the Sponsor may waive the requirement of an Audit, Review or Compilation in accordance with the Grand Lodge Auditing, Accounting & Management Manual. Financial Reporting System report (FRS). The Annual Financial Report FRS must include all books, records and activities of the Lodge, Home, Club, separate corporation and any other entity affiliated with the Lodge for the fiscal year ending March 31st. The accountant shall be one who is independent of the accounting and bookkeepingoperations of the Lodge or any entity thereof, except as provided in paragraph (j).

(b) Deliver to the accountant the Annual Financial Report forms furnished by the Grand-Secretary.

(e <u>b</u>) Receive from the accountant <u>Licensed Tax Professional</u> and deliver to the Lodge by <del>June 15</del> <u>August 1</u> the accountant's report which will include the requiredstandard Annual Financial Report forms with budget comparison and applicable Federal and State tax returns, complete for all entities of the Lodge.

(d **c**) Send one copy of the Annual Financial Report, prior to June 30, to the District-Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Committee on-Auditing & Accounting. Failure to timely submit the **FRS** report may subject the Lodge to an immediate fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and a subsequent fine of an additional one hundred dollars (\$100) for each calendar month thereafter, not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500). Payment of a fine does not relieve the Lodge of the duty to file the report and continued refusal will be considered Contumacy.

(e <u>d</u>) Secure a financial report of any entity affiliated with the Lodge, which has a fiscal year other than March 31, within sixty (60) days after the close of the fiscal year. Ensure that each entity of the Lodge is documented in segregated profit and loss statements in the FRS.

(f <u>e</u>) Require the use of the Uniform Chart of Accounts provided in Section 4.330.

 $(\underline{\mathbf{g}} \ \underline{\mathbf{f}})$  Act on other matters of finance as the Lodge may direct.

(h g) The Members of the Committee shall continue with their duties until the Annual-Financial Report **FRS for the month of March** is completed for the fiscal year in which <u>it is</u> appointed and reported to the Lodge and filed with the Grand Lodge as herein directed.

(**<u>I</u>** <u>**h**</u>) The Committee shall, in the months of July, October and January, review the

required record-keeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge and Club and compliance with the approved budget, and report at the last regular meeting of the Lodge during those months.

(j i) A Local Lodge may apply to Grand Lodge for permission to prepare its own Annual Financial Report shall use the FRS and comply with the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Manual using in Lodge personnel under the supervision of the Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee.

Minimum requirements for in-Lodge preparation of Annual Financial Report are:

1. Lodge must make application under guidelines promulgated by Grand Lodge. <u>A</u> Local Lodge failing to use the FRS is subject to an Audit or a Review, as determined by the Grand Lodge Audit and Accounting Committeeman and approved by the State Sponsor(s).

2. Lodge application must be approved by Grand Lodge Area Sponsors via their Area Member of Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee. At any time a Lodge FRS indicates mismanagement, financial inconsistencies or failure to follow standard accounting principles, the Grand Lodge Audit and Accounting Committeeman, with approval of the State Sponsor(s), may require an Audit or Review.

3. Lodge receiving written approval must use Grand Lodge Chart of Accounts in conjunction with number placement recommendations contained in the Grand Lodge-Auditing, Accounting & Management Manual.

4. <u>3.</u> Unless waived by the Sponsor, Lodge Federal and State Tax Returns must be prepared by a Licensed Tax Professional who is independent of the Lodge and independent of preparation of the <u>FRS</u> Grand Lodge Annual Financial Report. The same financial information used to prepare the Annual Financial Report <u>FRS</u> must be independently used to prepare the applicable Federal and State Tax Returns.

(**k j**) No Lodge Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, Director, or any member of the Supervising or Managing Body of the Club, Social Parlor or other facility established in connection with the Lodge shall serve as a member of the Auditing & Accounting Committee.

### This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to replace the requirement of an Annual Financial Report (audit, review or compilation) with a standardized on-line financial reporting system.

### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 16.030 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER:**

#### The above section reads in relevant part as follows:

Section 16.030. The Lodge may, if it chooses, form a separate corporation for any club, home real property or other facility owned by the Lodge. If allowed by State law, Membership in the corporation shall at all times consist of the elective officers (including Trustees) of the Lodge, together with four (4) additional persons who are Members of the Lodge. These four additional Members shall be elected by the remaining Corporate Members and shall be members for one year periods. If the issuance of stock is required by State law, the separate corporation shall issue one (1) share of stock, which shall be issued to the Lodge. Upon issuance, the stock certificate shall be delivered to the Lodge Secretary.

All corporate powers shall be exercised by a Board of Directors, to be seven (7) in number, who shall be corporate members, and who shall serve for one year, and until their successors are elected and qualify....

#### The proposed amendment would read in relevant part as follows:

**Section 16.030**. The Lodge may, if it chooses, form a separate corporation for any club, home real property or other facility owned by the Lodge. If allowed by State law, Membership in the corporation shall at all times consist of the elective officers (including Trustees) of the Lodge, together with four (4) additional persons who are Members of the Lodge. These four additional Members shall be elected by the remaining Corporate Members and shall be members for one year periods. If the issuance of stock is required by State law, the separate corporation shall issue one (1) share of stock, which shall be issued to the Lodge. Upon issuance, the stock certificate shall be delivered to the Lodge Secretary.

All corporate powers <u>of a non-profit corporation</u> shall be exercised by a Board of Directors, to be seven (7) in number, who shall be corporate members, and who shall serve for one year, and until their successors are elected and qualify.

All corporate powers of a for profit corporation shall be exercised by a Board of Directors, to be seven (7) in number, and shall consist of four (4) elected Officers of the Lodge and three (3) members of the Lodge at large, elected by the Lodge. and who shall serve for one year, and until their successors are elected and qualify....

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Resolution is to provide how the Board of Director positions in a for profit corporation shall be constituted.