

# The CABLETOW

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Vol. 60, No. 10

November-December 1984





# Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

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**Credits:** The cartoons used in this issue are those of the popular strip "Baltic & Co." by Roni Santiago and featured daily in Bulletin Today.

**Cover:** Artist Arsenio Entienza made this pen and ink rendition of "Lanterns for Christmas."

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EDITORIAL

## THE LAW FOR THE BRETHREN

In pursuit of its principal objective of providing the brethren with useful and relevant information on the doings of the lodges that constitute this ancient Craft, two bright and respected leaders in contemporary masonry took time to fashion out a structure of ideas to present in very convenient reading form decisions of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for the past seven decades.

It is, of course, at best a selection of rulings and resolutions of the Grand Lodge from 1913 to 1983, a span of seventy years. But more importantly, it provides the guidelines for decorum in the lodges and the proper conduct of oneself, as well as the judicious exercise of powers by those entrusted with such license to rule and govern.

The Right Worshipful Reynold S. Fajardo, Senior Grand Warden, and Very Worshipful Benjamin B. Malig, District Deputy Grand Master, Masonic District 1-B, both lawyers of note, should be commended for their high point of efficiency and painstaking research work to bring to you in a simple but scholarly manner dispositive parts of proceedings that affect Freemasons here and elsewhere.

It is also with pride and pleasure that *The Cabletow* expresses its gratitude for having been chosen to be the medium for these compendium of rules and resolutions. And members of the fraternity can only show their appreciation for the efforts of these two brothers by spending some time to read this issue exclusively devoted to a very special project that will further broaden the brethren's expanding base of knowledge of masonic law and information.

RICHARD G. MOLICA  
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**Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons  
of the Philippines**



**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

As we celebrate Christmas '84, all of us shall again be wishing for Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men. For centuries after Christ, the panacea of peace has eluded mankind. Indeed our vision sees nothing but the virulence of violence, and the wantonness of war in almost all parts of the globe. Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America, Europe continue to be the unending venues of bloody battles. Heads of government themselves are felled by assassin's bullets. Not even the Pope is spared by the conspiracy of criminal minds. The irony is that we are supposed to have now attained the highest civilization in the history of man. Yet, today, peace is farthest from the grasp of men. Without doubt, the neanderthal enjoyed greater peace than modern man.

The lack of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men is a challenge for masonry. I dare say that mankind would have been nearer the dream of harmony if man allowed masonry to find its way in his hearts and minds. The reason should be fairly evident: masonry effects the harmony of men for it is an institution where all who believe in God can unite as brothers without the divisiveness of creed, color and class in life. But there is one requirement before mason can manage to unite men in peace and with goodwill towards each other. They should first attain peace with their own selves which means purging their hearts of hatred and pouring them with love. Until we shall have enshrined peace in our inner selves let us not entertain any idea we can propagate peace in the outer space beyond us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reynato S. Puno". The signature is fluid and cursive.

RSP/

Manila, December 7, 1984

**REYNATO S. PUNO**  
Grand Master

*From the Book of Constitutions  
(Reprinted from the original edition, as published by the Grand of  
England, 1723)*

## 1. CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION

*A Mason is oblig'd, by his tenure, to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist, nor an irreligious libertine. But though in ancient times Masons were charg'd in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves; that is, to be good men and true, or men of honour and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual distance.*

## 2. OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE SUPREME AND SUBORDINATE

*A Mason is a peaceable subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concern'd in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion, so ancient kings and princes have been much dispos'd to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answer'd the cavils of their adversaries, and promoted the honour of the Fraternity, who ever flourish'd in times of peace. So that if a Brother should be a rebel against the state, he is not to be countenanc'd in his rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and, if convicted of no other crime, though the loyal brotherhood must and ought to disown his rebellion, and give no umbrage or ground of political jealousy to the government for the time being; they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible.*

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# DECISIONS

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## RULINGS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES 1913-1983

By

RW REYNOLD S. FAJARDO  
Senior Grand Warden

VW BENJAMIN B. MALIG  
District Deputy Grand Master, District 1-B



# DECISIONS

## **Rulings and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines from 1913 to 1983.**

There is a rich body of Masonic law and jurisprudence buried in the volumes of the Proceedings of the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The rulings and resolutions of the Grand Lodge during its Annual Communications, plus its decisions on the recommendations and actions of the Grand Master and the standing committees, are to be found in the Proceedings. These decisions of the Grand Lodge form an integral part of the law of the Fraternity and are binding upon all members in this jurisdiction. Their importance, therefore, cannot be over emphasized. But this, notwithstanding, no serious attempt has so far been made to gather and systematically arrange them in one volume.

This seminal work of RW Reynold S. Fajardo, Senior Grand Warden, and VW Benjamin B. Malig, District Deputy Grand Master, Masonic District I-B is thus a most welcome contribution to Philippine Masonic case law and jurisprudence. For the first time in this jurisdiction, it makes available to the Brethren important decisions, rulings and policies of the Grand Lodge from 1913 to 1983, systematically arranged and condensed for easier reading.

The Editor

# 1. Rulings Related to Candidates



**AGE QUALIFICATION** — In order that a candidate may be eligible to receive the degrees, he must, among other things, be at least twenty-one years old at the time of signing his application. (Proc. 1923, p. 25)

## **PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS**

### **— CANDIDATE WITH LEFT HAND MISSING AT THE WRIST**

— A reputable businessman, 50 years of age, of excellent moral character and in good financial standing who fulfills all the requirements, but with his left hand missing at the wrist, is eligible for membership under our Constitution. (Proc. 1918, page 73)

**— CANDIDATE WITH AN ARTIFICIAL FOOT** — In 1914 it was held that a candidate with an artificial foot, is ineligible for membership "because, owing to his deformity", it is a physical impossibility for him to conform to a part of the ritual. (Proceedings 1914, page 8)

In 1923 Grand Master F. H. Stevens ruled that a lodge may receive a petition for the degrees from a man who is lame in his right foot due to infantile paralysis, it appearing that he was able to conform substantially to what the several degrees require of him. The fact that he was wearing a special shoe on his

crippled foot was also not found objectionable.

In the proceedings held in 1924, the ruling of MW Stevens was approved by the Grand Lodge (Proceedings, 1924)

In 1939 it was ruled that in resolving the question as to the eligibility of a candidate with an artificial foot, it is better to leave such questions of physical qualifications of an applicant or candidate to the sound discretion of the Lodge in balloting upon a candidate, but the Master should state the nature and extent of the disabilities to the Lodge before the ballot is taken. (Proceedings 1939, page 53)

#### RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

— The members of the Army and Navy are presumed for the purpose of jurisdiction to reside at the port to which they are assigned, in the absence of purpose or intent to reside anywhere else. (Proc. 1923, page 25)

**WHERE RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT NOT MET** — “A candidate presented a petition for degrees, paying the necessary fees. The petition was read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipt. A letter was then addressed to the Grand Lodge asking dispensation to confer the degrees because the applicant had not yet resided in the Philippines for one year. This petition was denied. On January 27th, the candidate completed a year in the Philippines. The petition for degrees was again taken up in the Stated Meeting for the purpose of voting. Some of the members

opposed voting, claiming that it was necessary for the candidate to submit a new application and also another committee of investigation should be appointed. On the first, application, the committee appointed for that purpose reported favorably. In cases like this, would the Lodge be justified in acting on the first application, after he has completed 1 year residence in the Philippines, all other matters being favorable to the candidate? Or, should the candidate be required to submit a new application and then have another committee of investigation appointed?”

