

STATUTES  
OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF  
KNIGHT MASONS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 18, 1967

Revision of 2017

**PREAMBLE**

The Order of Knight Masons was formed in Dublin, Ireland, on June 18, 1923, for the purpose of governing the degrees previously known as the "Green Degrees." These degrees were formerly controlled by the Orders of Knights Templar in Ireland (for more than eighty years) and conferred in their subordinate bodies. They were introduced in the United States on May 20, 1936, when the Grand Council in Ireland chartered three Councils in North Carolina. Subsequently, seven additional Councils were chartered by that Grand Council in the United States. The degrees are Knight of the Sword; Knight of the East; Knight of the East and West; and Installed Chief and are not to be confused with degrees which may have similar names in other Orders. (Revised 1997)

**I – RIGHTS**

The Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America possesses the supreme authority over the Order in the United States of America, with the right to enact such laws as may be necessary to govern the Order; the powers to repeal or abrogate the same; to regulate and decide upon all matters pertaining to the Order; the right to warrant new Councils and to recall warrants issued; and to discipline its members.

**II – NAME**

The body shall be known and designated THE GRAND COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**III – MEETINGS**

There shall be an Annual Meeting of The Grand Council in February of each year, at a time and place selected by the M.E. Great Chief, but the month may be changed by notifying the subordinate Councils fifteen days before the new date. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Great Chief.

**IV – OFFICERS**

The officers of The Grand Council, hereinafter named, shall be elected and installed at the Annual Meeting. Their term of office shall be one year, or until their successors shall have been elected and installed: Great Chief; Deputy Great Chief; Grand Senior Knight; Grand Junior Knight; Grand Scribe, and Grand Treasurer.

The following officers shall be appointed by the Great Chief for a term of one year, or until their successors shall have been appointed and installed: Grand Senior Warden; Grand Junior Warden; Grand Director of Ceremonies; Grand Priest; Grand Steward; and Grand Sentinel.

**V – TITLES**

The honorary title of the Great Chief shall be "Most Excellent;" the other elected officers of the Grand Council shall carry the honorary title of "Right Excellent," the other officers shall carry the honorary title "Very Excellent." The Chief of a Council shall be "Excellent," and all members of the Order shall be "Sir Knight." (Revised 1996)

**VI – MEMBERSHIP OF THE GRAND COUNCIL**

All Past Excellent Chiefs, Excellent Chiefs and sitting Senior and Junior Knights shall constitute The Grand Council. However, except for the offices of Grand Scribe and Grand Treasurer, only Past Excellent Chiefs may hold office in The Grand Council. All other members of Councils shall be entitled

to a seat in The Grand Council but without voice or vote. The M.E. Great Chief must receive two-thirds of the votes cast for election and the other officers a majority. In subordinate Councils a majority vote constitutes election of all officers. There are to be no proxies. (Revised 1997)

#### **VII – POWERS OF THE GREAT CHIEF**

The M.E. Great Chief shall have power to:

1. Convene Grand Council at his will and pleasure.
2. Interpret the Statutes and issue Edicts, which are reviewable by The Grand Council.
3. Make “Knight Masons at Sight” and confer Past Grand Rank.
4. Issue Dispensations for the erection of new Councils.
5. Remove Grand or Council officers from office, which acts are reviewable by The Grand Council.
6. Appoint such administrative officers, including but not limited to Grand Superintendents, as he may deem necessary and proper to serve at his will and pleasure and to assist him in the performance of his duties, provided, however, that such appointments shall not be mandated. (Added 2014)
7. Decide all other things pertaining to the Order not otherwise covered by these Statutes.

#### **VIII – DEGREES**

The degrees controlled by The Grand Council are Knight of the Sword; Knight of the East; Knight of the East and West; and Installed Chief. The subordinate Councils are empowered to confer these degrees and The Grand Council reserves the right to do likewise. (Revised 1997)

Councils shall use only the ritual and regalia as approved by The Grand Council, and only those aprons and sashes approved by The Grand Council shall be worn. (Added 2014)

#### **IX – MEMBERSHIP**

Petitioners for admission into this Order shall be Royal Arch Masons in good standing in both Lodge and in Chapter. To continue membership in the Order they must continue membership in good standing in the Lodge and the Chapter. Elections in a Council shall be by unanimous vote.