Section 2, Article 3, Part 3, of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge reads, as follows:

“No Lodge in this jurisdiction shall receive an application for the degrees of Masonry unless the applicant be a man; no woman or eunuch; free born, being neither a slave nor the son of a bond woman; a believer in God and a future existence; of moral conduct; having no main defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art, and physically able to conform substantially to what the several degrees respectfully require of him; nor unless he shall have been a resident within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge during twelve months and within the jurisdiction of the Lodge (i.e. nearer thereto than any other Lodge existing under the Grand Lodge) during six months next

preceding the date of his application."

The candidate in this case presented his petition to the Lodge and the Lodge requested the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to receive the Candidate's petition and act upon it because the candidate had not resided in the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge for twelve months. The request for a dispensation was denied by the Grand Master.

The petition should have been withdrawn and the fee returned to the petitioner as it could not be received by the Lodge as it was contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

When the petitioner established twelve months residence within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge a new petition should have been made out and presented to the Lodge as a new petition and the Lodge should have received it and acted upon it independent of any previous petition. (Proceedings 1951)

**VOTE BY BALLOT; MEANING OF** — A "vote by ballot" as per our Constitution means a vote with the ballot box with balls, or with pieces of paper written upon by the members voting, both of which shall be secret (Proceedings, 1915, p. 22)

**REBALLOT; WHEN IT MAY BE POSTPONED** — A master did not act against the Constitution when he ordered the postponement of the second balloting after he found that it was tainted by anomaly, i.e.,

the number of votes cast was more than the number of voters. The re-balloting violated the one member one vote principle provided in Art. III, Chapter VII, Par. 680 (3) of the Constitution. It defeated the reason for the need to call a second ballot, which is to cure a possible mistake. Consequently, the postponement of the second balloting done to preserve its sanctity was not unjustified. (Proceeding 1982)

**JURISDICTION OVER CANDIDATE; WAIVER OF —**

*Question* — An applicant for degrees was rejected in Lodge A. After 12 months, he applied for degrees in Lodge B having concurrent jurisdiction with Lodge A. Can Lodge A, which rejected the said applicant, waive its jurisdiction in favor of Lodge B?

*Held* — The Constitution provides the qualifications of applicants for the degrees of Masonry, and it is provided that an applicant shall have been a resident within the jurisdiction of the Lodge (i.e. nearer thereto than to any other Lodge existing under this Grand Lodge) during six months next preceding the date of his application. There is a new paragraph under this section which provides an exception in the case of one who has the qualification of residence; that is to say, the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides may, upon his request in writing and for good cause shown, authorize another Lodge to receive and act upon his application, and certain rules are laid down for handling such applications. But this ex-

ception and the rules with reference thereto do not apply to the case of an applicant who has applied to one of several Lodges having concurrent jurisdiction and has been rejected. As long as such rejected applicant continues to reside within the jurisdiction of the Lodge which rejected him, no other Lodge which had concurrent jurisdiction with that Lodge may lawfully receive his application. The Lodge which has rejected him continues to have jurisdiction over him and it may not lawfully waive jurisdiction over him in favor of another Lodge which had concurrent jurisdiction with the Lodge that rejected him. (Proceedings, 1941)

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF JURISDICTION; PROCEDURE** — It appears to be absolutely necessary that the request for waiver of jurisdiction must come from the applicant himself and not from the Lodge in which he has made application for the degrees. The Constitution provides that "The request shall lie over a month and a committee shall be appointed to investigate as to whether or not the Lodge actually possesses jurisdiction, and whether or not the reasons alleged for the request are good and sufficient; which committee shall report at the next stated meeting". It will be observed that this last quoted provision contemplates that the request of the applicant or petitioner for waiver of jurisdiction by the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides shall precede the filing of the petition for the degrees in another

Lodge. This is also shown to be the proper procedure by another provision where it says that "the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides may, upon his request in writing and for good cause shown, authorize another Lodge to receive and act upon his application." (Proceedings, 1941)

**WHERE PETITIONER RESIDES IN TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF LODGE WAIVER NOT NEEDED** — An applicant for the degrees of Masonry in a Lodge other than the Lodge in the territorial jurisdiction of his residence is required by the Grand Lodge Constitution to make request of the Lodge where he resides to waive jurisdiction in favor of the Lodge to which he wishes to make application, and that the request for the waiver cannot be properly made by the Lodge to which he may wish to make his application. But, of course, this rule does not apply to a petitioner whose residence is in the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he makes application for the degrees. In the latter case the Lodge to which he makes application has jurisdiction over the petitioner and does not need a waiver of jurisdiction from any other Lodge. The place of residence of a petitioner for the degrees is largely a matter of the intention of the petitioner, and it does not seem that any one else would be in a position to dispute his declaration as to the place of his residence. (Proceedings, 1941)

**PROTESTS AGAINST CANDI-  
DATE COMING FROM OTHER  
LODGES** —

Objections registered by a Lodge in the form of a resolution against the admission of any petitioner in another Lodge does not *ipso facto* constitute an impediment to the admission of such petitioner into our Fraternity. After protests are received by the Lodge to which a petition has been presented, that Lodge alone may determine by ballot whether the petitioner shall be elected or rejected (Proc. 1925, page 69)

**CANDIDATE REJECTED IN  
FOREIGN JURISDICTION** —

In all cases where the petitioners for degrees have previously been rejected in another Grand Jurisdiction, the petitions must be endorsed to the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge in order that appropriate action may be taken and due investigation made before ballot on any such petitions. (Proc. 1925, page 70)

**CANDIDATES MAY BE ASKED  
ONLY THOSE PRELIMINARY  
QUESTIONS AUTHORIZED BY  
GRAND LODGE** —

On November 10, 1939, Indang Lodge, U.D., sent the Grand Lodge a copy of "Exoteric Information" to be subscribed by candidates for degrees and wished to be informed whether it was in contravention with existing regulations. Held: it is not regular or legal for a Lodge to require a candidate to subscribe to a sheet of "Exoteric Information" such as the copy attached to this inquiry.

It is proper that a candidate shall

read any duly authorized literature which has the approval of the Grand Lodge, but this sheet of "Exoteric Information" is something that is not required or authorized, and its introduction into the ceremonies of initiation might be misunderstood or misconstrued, and it might open the way for other innovations which are strictly prohibited.

The authorized preliminary questions to the candidate are prescribed and authorized by the Grand Lodge, and no other declarations, written or oral, should be required of a candidate. Innovations of the nature of the one here proposed should not be undertaken by any Lodge, especially when they are in such form as to cause differences of opinion and controversy among the members. (Proceedings, 1940)



**CANDIDATE WHO LIVES ON VESSEL** — A man possessing all the qualifications to become a mason whose only home is the vessel upon which he is employed, is eligible for the degrees if his vessel has been in Philippine water at times covering the period of one year (Proceedings, 1915, p. 22)

**CANDIDATES; OFFERING OF REFRESHMENTS PROHIBITED** — It is unlawful for any Lodge or a member to request or permit any candidate for the degrees to furnish refreshments for the Lodge at any time during the period that he shall be receiving the degrees (Proceedings 1932, pages 34 and 71)

### THE POSITION OF A CANDIDATE

*The position of a candidate is a transition state from the profane world to the Masonic Institution. It is the first step taken which is to place the recipient within the jurisdiction of Masonic Law.*

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### QUALIFICATIONS OF A CANDIDATE

*The qualifications which are essential in those who apply for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry, are of two kinds, internal and external.*

*The internal qualifications of a candidate are those which lie within his own bosom, and are not patent to the world. They refer to his peculiar dispositions towards the Institution — his motives and design in seeking an entrance into it. Hence they are known to himself alone; and a knowledge of them can only be acquired from his own solemn declarations.*

*The external qualifications are those which refer to his outward fitness for initiation, and are based on his moral and religious character, the frame of his body, the constitution of his mind, and his social position. A knowledge of these is to be acquired from a careful examination by a committee appointed for that purpose.*

ALBERT MACKEY

## 2. Rulings Related to Individual Masons



that makes you a charter member.