Plural and dual memberships are permitted with full rights and privileges in each Council in which membership is held, except that the same Sir Knight shall not be Excellent Chief in two Councils at the same time. Per capita tax shall be paid by each Council on all members except those who for meritorious service are elected to Honorary Membership and who hold membership in another regular Council. (Revised 1985)

#### **X – CHARTERS**

Seven (7) Sir Knights may petition the Grand Council or the Most Excellent Great Chief for a Dispensation to form a new Council. The Grand Council or the Most Excellent Great Chief shall report all dispensations to the Committee on Charters, who shall make a report on same to the Grand Council at the next Annual Meeting. There shall be no jurisdictional limits within a State, and a Council may not extend an Invitation to, or accept an application from, anyone in another State where there is a Council except by waiver of jurisdiction from the Council located closest to the applicant’s place of residence. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany an application for a new Council. (Revised 2010)

#### **XI – GREAT CHIEF’S COUNCIL**

There shall be a Charter issued to a Council to be known as Great Chief’s Council. It shall meet at the time of The Grand Council for the obligating of members. An Excellent Chief shall appointed by the M.E. Great Chief for this Council each year from those enrolled in said Council. In the absence of the Excellent Chief the M.E. Great Chief presides. The other Grand Officers shall serve *ex officio* as the officers of the Council. (Revised 1996)

Candidates for Great Chief’s Council shall reside in States where no subordinate Council exists. Candidates shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) plus the Grand Council fees for admittance. Annual dues for members of Great Chief’s Council shall be three dollars (\$3.00). A member in good standing

may become a life-member of this Council by the payment of \$60.00 to the Life Membership Fund. Members who join other Councils may retain membership in Great Chief's Council if they desire. (Revised 1996)

#### **XII – SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION**

Excepting S.N.P.D., The Grand Council shall have the sole power to suspend or expel any member of the Order.

#### **XIII – FEES**

Subordinate Councils shall establish fees for the three degrees, but not less than twenty dollars (\$20.00). Annual dues may be assessed as necessary. (Revised 1999)

Subordinate Councils may provide in their By-Laws for the establishment of a life membership for the payment of not less than twenty (20) times their annual dues. The principal of which must be retained in a separate interest bearing account, only the earnings from which can be spent. (Added 1983)

#### **XIV – FUNDS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL**

The funds of Grand Council shall be deposited in accounts specified by Grand Council, in the name of The Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U.S.A., by the Grand Scribe or Grand Treasurer. Withdrawals shall be by check signed by the Grand Treasurer (except in an emergency when the Great Chief or Deputy Great Chief may sign.) The Grand Scribe and Grand Treasurer shall present an annual budget to the Grand Council for approval. Expenditures within this budget shall not require prior approval by the Great Chief. For other expenditures, vouchers for payments, with invoice, shall be executed by the Grand Scribe and sent to the Great Chief (or the Deputy Great Chief in an emergency.) Upon approval the invoice and voucher shall be sent to the Grand Treasurer for payment. (Revised 1996)

Life Membership fees received from the subordinate councils shall be accounted for separately from the general funds of the Grand Council, and deposited or invested as determined by the Investment Committee. Funds may be transferred annually from the Life Membership fund to general funds in lieu of capitation. The amounts transferred shall be determined by the Grand Council, but are not to exceed 5% of the funds on deposit. (Added 2007)

#### **XV – COMPENSATION**

The Grand Scribe shall receive such compensation each year as may be determined by The Grand Council at the Annual Meeting. He shall also receive compensation for office expenses and secretarial aid.

#### **XVI – COMMITTEES**

The M.E. Great Chief shall appoint all Committees of The Grand Council, but the following shall be Standing Committees: 1-Constitution; 2-Charters; 3-By-Laws; 4-Auditing; 5-Ritual; 6-Nominations; 7-General Purposes; 8-Finance; and 9-Jurisprudence. (Revised 2014)

#### **XVII – SUBORDINATE COUNCILS**

The following officers of Subordinate Council shall be elected and installed each year and serve until their successors shall have been elected and installed: Excellent Chief, Senior Knight, Junior Knight, Scribe and Treasurer. The offices of Scribe and Treasurer may not be combined. (Added 2012)

The following officers shall be appointed by the Excellent Chief and serve for one year or until their successors shall have been appointed and installed: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Director of Ceremonies, Priest, Steward and Sentinel.

No expenditure of Council funds shall be made without the approval of the members attending the meeting at which the expenditure is proposed, and every such expenditure shall be recorded as part of the minutes of the meeting at which approved. (Added 2014)

If the membership in a Subordinate Council decreases to less than five, and/or otherwise ceases to function as prescribed by the Statutes of the Grand Council Knight Masons of the USA, the following actions may be taken by the Grand Council:

1. The Most Excellent Great Chief may place the Council under probation until such time as the Council takes corrective action under such terms and conditions as are specified by the Great Chief, and within a timeframe specified by the Great Chief.
2. If the prescribed corrective action is not taken within the specified probationary timeframe, the Great Chief may suspend the Council Charter and restrict the activities of the Council until further corrective action is taken by the Council.
3. If corrective action is not taken within one year of a suspension action, the Great Chief will report to the Grand Council that the Subordinate Council is dormant, and will recommend revocation of the Council Charter by the Grand Council.

In the event that a Charter of a Council of Knight Masons is revoked or surrendered, the following actions must be taken by the Subordinate Council:

1. The original and authentic Charter, in custody of the Scribe, shall be returned to the Grand Scribe.
2. All funds of the Council shall be surrendered, by official bank check or certified money order, to the Grand Scribe payable to the Grand Council Knight Masons of the USA. Any legitimate outstanding debts, when verified will be settled by the Grand Council.
3. A roster of the members of the Council with current addresses shall be sent to the Grand Scribe to facilitate the invitation and transfer to other Councils as desired and to minimize the loss of good standing.
4. All Rituals, Proceedings, and Annual Reports, shall be returned to the Grand Scribe.
5. All degree paraphernalia, certificates, jewels, aprons, Bibles and any other physical items applicable to the Degrees of Knight Masonry shall be returned to the Grand Scribe.

The above actions shall be completed within thirty days after the date that either the Grand Council votes to revoke the Charter or the Charter is surrendered. (Added 2017)

#### **XVIII – BY-LAWS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS**

Each subordinate council, except Great Chief's Council No. 0, shall adopt the Universal By-Laws for its government. They must be submitted to the Committee on By-Laws. When approved by the Committee, the Chairman shall send them to the M.E. Great Chief for his approval and signature. They shall become the law of the Council on the date of the approval by the M.E. Great Chief. The original shall be returned to the Committee Chairman to be filed in a book kept for this purpose. Two copies shall be sent to the Grand Scribe, who will send one to the Scribe of the Council. (Revised 1997)

Amendments to By-Laws shall be submitted and processed in the same manner using the Universal By-Laws form. A covering letter will identify the paragraphs that have been changed. (Revised 1997)

Alternatively, a council may submit a new or amended set of bylaws to the Grand Scribe as an attachment to an email message. The Grand Scribe will distribute the message to the By-laws Committee and the Great Chief. On approval by the Committee and the Great Chief, the Grand Scribe will prepare a printed, signed copy for the Council and file one copy. (Added 2003)

#### **XIX – ANNUAL REPORTS AND FEES TO GRAND COUNCIL**

As of December 31st of each year or 30 calendar days following the Annual Meeting, whichever occurs sooner, the Scribe of each Council shall execute an Annual Return on forms supplied for that purpose by the Grand Scribe. Electronic versions are available from the Grand Scribe, and hard copy versions will be made available upon receipt of a written request from the Council Scribe. If the report is correct, an Active Member Roster for the Council will be returned to the Scribe for his record. A penalty equal to fifty (50) cents per member or \$50.00, whichever is greater will be assessed on any Annual Return that is received after January 31st following the year covered by the Return, or, in the event that

the Annual Meeting of the Grand Council occurs in January, not later than 10 days preceding the date of such annual meeting of the Grand Council, whichever occurs sooner. A report will be considered submitted when both the Annual Report and fees are received by the Grand Scribe. (Revised 2008, 2017)

A Subordinate Council which fails to submit an Annual Report as required by this Article shall be placed on probation, under such terms and conditions as are specified by the Most Excellent Great Chief. If Annual Returns and fees are not submitted by a Subordinate Council for two consecutive years, the Council may be suspended, under such terms and conditions as are specified by the Most Excellent Great Chief. If corrective measures are not taken by the end of the third year, its Charter shall be revoked upon receipt of an affirmative vote by the Grand Council at its subsequent Annual Meeting, following recommendation of said action by the Most Excellent Great Chief. (Added 2017)

When new members are greeted, the Scribe shall send to the Grand Scribe, on forms provided, the names of the new members, together with the following fees: (Revised 2010)