**MEMBERSHIP** — A Brother, who received degrees in one Lodge at the request of another Lodge, is a member of the latter. His case differs from that of one who received degrees from another Lodge after having obtained a waiver of jurisdiction from the Lodge to which he originally petitioned for degrees. (Proceedings 1923, page 25)

**CHARTER MEMBERS; WHO ARE** — The Constitution or General Regulations of our Grand Lodge do not contain any specific rule as to charter members.

Mackeys Encyclopedia of Freemasonry — Volume I, page 145, has the following to say on this subject:

“A Mason whose name is attached to the petition upon which a charter or Warrant of Constitution has been granted to a Lodge, Chapter or other subordinate body is known as Charter Member.”

Therefore a Mason whose name is attached to the petition upon which a Charter has been granted to a subordinate Lodge of this Grand

Lodge shall be considered to be a Charter Member of that Lodge, regardless of the fact that he may be an affiliated member of that Lodge under Dispensation." (Proceedings 1951)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP; BY LONGEVITY AND BY PURCHASE —**

The Constitution, authorizes the granting of a Life Membership to a Brother who has been a member of his lodge in good standing for thirty consecutive years. This does not mean that a Lodge is obliged to grant a Life Membership to any Brother who has been a member of the Lodge for thirty consecutive years; this section only gives that authority to a lodge, should it care to so honor one of its members. However, a Standing Resolution must be adopted by the Lodge and approved by the Grand Lodge as directed in that Section.

The Constitution also provides a way for members to obtain Life Membership by paying the lodge a certain fee. This provision for granting Life Memberships may or may not be adopted by a lodge. If it is adopted, the provisions must be carefully followed. A Standing Resolution shall be presented to the lodge at a Stated Meeting and a copy of same mailed to each member of the lodge, informing the member that the Standing Resolution would be acted upon at the next Stated Meeting by the lodge. This resolution will not take effect until it has been approved by the Grand Master.

The Secretary of the Lodge is

required, when making his Annual Report to Grand Lodge, to include a list of Life Members created under this Section; the amount of the Fund thus created and the manner in which said Fund is invested; giving the amount received as income by this Fund for the year past. (Proceedings 1951)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP —** Any provision relative to life membership must be in the form of a standing resolution, in the manner and with the effects prescribed by the Constitution (Proceedings, 1923, page 25)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP, REQUISITES —** A member is not entitled to life membership by designation or longevity if he has not been a member in good standing in the fraternity for a least 30 years and has paid dues to the lodge for the same period of time. Hence, a member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues for 11 years cannot claim to be a member in good standing during that period of suspension. (Proceedings, 1982)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP; BY LONGEVITY —** A Brother must have been a member of one Lodge in good standing for thirty consecutive years in order to become a life member. A member who during the thirty-year period has been suspended for N.P.D. has not been in good standing in the Lodge for thirty consecutive years, even though he has paid up his delinquent dues and was thereby reinstated. In short, he is not entitled to life membership upon expiration of

thirty years from the time that he became a member of that Lodge. (Proceedings 1938, p. 60)

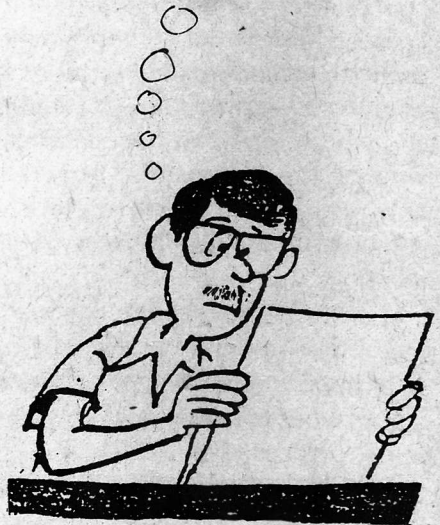
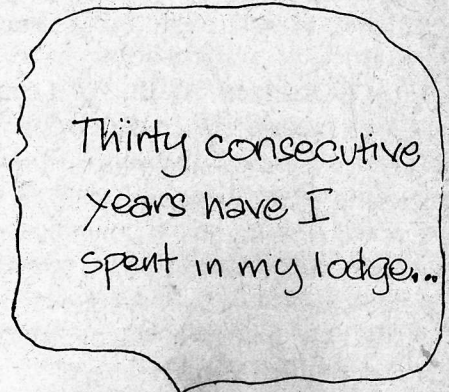
**LIFE MEMBERSHIP; WORDS "THIRTY CONSECUTIVE YEARS" INTERPRETED** — *Question* — Does the period of thirty consecutive years begin from the time that a member was initiated, or does it begin from the date that he was raised to the degree of Master Mason?

*Answer* — One who has been initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason and passed to the degree of Fellow Craft is not yet entitled to claim membership in that Lodge, or to claim the right to life membership therein; he is not required to pay dues until he becomes a Master Mason and signs the By-Laws of the Lodge; and under the Constitution it is clear that a member of a Lodge must have been a member thereof in good standing for thirty consecutive years before he can be entitled to life membership in the Lodge.

The period of "thirty consecutive years," mentioned in the Grand Lodge Constitution must be construed to begin from the date that a Master Mason received the third degree and signed the by-laws of his Lodge, for the reason that without first receiving that degree he could not possibly become a life member of a Lodge or become entitled to the rights and privileges of life membership. (Proceedings, 1940)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** — May a member of a Lodge who is a life member in his Mother Lodge be

declared a life member in the Lodge where he is a dual member when he has not attained the required longe-



vity in the latter Lodge?

*Answer* — A life member in good standing of one Lodge who has been a Master Mason and whose dues are paid for thirty years may be declared a life member in another Lodge where he is a dual member. (Proceedings 1966, p. 72)

**DIMIT; WHEN LODGE VOTE NEEDED** — Opinion is requested on the question of the Lodge voting on a request for a Demit.

Our Constitution reads in part:

"A member of a Lodge, in good standing and whose dues are paid, may withdraw therefrom at any time by giving notice of his intention so to do at a stated meeting, and he may receive a certificate to the fact of such withdrawal in the form prescribed in Article 3, Par. 7, but, no recommendation certificate shall be given him except by a vote of majority of the members of the Lodge then present."

The above clearly provides that:

1-A "Certificate of withdrawal, without recommendation" may be given to a member in good standing and whose dues are paid, without a vote of the Lodge. The Secretary, however, should make a note of such action in the minutes of the meeting.

2-A "Recommendatory Certificate of Withdrawal" may be given only upon a vote of the majority of the members of the Lodge then present." (Proceedings, 1951)

**DIMIT SHOULD NOT BE ISSUED TO MEMBER IN ARREARS** — A Lodge member is not entitled to demand of his Lodge a dimit, if he owes any money to his Lodge, or has not fully accounted for or refunded money entrusted to him by his Lodge. A dimit is a certificate of clearance and a member who is in arrears for dues or in the payment of his financial obligations to the Lodge is not entitled to demand a certificate of clearance from the Lodge (Proceed-

ings, 1936, p. 99)

**DIMIT CANNOT BE ISSUED WHILE CHARGES ARE PENDING**

— A dimit cannot be issued to a member of a Lodge while charges are pending against him. Such charges temporarily impair his good standing, our Constitution requiring as a prerequisite to granting a dimit that the member be "in good standing and whose dues are paid." (Proceedings 1915, page 23)

**SUSPENSION OF MEMBER, EFFECT OF ON MEMBERSHIP WITH OTHER LODGES.** — *Question*

— Would it be lawful, in the case of a member holding dual membership in two Lodges, for his new Lodge to suspend him for non-payment of dues?

When the Secretary of the new Lodge notifies the Secretary of the other Lodge that a member has been suspended for non-payment of dues, would it be obligatory on the other Lodge so notified to suspend the member thus suspended in the new Lodge? In other words, is the automatic suspension provided for in the Constitution applicable in such a case?

*Answer* — In answer to the first question, it would be lawful for the Lodge to suspend a member holding dual membership for non-payment of dues after the Secretary has complied with the requirements of the Constitution as to notice to the delinquent member and his failure to pay his arrearages, or to show cause why he cannot pay them, unless he has shown that his arrearages, and dues have been re-

mitted by his Lodge.

In answer to the second question, it may be stated that the Grand Lodge has established the rule in this jurisdiction that suspension of a member holding dual membership for non-payment of dues in one Lodge shall have the effect of automatically suspending him in the other Lodge, even though he is not delinquent in the payment of his dues in the other Lodge, and this rule should govern the Lodges of this jurisdiction until the Grand Lodge changes or modifies the rule (Proceedings, 1940)

**LIFE MEMBER; CASE WHERE HE MAY BE SUSPENDED** – A life member of a lodge of which he is a dual member can be suspended if he is suspended for non-payment of dues in his mother Lodge. Par. 555 of the Constitution clearly provides that “a dual member who is suspended or expelled in one lodge shall automatically be suspended or expelled in the other lodge.” (Proceedings, 1982)

**DUAL MEMBERSHIP; SUSPENSION OF MEMBER IN ONE LODGE; EFFECT ON HIS MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER LODGE** – The Constitution of the Grand Lodge provides, as follows:

“5th. A member holding dual membership, upon being suspended or expelled by either of the two Lodges, shall be automatically suspended or expelled in the other Lodge, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge imposing such penalty of notify, in

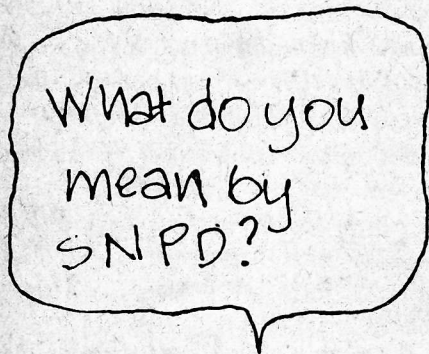
writing, the Secretary of the Lodge of such suspension or expulsion.’

The said paragraph is fully effective when both Lodges to which a member belongs are under the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippine Islands; but this provision of the Constitution of our Grand Lodge is only effective where our Grand Lodge has established Lodges, and it is without effect in the territorial jurisdiction of any other Grand Lodge; and whether a suspension or expulsion of a member in this Grand Jurisdiction would automatically suspend or expel the member in another Grand Jurisdiction in which he is holding dual membership must depend upon the Constitution and laws of that Grand Jurisdiction.

Our Grand Lodge is authorized to prescribe by its Constitution, Laws and Regulations the duties and powers of officers of Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, and it would seem to follow without any question that when a member of a Lodge under our Grand Lodge who holds dual membership in a Lodge under another Grand Jurisdiction, and such member in our Grand Jurisdiction is suspended or expelled for any cause in our Grand Jurisdiction, it would be the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge imposing such penalty in this Grand Jurisdiction to notify the Lodge in which he holds dual membership in the other Grand Jurisdiction, and that the correspondence in such a

case should be sent through the office of the Grand Secretary. (Proceedings, 1941)

**REINSTATEMENT** — In the reinstatement of a brother suspended for non-payment of dues, the provisions of the Constitution must be followed.. Unless the Lodge remits the dues, the brother has to pay all his back dues, and not only those for the last twelve months. (Proceedings 1923, page 25)



**SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES; RESTORA-**

**TION; PROCEDURE** — A brother was suspended for non-payment of dues and was notified by the Secretary of the Lodge of such suspension. A month or so thereafter the brother wrote a letter to his Lodge asking for reinstatement and he enclosed in that letter a check covering the amount of his delinquency.

The Constitution reads, in part, as follows: x x x "but any Mason thus suspended, who shall at any time, pay the arrearages due at the time of his suspension, or who shall have had such arrearages and dues remitted by his Lodge, shall, by either of these acts be restored: Provided, That should any member suspended for non-payment of dues neglect, for the period of two years to pay said dues, or have the same remitted by his Lodge, such member shall not be restored, except by a three-fourths vote by ballot of all the members present at the next stated meeting after the petition for restoration is presented x x x x x."

In this case the act of the Brother in paying the dues he owed to his Lodge automatically restores him to membership. No action of the Lodge is necessary in such case.

However, should a brother suspended for non-payment of dues, fail to pay same or have his Lodge remit same, for a period of two years after his suspension, then, in such a case the petition for reinstatement must be held for one month, and then voted upon by ballot, and three-fourths of all

members present must be in favor of the reinstatement." (Proceedings, 1951)

**REINSTATEMENT OF SUSPENDED MEMBER; LODGE CANNOT IMPOSE REINSTATEMENT FEE** — Morning Calm Lodge No. 189, petitioned that it be granted the right and privilege of assessing a reinstatement fee to all its suspended members who so desire and request reinstatement.

Chapter IV, Article II, par. 342 of our Masonic Law Book provides as one of the powers of a lodge the following:

x x x

To restore any member suspended for non-payment of dues upon payment of all arrears up to the date of suspension plus dues and fees for the current year. If payment is made before two years have elapsed from the date of suspension the restoration shall be immediate and mandatory, otherwise restoration may be made only by a three-fourths vote of all the members present at the next stated meeting after the petition for restoration is presented.

This provision enumerates what should be paid by a suspended member to be restored. They are the dues in arrears and the dues and fees for the current year. No lodge can add to the financial burdens which a suspended member must discharge before he can gain restoration. It is presumed that a member who gets suspended for

non-payment of dues is really financially incapable and hence his predicament should be viewed with sympathy by all. His reentry to the fraternity should not be made difficult by the imposition of other financial considerations. There should be no penalty for penury for lest we forget it is the spirit of charity that gives life to the fraternity and it is our bounden duty to practice that charity especially to our destitute brethren. It is for this reason that the said provision emphasizes that "if payment is made before two years have elapsed from the date of suspension, the restoration shall be immediate and mandatory." (Proceedings 1983)

**AFFILIATION BY MEMBER RESTORED TO MASONIC RIGHTS BY GRAND LODGE; PROCEDURE** — It is necessary for a brother who has been restored by the Grand Lodge to the rights of Masonry to make application for affiliation to any Lodge of which he desires to become an affiliated member, and make therein a statement of the facts and circumstance of his status as a Mason, and his application for affiliation should be referred to a committee of investigation, and he be elected to membership in that Lodge by unanimous acceptance, as in the case of any other Mason applying for membership in the Lodge of affiliation (Proceedings, 1937, p. 80)

**EXPELLED MEMBER; REINSTATEMENT** — A member of a Lodge who has been expelled for

unmasonic conduct in the Scottish Rite and suspended for non-payment of dues in his Blue Lodge may not petition his Blue Lodge for restoration by paying the required fees without first having been given the opportunity to clear himself of his expulsion for unmasonic conduct in the Scottish Rite. (Proceedings 1970, p. 55).

### MISCELLANEOUS RULES

#### — PROHIBITION TO HOLD MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATION USING MASONIC EMBLEMS, INSIGNIA, etc.

— Masons under this jurisdiction are forbidden from holding any kind of membership in any organization or society which, without due authority from the Grand Lodge, make use of Masonic emblems, regalia, insignia, or rituals, or any near resemblance thereto, which in the opinion of the Grand Master might tend to deceive or be confused with Masonic emblems, regalia, insignia and rituals.