- a. Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each member initiated, Ten Dollars (\$10.00) of which shall be designated as and shall constitute a Grand Council life membership fee, and which shall be deposited into the Grand Council Life Membership Fund as more fully provided for in Article XIV of these Statutes; (Revised 2010)
- b. Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each dual affiliation, which shall be designated as and shall constitute a Grand Council life membership fee, and which shall be deposited into the Grand Council Life Membership Fund as hereinabove set forth; and (Revised 2010)
- c. Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each member restored to membership for whom no fee has been previously paid, which shall be designated as and shall constitute a Grand Council life membership fee, and which shall be deposited into the Grand Council Life Membership Fund as hereinabove set forth. No fee shall be paid on transferring members who are demitting from membership in their former Council, nor shall any fee be paid on those restored members on whom the Ten Dollar (\$10.00) fee has been previously paid. (Revised 2010)

For each member for whom the Grand Council Life Membership fee is paid, the Grand Council shall thereafter remit the annual per capita tax of fifty cents (\$0.50). (Revised 2010)

The Grand Scribe shall send to the Scribe a certificate and membership card for each new member. Duplicate certificates are obtainable for a fee set by Grand Council. (Revised 2007)

#### **XX- QUORUM AND ABSENCE OF OFFICERS**

The quorum necessary to open Grand Council shall be five. Should the Great Chief be absent the next ranking officer shall assume his position, down through Grand Junior Knight. However, one of the first four ranking officers must be present.

The quorum necessary to open a subordinate Council shall be five members of the Council. Should the Excellent Chief be absent the next ranking officer shall assume his position down through Junior Knight. However, one of the first three ranking officers must be present.

#### **XXI – GRAND REPRESENTATIVES**

The M.E. Great Chief may appoint a Grand Representative to any Grand Council which our Grand Council recognizes.

#### **XXII – AMENDMENTS**

Propositions and resolutions to amend these statutes shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Scribe by or before October 31, who shall then cause a copy of same to be transmitted to the Great Chief, the Committee on the Constitution, and the Scribes of all subordinate Councils in order for the same to be considered at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, amendments to these statutes may be made at any Annual Meeting of The Grand Council, provided that no objection is voiced. Otherwise, the amendment shall be held until the next Annual Meeting when it may be offered for action. (Revised 2014)

## DECISIONS, ACTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE GRAND COUNCIL

### ANNUAL MEETINGS AND INSTALLATION

Dispensation granted for a Council to conduct the business of the annual meeting at a special meeting when a quorum was not present for the annual meeting. *Bell, 1984*

Dispensation granted for a Council to hold its Annual Communication even in the absence of a quorum. It was also suggested to the Council that in the future they hold their annual meeting either earlier in the month of December or change their by-laws to have their annual meeting during the month of November. *Bruner, 1993*

Dispensation granted for a installation without regard to the number of Past Excellent Chiefs present due to the lack of Past Excellent Chiefs in that area. *Watts, 1994*

Dispensation granted for a Council to confer the Installed Chief's Degree upon newly elected Chief provided that at least two Past Chiefs are present. *Fleming, 1995*

A Council may change the place of its Stated Meetings by an approved By-Law change. There is no requirement for the Charter to be reissued in this case. *Henry, 2006*

### ELECTIONS

The regularly elected and installed Chief having moved as a result of his employment prior to the first meeting of the year, dispensation was granted for a Council to elect an Excellent Chief at a regular meeting and to fill any vacancies resulting from this election. Further, the regularly elected Chief shall to have the rank and title of Past Chief following this election. *Pace, 1998*

The elected Scribe having failed to submit timely reports, dispensation was granted for a Council to elect and install a new Scribe at a regular meeting and to fill any vacancies that may result as a consequence of the election. *Pace, 1998*

### MEETING DATES

Dispensation was granted for a Council to set aside the provisions of Article II of their By-Laws and meet on a different date to avoid conflict with other Masonic activities. *Saunders, 1997*

Dispensation was granted for a Council to change the date of a meeting to coincide with the meetings of the other Masonic Bodies. Recommended they change their By-Laws avoid this problem in future years. *Pace, 1998*

Dispensation was granted for a Council to set aside the provisions of Article II of their By-Laws and to hold meetings at such time and place as the Chief may designate so that the Council may be reactivated. *Pace, 1998*

### COUNCIL FUNDS

All subordinate councils shall hold their funds in a financial institution in an individual account(s) under the name of the subordinate council. *Law, 1992*

The following actions were approved by Grand Council to address administrative and financial issues that have arisen in subordinate Councils:

- a. That the Universal By-Laws be amended to remove the last line stating that the office of Scribe and Treasurer may be combined;
- b. That Councils with combined Scribe/Treasurer offices be immediately required to elect and install a Treasurer;

- c. That the Treasurer be the only authorized officer to expend any Council monies;
- d. That no monies may be expended for any reason without the approval of the membership and documented in the minutes of the Council;
- e. That each Council shall immediately verify that there are no less than three (3) signatures on all accounts of said Council (bank card signatures, not necessarily going so far as to require two (2) or more signatures on all checks); and
- f. That each subordinate Council is immediately required to perform an in-depth audit of all Council funds, validated by the Excellent Chief and at least two Past Excellent Chiefs, and that report forwarded to the Grand Council for review no later than June 1, 2012 for any guidance/action deemed necessary by the Great Chief. *Sample, 2011*

#### MEMBERSHIP AND JURISDICTION

Our Concordat prohibits us from chartering Councils in Canada, but Canadians may be members of Great Chief's Council. *McCracken, 1982*

Although Great Chief's Council is a holding unit for Knight Masons who have as yet no Council in their home states, there is no law requiring a demit from any Council upon affiliation with another. *McCracken, 1982*

Nothing prohibits us from receiving residents of Ohio as members of Councils outside that state. *McCracken, 1982*

Councils may elect to honorary membership deserving and outstanding members of the Craft who are active members of other Councils of Knight Masons. *Stiles, 1983*

A member of Great Chief's Council 0 who joined South Carolina Council 20 by regular initiation had, in effect, been a transfer since he petitioned, passed the ballot, and was initiated into the several Degrees and had purchased a Life Membership. The application of No. 20 required no information of previous petitioning, so what was done is legitimate. *Womack, 1985*

Demits were issued to two members who were improperly suspended from a Council for non-payment of dues. The Excellent Chief and Scribe were reprimanded for the irregularities permitted in their membership changes. *Law, 1987*

The interval between Annual Meetings may be considered as one year. It was therefore proper for a Council to withdraw an invitation to a candidate who had been elected at the previous Annual Meeting but had failed to present himself for the degrees. *Deutsch, 1992*

Canadian and other non-USA members shall belong to Great Chief's Council No. 0. *Deutsch, 1992*  
(*Decision reversed by Grand Council action 2002.*)

Ordered a Council to cease sending to Masonic brethren what appeared to be a letter of solicitation until notified otherwise. Ours is an invitational order. *Watts, 1994*

Did not permit a Council to accept applications from Kentucky or Ohio pending Grand Council consideration. *Fleming, 1995*

A Council of Knight Masons is not permitted to accept a State Charter of Incorporation. *Harrison, 1996*

Current members who form a new council and desire to transfer their membership are transferred to the new council from their present council when The Grand Council charters the new council. *Harrison, 1996 Rescinded 2008*

Healed error and admonished Councils who had received in membership Masons who lived out of their jurisdiction. Directed that waivers of jurisdiction be obtained in the future. *Saunders, 1997*

Rescinded the earlier decision and ordered that transfers of members to newly formed councils will be recorded as of the date of institution of the new council or such later date before the end of the year that the member requests a transfer. The new council will not be liable for a fee except for Dual Members.

*Elkins, 2008*

Our Concordat prohibits us from chartering Councils outside of the territories of the United States, but Royal Arch Masons from foreign territories may become members of Councils chartered by this Grand Council.

*Dupee, 2016*

All Knight Masons made "At Sight" will be subject to the regular fees for Great Chief's Council 0, or the Council in which they were made Knight Masons.

*Lovas, 2017*

#### ANNUAL REPORTS

Informed a Council that if their per-capita tax was not paid in full and the check cleared before the Annual Communication of the Grand Council, that their Annual Report would not be received, and I would lift their Charter prior to this Communication.

*Bruner, 1993*

The \$10 per member fee may be paid annually with the Annual Reports due on January 31, 2007, 2008, and 2009. Each payment will be a multiple of \$10, and be at least one-third of the total amount due.

*Elkins, 2008*

#### JEWELRY AND INSIGNIA

Each Great Chief shall retain his apron when he retires from office.

*Elliott, 1975*

The ritual states that the new members are invested with the jewel on resumption of labor after the closing of the Degree of Knight of the East and West. Councils that do not give each new member this jewel should consider adopting this practice even if they have to raise the membership fee.

*Ritual Committee, 1981*

An Excellent Chief receives his PEC apron at his installation and the jewel when he goes out of office. *i.e.* If the Council provides an apron for a Chief to use and keep, it should be presented at his installation. There is no special Past Chief's apron.

*Deutsch, 1992, clarified by McCammon, 2002.*

The Grand Council will provide a 40-year membership service award as currently in use in Ireland.