The penalty for any violation of this resolution shall be expulsion;

The Most Worshipful Grand Master is authorized and required to declare, and publish, monthly, a list containing the names of the organizations and societies coming within the ban of this resolution. (Proc. 1924, p. 110)

#### — DISPLAY ON CARS OF EMBLEMS OF APPENDANT OR-

**GANIZATIONS** — There is no statute or regulation which expressly prohibits the display on cars of the emblems of appendant organizations of the Fraternity, like the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and International Order of Job's Daughters. What is prohibited is the use of "any kindred word or emblem of Ancient Craft Masonry in any form of advertising, or with the announcement of political speakers." The fact that an emblem is displayed on the car of a member of an appendant organization will make him more conscious of his responsibility to the organization so as not to bring it to contempt and dishonor. (Proc. 1970, pp. 54 and 81)

#### — ADVERTISEMENT OF LIQUORS AND NIGHT CLUBS —

All Masons, especially those clothed with some power or authority are cautioned not to permit, authorize, or consent to any advertisement of liquors, or night clubs in any program or other masonic publication. (Proc. 1966, pp. 18 and 87)

#### — SCOTTISH RITE MASONS —

Scottish Rite Masons may wear their Scottish Rite caps during masonic burial ceremonies only if the sponsoring group is a Scottish Rite Bodies, but not if it is a Blue Lodge, in which case appropriate aprons should be worn. (Proc. 1975, pp. 110-111)

COURT RULED THAT LODGES HAVE UNQUESTIONABLE  
RIGHT TO REJECT CANDIDATES

*Voluntary associations generally have the unquestionable right to exclude from membership on any basis whatever. Fraternal association implies a degree of social intimacy but one step removed from that of the family. So long as this form of social organism remains as deeply embedded in our culture as it is now, the law must respect it and its ordinary concomitants, chief among which is selectivity of membership. Clearly to be implied from the absolutism over admission residing in the organization as an entity is the derivative right of individual members to be heard within the organization on their objection to an applicant and to persuade other members toward their views. To qualify that right by the peril of liability for punitive damages at the suit of an excluded applicant who can show that the objecting member was motivated by ill will, spite, or prejudice, would be, in our judgment, substantially to impair commonly accepted concepts as to freedom of selectivity in social and fraternal organizations. Past unsavory experiences of a member with an applicant may be at once the source of ill will motivating the activity against admission and also a thoroughly justifiable reason for such activity. Other motives may be less justifiable but hardly capable of reliable segregation from good ones. The number of disappointed applicants for membership in fraternities, societies and private clubs of every kind, must be legion, and the range of motivation for exclusion kaleidoscopic. We do not yet live in the age of the literal brotherhood of man. The "blackball" continues to hold its place in our fraternal life. — Trautwein, et al., Vs. Harbourt, et al., 40 N.J. Super 247,123 A 2nd 30*

### 3. Rulings Related to Lodge Officers



The Treasurer says you have not paid your dues, but don't worry...

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS; MEANING OF "MAJORITY VOTES"** — *Facts* — In the election of Worshipful Master of a Lodge, fifteen members were present. One Brother received eight votes and another seven votes. The question submitted for an opinion is whether the Brother who received eight votes can be legally declared elected, and, if not, what would be the proper procedure after his having been duly declared elected to the Office. *Held:* The Constitution provides as follows:

"The Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of each Lodge shall be elected annually, by ballot, at the stated meeting next preceding the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist; and a majority of the votes of the members present shall be necessary to elect. They shall be installed as soon as practicable thereafter, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall have been duly elected and installed. Installa-

tion may be either public or private."

It clearly appears from the letter of inquiry that one Brother received eight votes and the other received seven votes, and the one who received eight votes was declared elected. That procedure appears to have been proper and in accordance with the foregoing provision of the Constitution, since the Brother who was declared elected received a clear majority of the votes cast. (Proceedings, 1941)

**ABSENT MEMBER CAN BE ELECTED TO OFFICE** — A member of a Lodge who would be entitled to vote if he were present, is eligible to election to any office in the Lodge, even though he may be absent from the city at the time of election. (Proceedings, 1914, page 9)

**ELECTION; BROTHER VOTED TO MORE THAN ONE OFFICE** — The fact that a brother was voted to more than one office on the same ballot does not necessarily annul the election, there being no proof that this was done with fraudulent intent, and it appearing that if such ballot was rejected, the brother so voted for still had the required majority. (Proceedings, 1923, p. 25)

**ELECTION WHERE BROTHER IN ARREARS VOTED** — The irregularity of having permitted a Brother who is in arrears in the payment of his dues, to vote, does not vitiate the elections (Proceedings, 1923, page 25)

**VOTING; PAYMENT OF DUES**

— The provision of the constitution which limits voting at any elections and eligibility to any office in the Lodge to members in good standing whose dues are paid, refers to dues as the term is used in the constitution. Hence, if a member's dues are paid up and there are no Masonic charges against him, he must be allowed to vote, regardless of any debt that he may owe the Lodge. (Proceedings 1935, p. 35)

**ELECTION OF MASTER, WHEN VOID** — The election of a brother as Master of Kasilawan Lodge was held contrary to the Constitution and Masonic Law because at the time of his election he had not been elected either as Junior or Senior Warden of his Lodge. The charges of 1722 which has been adopted as part and parcel of the constitution declares that no brother can be a Master until he has acted as a Warden. The historical significance of the charges of 1722 was carefully considered and it was shown that only a brother who has been elected to the South or West Stations can be elected Master of the Lodge. (Proceedings, 1970, pp. 43, 54, 55 and 81)

**MASTER; ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS WARDENS QUALIFIED TO BE ELECTED AS MASTER; EXCEPTION** — In 1982 Tagaytay Lodge No. 165, elected Bro. Flaviano H. Perdito as its Worshipful Master from the floor after those who have been Wardens declined the position.

Was his election as Worshipful Master lawful considering that he has never served as Warden in his lodge? In this regard, the applicable provision of our Constitution is Art. VIII, par. 469 to wit:

"Except in overseas Lodges no Master of any Lodge shall be installed unless he has served as Warden and until the Grand Lodge Inspector of the Lodge, or the District Lecturer or the Junior or Senior Grand Lecturer shall have certified in writing to the Installing Officer that he is proficient in the work and lectures entire in the three degrees and those portions of the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge which relate to the government of a Lodge.

In the light of the peculiar facts that attended the election of Bro. Perdito, his election is valid. Art. VIII, par. 469 should be given a mandatory meaning only when there are brethren in the lodge who have already served as wardens and are available and willing to serve as its Worshipful Master. In that instance, no brother who has not been a warden in the Lodge can be lawfully elected as its Worshipful Master. But if as in this case, those who have been Wardens and therefore qualified to serve as Worshipful Master refused the position for one reason or another, then any member in good standing may be duly elected to the Oriental Chair. A contrary rule may result in a situation where a lodge cannot elect

Don't despair, there are exceptions to the rule on Masters even if you have not served as a Warden



its Worshipful Master. Such an absurdity which may eventuate in the extinction of the lodge itself could not have been contemplated by our Constitution. (Proc. 1983)

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICER; QUESTIONNAIRE** — Bro. FS was re-elected to the position of Senior Warden. He did not attend the installation ceremonies nor did he answer the questionnaire and the examination of officers-elect on the laws pertaining to the government of a masonic lodge. *Question:* Can Bro. FS continue to hold the position of Senior Warden? *Answer:* He was installed last year and re-elected to the same position this year. He should be installed to said office, but he has to answer the questionnaire (Proc. 1973, p. 52)

**MASTER; AUTHORIZED TO SUSPEND SECRETARY FOR IRREGULARITY** – *Questions* – 1.

Is the Master of the Lodge authorized to suspend the secretary for any irregularity or disobedience to his orders?

2. In the affirmative case what will be the proper procedure? *Held* – Our Constitution referring to the duties of the Master of a Lodge, states:

“To superintend the official acts of all the officers of his Lodge and see that their respective duties are properly discharged.”

It is quite clear from the above that the Master is obliged to see that the duties of the Secretary, who is one of the officers of his lodge, are properly discharged.

The Master therefore has authority to suspend the Secretary for any irregularity or disobedience to his orders as will affect the Secretary in properly discharging his duties.

The procedure would be to prefer charges against the Secretary, suspend him temporarily from office and appoint a Secretary pro tem to act until the trial of the Secretary has been carried out according to the procedure of our Constitution on “Trial, Appeals and Penalties.” (Proceedings, 1951)

**MASTER; AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OFFICERS** – Under date of March 11, 1950 this Committee rendered you an opinion that the Master was authorized to suspend the Secretary of his Lodge

for any irregularity or disobedience to his orders that would affect the Secretary in the proper discharge of his duties.

The same ruling would apply to any other officer of the Lodge, as the 5th paragraph of Section 2, Article 2, Part 4 of our Constitution provides that one of the duties of the Master is –

“To superintend the official acts of all of the officers of his Lodge and see that their respective duties are properly discharged.”

(Proceedings, 1951)

**MASTER MAY INVITE ANYONE TO SIT IN THE EAST** – The Master of a Lodge has unlimited powers over his Lodge. He is responsible only to the Grand Master, the Grand Master’s Deputy or the Grand Lodge. His actions are restricted only by the Constitution, General Regulations, Edicts of the Grand Lodge and the By-Laws of his Lodge.

There is nothing in the Constitution, Rules or Regulations of this Grand Lodge that prohibits the Master from inviting anyone to sit beside him in the East. The general practice in this jurisdiction has been to invite officers of Grand Lodge and Past Masters to seats in the East, but the Master has the right to invite guest speakers, or visting Chaplains or any distinguished visitor that he may choose to sit with him in the East. (Proceedings, 1950)

**MASTER; POWERS OF; PRO-TEMPORE APPOINTMENTS** –

Protempore appointments to the office of Warden should be made for the meeting only, although nothing prevents an understanding that such designation will be deemed renewed at each subsequent meeting if the regular incumbent is still absent or occupying a higher office and the Brother who has been acting in his stead is present. (Proceedings, 1935, p. 34)

**DUTIES OF MASTER** — It is the duty of the Master of each subordinate Lodge upon his installation to prepare a budget of the Lodge's expenditures and its income from dues and investments, if any, for the year, and have it approved by the Lodge, and to furnish a copy of such budget to the Grand Lodge.

It is also the duty of the Master of each subordinate Lodge at the end of each month to have a statement prepared from the books of the Lodge, showing in detail the receipts and disbursements of the Lodge during that month, and such other information as may be required, which statement shall be certified by the Secretary and filed with the Committee on Administration of Lodges for the information of the Grand Lodge. (Proceedings 1930)

**MASTER AND WARDENS; WHEN OFFICE MAY BE DECLARED VACANT** — Where the Master and Wardens transfer residence outside the jurisdiction of the Lodge, but do not resign, their offices could not be declared vacant by resolution of the Lodge. It could be done only if they had actually



YUP, I'm a "quarter master."  
but still a past master!

resigned or removed permanently from this Grand Jurisdiction (Proceedings 1935, p. 34)

**PAST MASTER; TO WHOM TITLE APPLIES** — The title "Past Master" can only be applied to one who has been regularly elected or named in a charter and installed, and has served a term as Master of a chartered Lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and who remains a member in good standing of one of its subordinate lodges.

In this case the Brother only served the first part of his term as master. He then permanently left this grand jurisdiction, where upon the lodge declared his office vacant and after securing a dispensation elected a new master who served to the end of the regular term. *Held:* It clearly follows that the Brother who was Master in the first part of the year did not become a Past Mas-

ter of his Lodge; but the Brother who was elected under the special dispensation and continued to be the Master of the Lodge to the end of his term became a Past Master. This has become the established rule of this Grand Lodge in such cases where Masters do not continue in office to the end of their terms. (Proceedings 1938, pp. 64-65)

#### **PAST MASTER; HONORARY —**

A lodge recommended that one of its members who has never been elected Master and who was then residing in the United States, be made an Honorary Past Master of said lodge. *Held:* The proposal violates the ancient land-marks of Freemasonry and the provisions of the Constitution. Even in the case of a Brother who has been elected Master of a Lodge, he must serve to the end of his term before he is entitled to the honors of Past Master. (Proceedings, 1938, p. 57)

#### **PAST MASTER; INSTANCE WHERE QUARTERMASTER CONFERRED TITLE OF PAST MASTER —**

After serving his Lodge as Worshipful Master for only four months, Brother Ramos went to the United States to attend the annual session of the International Supreme Council, Order of De Molay as Deputy Executive Officer for the jurisdiction of Luzon. As chairman of the Committee on Youth of the Grand Lodge, he also attended the Leadership Seminars, State DeMolay Congress, and Chapter Meetings in preparation for the projected plan to organize a

Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay in the Philippines. He had all the intention of coming back to the Philippines, but unfortunately he developed a "paratoid mass" on his right jaw and was confined at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center. His stay in the United States was prolonged because his attending physician advised him to stay for further observation.

Under such circumstances, he was not able to come to the Philippines to resume his duties and obligations as Master of his Lodge.

According to Par. 661 (d) of Article II of our Masonic Constitution:

"A Past Master is one who has been elected and installed and served a term as Master of a Lodge and remains in good standing in one of the subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines."

"The Master who leaves the Grand Jurisdiction after serving a period of more than six (6) months shall be entitled to the title. There is no title as Honorary Past Master."

However, considering that his trip to the United States was in compliance with his masonic duty and he was prevented from further performing his duties by factors beyond his control, the Grand Master granted Bro. Ramos a special dispensation and conferred on him the title of Past Master. (Proceedings, 1981, p. 62)

**SECRETARY OF LODGE; DEATH OF; PROCEDURE FOR FILLING OF VACANCY** — The Secretary of Manila Lodge No. 1 died in Office. The Worshipful Master submits the question of the proper procedure for filling that vacancy.

There is no provision of our Constitution authorizing the Master of a Lodge to appoint a permanent Secretary of the Lodge. The Master may, in case of the temporary absence of the Secretary, appoint a member as acting Secretary for any meeting; but in case of the death of the Secretary it seems to be necessary to obtain a dispensation from the Grand Master for the election of a Secretary. Mackey, in his *Masonic Jurisprudence*, (7th Edition 1917)

says:

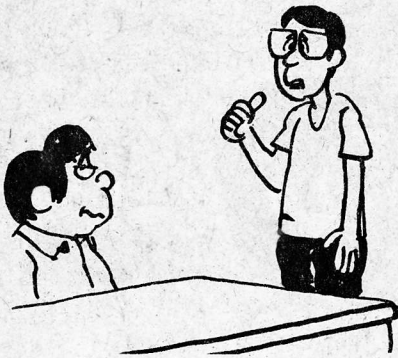
'The Office of Secretary, like that of Treasurer, can only be vacated by death or expulsion, when a new election may be ordered under the Grand Master's dispensation'.

This rule of jurisprudence laid down by Dr. Mackey probably accounts for the fact that there is no provision in the Constitution for filling the office of Secretary vacated by death. Pending the election of a Secretary as successor to one who had died, the Master must necessarily make a temporary appointment as Acting Secretary for each meeting until a new Secretary can be elected under dispensation of the Grand Master. (Proceedings, 1941)

I lost my lodge!