*Harrison, 1996*

Past and Present Great Chiefs should acquire the cuffs of a Grand Officer.

*Harrison, 1996*

Past and Present Grand Superintendents are authorized to acquire and wear the apron, sash, and cuffs of a Grand Council Officer.

*Dupee, 2016*

#### CHARITABLE GIFTS

The recipient of 50% of the charitable gifts made by the Grand Council shall be determined by the Great Chief and 50% by vote of the Grand Officers and the Past Great Chiefs.

*Deutsch, 1992*

#### RITUAL

Our "Installed Excellent Chief" degree is properly the degree of "Installed Chief."

*Harrison, 1996*

Expand our Ritual Book to include the Instructions in Ireland's Instruction Book and the Odes in Ireland's Ode book, and conform our Installed Chief chair degree to conform to Ireland's.

*Harrison, 1996*

## SUPERINTENDENTS

A representative is to be appointed in each state where one or more councils are constituted or are under dispensation. His responsibility would be to inspect the administrative and ritualistic affairs of the council and annually report to the Grand Council. *Fowler, 1988*

The three-year trial having been completed, the Grand Council determined that the Superintendent program was unnecessary. Each Great Chief has the authority to appoint a superintendent in any state or area in which he needs representation. The appointment is at the will and pleasure of the Great Chief and will not exceed his term of office. *Bruner, 1993*

A representative is to be appointed in each state where three (3) or more councils are constituted or are under dispensation. His responsibility shall be to inspect the administrative and ritualistic affairs of the council and annually report to the Grand Council. Said representative shall be titled "Grand Superintendent" and shall receive the honorary title of "Very Excellent". *Sample, 2011*

## AWARD

Created the Knight Commander of Zerubbabel award as follows: A neck jewel will be given by the Great Chief to Knight Masons annually in each jurisdiction who have exhibited the precepts of Knight Masonry above and beyond the call of duty. The Great Chief, Deputy Great Chief, and Grand Senior Knight will make annual selections based on the following criteria:

1. A nomination shall come from a committee of all Past Excellent Chiefs of a Knight Mason Council, the senior Past Excellent Chief in attendance to chair, all present shall sign the nomination next to their printed names.
2. Nominations shall be submitted in writing along with the nomination fee (made out to the Grand Council of Knight Masons) to the Great Chief before 15 January of each year.
3. The fee for the award will be fifty dollars (\$50.00); no nomination may be received without the appropriate fee. The fee may be paid by the council, the nominee, or any sponsor.
4. The award will be limited to one Sir Knight in good standing per year per jurisdiction; however, the Great Chief may award more than one per jurisdiction at his discretion, as long as the issuance of the award does not conflict with the 5% rule below.
5. No more than 5% of any Council or jurisdiction's total current membership (as determined by the Grand Scribe) may be entitled to receive this award.
6. The award may not be given to any past or present elected official of the Grand Council.
7. Councils in jurisdictions with Grand Superintendents will forward their nomination through the Grand Superintendent for concurrence; those without Grand Superintendents will forward their nomination directly to the Great Chief.
8. Grand Superintendents may make one nomination at large from the jurisdiction they represent, in addition to the nominations from the Councils in their jurisdiction, however they must abide by the 5% rule, and if approved, the owning Council, nominee, or sponsor must cover the nomination fee.
9. Any nomination not accepted for any reason will be returned along with the nomination fee, and may be resubmitted the following year following all processes outlined above. *Sample, 2011*

## DRESS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councils who hold their meetings before 5 PM, during daylight hours, may elect to have their Officers wear either tuxedos or dark suits with white collared shirts and the tie of the Order, in addition to

the appropriate regalia of rank in the Order. In order to encourage uniformity of dress, the Council should specify the appropriate attire for the meeting in their Council notices. *Dupee, 2016*

## UNIVERSAL BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I – NAME

- a) The name of this Council shall be \_\_\_\_\_ Council \_\_\_\_, Knight Masons.
- b) It shall be located at (or near) \_\_\_\_\_ (city) in \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_(state)
- c) It holds its Charter from, and owes fealty and allegiance to The Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America and to the Masonic Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction in which it operates.

### ARTICLE II – MEETINGS

The stated meetings of this Council shall be \_\_. The last stated meeting in each calendar year shall be the Annual Meeting for election of officers. Special Meetings may be held at the time and place designated by the Excellent Chief.