**MASTER; DEPRIVED OF OFFICE DUE TO CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES** — When two Lodges consolidate and the Master of one Lodge becomes the Master of the consolidated Lodge and the other Master is deprived of his office, the master who loses his office but who has served a portion of the term for which he was elected is entitled to the rank of Past Master. (Proceedings, 1932, p. 7)



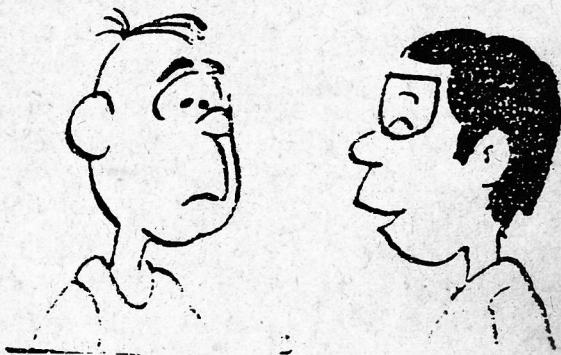
MASTERS; DUTIES OF — The Masters of all Lodges are enjoined to see that all visitors, whoever they may be, present legal evidence showing them to be in good standing, and that the Tyler does not admit any visitor who cannot furnish such evidence of good standing in his own Lodge. Suspended members found visiting, shall have charges preferred against them. (Proceedings, 1928, page 32)

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### MASONRY AS DESCRIBED BY THE COURTS

*“Masonry is traditionally and generally described as a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. It teaches as a foundation principle faith in God and immortality of the soul. Masonry is not sectarian in its religious teaching. It aims to bring its devotees a deeper and more conscious contact with spiritual things. To the extent that religious purposes include the field of morals, Masonry makes common cause with organized religion. Masonry is tolerant of all faiths and builds a moral and spiritual fellowship on the foundations of fundamental morality common to them. It brings its members to the altar of prayer, and by its very teaching and effort seeks to make real the invisible power of love, the intrinsic worth of harmony, and the beauty and eternal reality of the ideal. Outside of the activity of Masonry which is devoted to charity, which constitutes a very substantial and major part of its endeavors, all of its activities in all of its bodies are devoted to these purposes which fall within the definition of ‘education’ and ‘religion.’” — Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Vs. Board of County Commissioners, 127 NEB. 586 241 N.W. 93*

## 4. Rulings Related to Lodges



How many times do I have to tell you lodges cannot incorporate!

### WORDS "SUBORDINATE AND CONSTITUENT" AS USED IN THE CONSTITUTION

— The word "subordinate" as used in our Constitution means "placed in a lower order, class, or rank" and the word "constituent" means "serving to form, compose or make up; component or constitutive." The word "subordinate," therefore, is the proper word to use in expressing the relation of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge, which is the Supreme Masonic power in the Philippines.

The Grand Lodge is not composed of Lodges, but is made up of Masters, Wardens and Past Masters

of Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. (Proceedings, 1931, p. 77)

**LODGE; CANNOT INCORPORATE** — A Lodge in this jurisdiction cannot incorporate either as a stock or non-stock corporation pursuant to the Constitution which provides "That no Lodge in this jurisdiction shall incorporate or intrust any of its funds or property to a corporation within itself. (Proc. 1970, p. 55)

**LODGE; CANNOT INCORPORATE; BUT MEMBERS MAY** — The Grand Lodge Constitution provides that a Lodge must retain the

control of its own funds and property. A Lodge cannot incorporate or intrust any of its funds or property to a corporation formed within itself.

However the members of a Lodge may incorporate for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a hall for its use, and incidentally for rental purposes, and a Lodge may hold stock in such a corporation. (Proceedings, 1951)

**JURISDICTION** — A Lodge has no jurisdiction over a candidate residing within the territory of another claiming jurisdiction. (Proceedings 1923, page 25)

**JURISDICTION OF LODGES UD** — Lodges under Dispensation have the same rights of jurisdiction as chartered Lodges, therefore the residents of the jurisdiction of a Lodge U.D. must petition said U.D. Lodge. (Proceedings 1915, page 23)

**JURISDICTION** — A lodge has concurrent jurisdiction with other lodges of the same district to receive, entertain, and act on all petitions for degrees pursuant to Par. 343 (4) of the Constitution. And this is without regard to the physical fact that a petitioner may actually live in a place, where there is a nearer lodge. Par. 345 (b) of the Constitution which empowers lodges to "receive petitions from persons who live nearer thereto than to any other place where a lodge exists" is merely directory in character. This interpretation upholds the district test of the concurrent jurisdiction of blue lodges. (Proceedings, 1982)

**JURISDICTION** — The Lodges in Manila, Pasay and Quezon Cities as well as the Lodges in the province of Rizal shall have concurrent jurisdiction. (Proc. 1960, p. 85)

**MEETINGS; TRANSFER OF SEAT OF LODGE UD; WHO DECIDES** — The question of whether the seat of a lodge under dispensation should be transferred to another site should be decided by the brethren of the said lodge and not by the DDGM or brethren of other lodges. The grant of dispensation by the MW Grand Master for a lodge to be established in a particular place carries the presumption that it is for the best interest of Masonry. There is no prohibition against organizing two or more lodges in the same municipality or city. (Proceedings 1982)

**REMOVAL OF LODGE MEETING HALL** — Permission of the Grand Lodge is not necessary to move the lodge meeting from one hall or building to another in the same place. The Constitution refers to the place or town as stated in the Charter, and not to the building or hall. (Proceedings 1921, page 22)

**LODGE MEETINGS; ADMISSION OF LATE ARRIVALS** — Brethren who are late in arrival at a meeting may be admitted by the Tyler without an alarm at the usual entrance, if they be known to him, or properly vouched for; and brethren so admitted may salute the Senior Warden instead of the Worshipful Master so as not to disturb the proceedings of the Lodge. (Pro-

ceedings, 1941)

**DUES; INCREASE OF NOT RETROACTIVE** — Financial obligations like the payment of dues cannot be made retroactive. Increase in the amount of dues should be made to take effect in the succeeding year in order to avoid penalizing those members who have complied with the by-laws and have paid their dues by the year in advance (Proceedings 1937, p. 77)

**ASSESSMENT TO COVER COST OF SPECIAL MEETINGS** — The Constitution of our Grand Lodge provides that only ten percent of the total income of the Lodge for the preceding masonic year may be expended for entertainment and for the promotion of fraternal intercourse (See paragraphs 148-149 of Masonic Law Book). The Constitution also provides that no Lodge shall levy any extra assessments on its members — (See paragraph 183 — Masonic Law Book). It is the usual practice for lodges to call for voluntary contributions to pay the cost of any of its activities when the ten percent of the total income of the preceding masonic years is not sufficient to cover the cost of such special activities.

All members of the Lodge should be sufficiently interested in the welfare of the Lodge to make voluntary contributions on such occasions. The contribution for such purposes must be voluntarily made and the usual practice is that each member will contribute what he can afford. Thus one member may



*This is a special assessment  
to cover our expenses*

make a larger contribution than another. (Proceedings, 1951)

**COLLECTION OF FEES FOR COURTESY CONFERRALS** — A Lodge conferring degrees by courtesy should not collect anything from the candidate, who will have to pay his fees to the Lodge on whose behalf the degree was conferred. (Proceedings 1923, page 25)

**DUES; REMISSION OF** — A Mason who has paid his dues in his Lodge up to the end of the year cannot, upon affiliating with another Lodge, be exempted from the payment of dues in his new Lodge for the rest of the year, for the reason that a Lodge under the Constitution cannot "by amendment to its by-laws, resolution or otherwise, remit the dues of its members or any of them for any stated period or in advance, but it may annually remit the accrued dues of those of its members who

render special services for the Lodge or who are unable to pay them. (Proceedings 1940)

**FEES; RETURN OF** — "Brother Yateman who was a E. A. of Leonard Wood Lodge moved to the State of California and there applied for the Second and Third Degrees. He was informed it would be necessary for him to request a waiver of jurisdiction from Leonard Wood Lodge in favor of a Lodge in California. This Bro. Yateman did and completed the degrees as a member of the Lodge to which the waiver of jurisdiction was made applicable. He wrote Leonard Wood Lodge stating that the Secretary of his Lodge told him that Leonard Wood Lodge should return to him a portion of the fees paid for the Three Degrees.