### ARTICLE III – OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- a) The following Officers shall be elected and installed each year and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and installed: Excellent Chief, Senior Knight, Junior Knight, Scribe, and Treasurer.
- b) The following officers shall be appointed by the Excellent Chief and shall serve at his pleasure: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Director of Ceremonies, Priest, Steward, and Sentinel. (*See Article XVIII of the STATUTES*).
- c) The Excellent Chief may appoint such committees as may be useful for carrying on the Council's affairs. The Excellent Chief shall be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees.

### ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership in this Council shall be by invitation only. To be eligible for membership candidates must be Royal Arch Masons in good standing in Lodge and Chapter. Good standing in the prerequisite Bodies is necessary for continuing membership. (*See Article IX and Article XII of the STATUTES*).
- b) Invitations for membership shall be given after unanimous election by the Council using secret ballot or ballot by first class mail. If an invitation is not accepted within three years of its date of issue, such invitation shall be rendered null and void. However, the individual may be re-proposed at a later date and he must be re-elected by ballot.

### ARTICLE V – FEES AND DUES

- a) The fee for degrees shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_. (*not less than \$20.00 See article XIII of the STATUTES*)
- b) Annual dues shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable annually in advance.
- c) A member in good standing may become a life-member of this council by the payment of \$\_\_\_\_ (*not less than 20 times annual dues*) to the Life Membership Fund. (*See Article XIII of the STATUTES*)

### ARTICLE VI – LOCAL REGULATIONS

*(Under this article the council may provide laws for definitely exclusive local matters not in conflict with the STATUTES. The Council may make as many sections under this article as may be required to meet the need of such exclusively local law. If this article is not used, then it should be left blank and marked NOT USED.)*

**ARTICLE VII – TERMINATION**

In the event this Council shall cease to exist, except for the purpose of consolidation or merger, the Excellent Chief, Secretary and Treasurer shall, within 30 days thereafter, transmit to the Grand Scribe all the property of the Council, including, without limitation, all the books, records, jewels, paraphernalia, and funds or assets thereof.

**ARTICLE VIII – CONFLICT DISCLAIMER**

Anything contained in these By-Laws in conflict with the Statutes of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America is hereby declared null and void.

**ARTICLE IX – COUNCIL FUNDS**

All Council funds shall be kept in the name of the Council in a financial institution in which the funds are federally insured. (such as F.D.I.C. etc.)

**ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a 2/3 majority vote of those members present if written notice has been given to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting where action is to be taken. Such By-Laws shall become effective when signed by the M.E. Great Chief. *(See Article XVIII of the STATUTES).*

***(NOTE: Omit Italicized text  
from By-laws submitted for approval)***

JEWELS AND CLOTHING  
OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Adopted February 18, 1967  
at the formation of the Grand Council.*

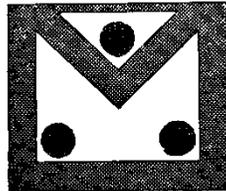
*Revised 2016*

**JEWEL OF THE ORDER  
("GREEN JEWEL")**



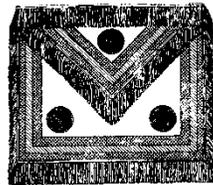
Circular emerald green field (3/4-inch diameter) on seven-pointed gold star (1 3/8-inch diameter) on which are superimposed two Crossed Swords, suspended from emerald green ribbon a minimum of 1 inch wide and 2-1/2 inches in length from bottom of ribbon bar and top of jump ring. A constituent Council may adopt an insignia, which may be centred on the jewel ribbon. Worn on breast. (Revised 2016)

**APRON OF THE ORDER**



Apron of white lambskin, with 2-inch border of the same red as sash, and three green rosettes.

**APRON OF THE GRAND COUNCIL**



Apron same as for Subordinate Councils with the addition of 1/2-inch pale blue watered silk superimposed in centre of red border, with 1 1/2-inch gold lace on all sides and fall.

**JEWEL OF A PAST CHIEF**  
(“RED JEWEL”)



Circular emerald green field (3/4-inch diameter) on gold star (1 3/8-inch diameter) with Crown, three gold equilateral triangles inset into green field on which are superimposed two Crossed Swords, suspended from red ribbon a minimum of 1 inch wide and 3-1/2 inches in length from the bottom of the ribbon bar and top of jump ring. A constituent Council may adopt an insignia, which may be centred on the jewel ribbon. Worn on breast. When both Red and Green Jewels are worn, the Red Jewel is worn to the wearer’s right of the Green Jewel. (Revised 2016)

**JEWEL OF A KNIGHT COMMANDER OF ZERUBBABEL**



Circular emerald green field (1-3/4-inch diameter) with one gold equilateral triangle inset into green field on which are superimposed two Crossed Swords, encircled in gold with the caption KNIGHT COMMANDER OF ZERUBBABEL, on Celtic Cross in silver enameled in shamrock green (2-1/4-inch high and 1-7/8-inch wide), suspended from a 1-1/2 inch emerald green watered silk ribbon and 1/2-inch red watered silk superimposed or woven in center. Worn around neck. (Added 2016)

### JEWEL OF A PAST GRAND SENIOR KNIGHT



**DESCRIPTION:** The jewel of a Past Grand Senior Knight has a circular green field in which four equilateral triangles of red with apices at centre, and inset on these, are three equilateral triangles with crossed swords, all of gold, same as on the Past Chief's jewel; the entire being encircled with "MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT" on blue background, enclosed within a chivalric belt with shamrock motif (1-7/8 inch diameter overall for circular portion) and is worn suspended from the neck by a green cord.

**SYMBOLISM:** The four red equilateral triangles on a green circular background represent the four elements. The colours being those of the Order. The superimposition of the three equilateral triangles on the four elements represents the spiritual governing intelligence over the four elements in nature. This symbol is then surrounded by the motto Magna est Veritas et Praevalebit (Mighty is Truth and Great Above all Things) on a blue background representing the Craft, which is the foundation of Freemasonry. The whole is then encircled by green shamrocks representing the Irish influence on Knight Masonry. (Added 2016)

### JEWEL OF A PAST GREAT CHIEF



Jewel of a Past Chief with crossed swords in gold, centred on a gold star (2 5/8-inch diameter), inverted. Worn on breast. (Added 2016)

### CLOTHING

To be worn by all present in Council of Knight Masons.

1. --Red Sash (Royal Arch Colour), 4” wide, with gold fringe and green rosette at joining, to be worn over coat. Sash to have emblem of Crossed Swords on breast.
2. --Apron of white lambskin, with 2” border of the same red as Sash, and three green rosettes.
3. --Sword with red scabbard.

Council of Knights of the Sword

Officers wear Sash of green watered silk 4” wide with gold fringe.

The King may wear a Robe.

Council of Knights of the East

Officers to wear Sash of pale blue watered silk 4” wide with gold fringe.

The King may wear a Robe.

Council of Knights of the East and West

Same as worn in Council of Knight Masons.

Insignia for Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers

1. – Red Sash 4 inches wide with 1 inch of emerald green watered silk and 1 inch pale blue watered silk super-imposed in centre, blue to the wearer’s right of green, with gold fringe and red rosette at joining, to be worn over coat. Sash to have emblem of Crossed Swords on breast. (Revised 2016)
2. – Apron same as for Subordinate Councils with the addition of ½ inch pale blue watered silk superimposed in centre of red border, with 1½ inch gold lace on all sides and fall.
3. – Gauntlets, which shall not exceed 8 inches at their greatest depth. They shall be made of emerald green watered silk edged with 5/8-inch gold braid and ornamented with the Jewel of a Past Chief. The narrow end of the Gauntlet shall have two bands of 5/8-inch gold braid separated by 5/8-inch of pale blue watered silk. (Added 2016)

### DEFINITIONS

Colours - The following colours will be used for all Knight Mason Jewels and Clothing. The Grand Council provides these definitions recognizing that variances in materials used will result in slight variances in colour, shade, and hue. The end user of this information should strive to maintain a reasonable approximation to these descriptions when selecting dyes and pigments for the raw materials.

- 1, - Red (Royal Arch Colour): Cranberry or Crimson – PMS 194, PMS 187U, or PMS 1807C
- 2, - Red (PGSK Jewel only): – PMS 185U
- 3, - Green (Rosettes): Forest – PMS 343
- 4, - Green (Jewels and Cuffs): Emerald – PMS 355
- 5, - Pale Blue: Copen or Sky– PMS 2925 or PMS 279
- 6, - Gold (nonmetallic): Gold – PMS 146

Watered Silk - The term “watered silk” is used to describe a pattern also known as moiré, which gives a wavy (watered) appearance to the material. An acceptable alternative for narrower pieces (less than 1-1/2 inches wide), particularly ribbon, is grosgrain.

Rosette – A rosette is a circular knot of bunched ribbon, similar in appearance to a cockade, only smaller. The rosettes used on the Aprons and Sashes should be approximately 2 inches in diameter. (Added 2016)