There is no provision in our Constitution for the return of fees paid by a candidate who had been elected to take the degrees in one of our Lodges, but there is a provision for the return of the fees in case of the rejection of the candidate by ballot or in case of objection to the advancement of a candidate being made and sustained after he had been elected and has received one or more of the degrees. This is provided for in Section 6, Article 3, Part of 3 our Constitution. While the advancement of Brother Yateman was not objected to in the ordinary accepted meaning of that word, his advancement in Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 was made impossible by his changing his permanent residence

Ha! I'm not  
exempted from  
paying affiliation  
fees!



to the State of California, where the policy of the Grand Lodge of that State required him to obtain a waiver of jurisdiction from Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 in favor of a Lodge in California. This was done and Brother Yateman was elected and received the Second and Third Degrees in that Lodge.

As the circumstances surrounding this case made it impossible for Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 to confer on Brother Yateman the remaining two degrees, and as Brother Yateman was in no way to blame for this failure to advance him in the degrees in Leonard Wood Lodge, and as it was contrary to the policy of the Grand Lodge of California, to confer the remaining two degrees by courtesy, the Committee on Jurisprudence is of the opinion that in a case like this, the Grand Master may instruct Leonard

Wood Lodge No. 105 to remit to Brother Yateman that part of the fees pertaining to the Second and Third Degrees." (Proceedings, 1951)

**FEES; RETURN OF TO CANDIDATE; RULES** — *Facts* — An Entered Apprentice applied for the degrees of Masonry and accompanied his application with the full amount of ₱100.00 which was required at that time. He was elected and received the first degree. Thereafter, for personal reasons, he decided not to go any further in the Masonic Fraternity, although he says in his letter that he has nothing but praise for the institution because of its humanitarian doctrines and ideals; but he now thinks that he is entitled to a refund of part of the ₱100.00 paid by him for the reason that he only received one degree of Masonry.

*Held* — The Constitution of the Grand Lodge originally provided that no Lodge in this jurisdiction shall confer the three degrees for a smaller fee than one hundred pesos, and required that in every case the entire fee for the degrees shall accompany the application. This provision has been changed by the Grand Lodge so as to require one-half of the amount fixed as fees to accompany the application for the degrees, and that payment of three-fourth of the fees must be completed before being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and payment of the full amount made before being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, with addi-

Never mind...  
I will get a refund of  
my deposit... After  
all...



tional provisions for payments in case the applicant has already received the first and second degrees.

There is no provision in the Constitution authorizing the return of fees to any elected applicant on account of the candidate's decision not to receive further degrees. But there is a provision for return of the fees in case of the rejection of a candidate by ballot or in case objection to the advancement of a candidate being made and sustained after he has been elected and has received one or more degrees.

The question in which we are now directly interested is where there has been no objection to the advancement of a candidate but the candidate himself, after having been elected and received one degree decides that he does not wish to take any further degrees. The Constitution provides that no

Lodge shall donate fees back to the candidate under any pretext whatever. The fact that provision is made for the return of fees to the candidate under certain circumstances would tend to show that fees cannot be returned except when expressly authorized by the Constitution. In the case before us the failure of the candidate to receive all the degrees for which he applied and paid and for which he was elected was through no fault or action of the Lodge or any action of the members of the Lodge that prevented him from going forward with the degrees.

In the absence of any provision for returning a portion of the fees for the second and third degrees in such a case, the Lodge is without authority to return to the candidate any part of the fee which is required to accompany his application at the time he petitioned for the degrees. (Proceedings, 1940)

**DUES; CONDONATION OF; PROCEDURE** — Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 of Bacolod, has inquired whether or not the Lodge may condone the dues of a Brother, who is a member of that Lodge, and grant him a dimit although he resides in Manila, where he is undergoing medical treatment, and may permanently reside in said city.

The matter of the locality of his residence has nothing to do with the question of the authority of the Lodge to remit a member's dues. It is not customary, however, for a member of a Lodge to request that his dues be condoned or remitted

by his Lodge, but it is usual for the member to state the circumstances to his Lodge and leave the matter to the Lodge to decide whether his dues should be remitted or not.

If the reasons given by the Brother who is delinquent in the payment of his dues are deemed to be sufficient, the Lodge may remit his dues up to the time of taking action upon his request for a dimit and grant the dimit. (Proceedings, 1940)

**FEES; LODGE CANNOT DISPENSE WITH AFFILIATION FEES** — *Questions* — Can a Lodge dispense with the affiliation fee of an applicant for affiliation in case the By-Laws of that Lodge provide for an affiliation fee?

Can the Grand Master approve the By-Laws of a Lodge that charges an affiliation fee, with a proviso that the fee may be condoned by the Lodge? Is it legal for that Lodge to have that proviso in the By-Laws?

*Answers* — The Grand Lodge Constitution provides a "Uniform Code of By-Laws for Subordinate Lodges."

Each Lodge shall transmit to the Grand Secretary a copy of its By-Laws as soon as adopted, but such By-Laws or amendments thereto are not valid until approved by the Grand Lodge. However, they may be acted upon until the next Annual Communication, if approved by the Grand Master.

The Constitution treats of the duties and powers of the Master,

O, God, I have to pay  
my affiliation  
fee!



and makes it the duty of the Master —

“To carefully guard against any infraction, by the members of his Lodge, of its own By-Laws, of the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, or of the General Regulations of Masonry.”

The Constitution also provides against the violation of the By-Laws of the Lodge along with the Ancient Landmarks of the Order or the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, of the By-Laws of his Lodge, or of any portion of the Masonic or moral law, and further provides for the punishment of a member or any other Mason within the jurisdiction of a Lodge by reprimand, suspension or expulsion.

It would thus appear that in this Grand Jurisdiction a Lodge has the right to make By-Laws for its local government, but this right must be considered as a concession or regnant by the Grand Lodge to the subordinate Lodges of that which had previously been conveyed to the Grand Lodge.

The questions, therefore, must be answered in the negative. (Pro-

ceeding 1941).

#### LODGES: FUND RAISING —

Can Blue Lodges raise funds without violating the Constitution by holding rummage sales, cake sales, bingo parties? *Held:* The methods suggested, with the exception of bingo parties, will not violate the constitution (Proc. 1967, pp. 29 and 87)

**LODGE, SOLICITATION OF FUNDS —** A lodge can not solicit funds or financial assistance from other lodges in this or in any other jurisdiction but donations to the lodge, under certain conditions, are not prohibited. (Proc. 1973, p. 50)

#### LODGES; ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND —

Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, passed a resolution requiring all members of the Lodge to contribute ₱5.00 every year for a scholarship fund for deserving students. Is the resolution legal?

The Constitution of our Grand Lodge, reads in part, as follows:

“No Lodge shall charge or collect as annual dues from its members, less than twelve levy and extra assessment on its members.”

members.”  
The assessment of ₱5.00 every year for each member of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 for the purpose of establishing a scholarship fund for deserving students, is contrary to the Constitution of our Grand Lodge, and the resolution adopted by that Lodge is illegal and should be withdrawn. (Proceedings, 1951)

**LODGES; CANNOT LOAN FUNDS TO MEMBERS** — The purposes of a Lodge do not include the authority to make loans to its members. The funds of the Lodge are declared to be TRUST FUNDS which are "set apart for the payment of the necessary expenses of the Lodge and for the special calls for charity for which it was instituted."

It is expressly provided in the Constitution that the 'The Lodge cannot by amendment to its by-laws, or otherwise, use or permit the use of its funds or property or any part of them for any other thing whatsoever; nor can the funds or property be divided with the members even with those withdrawing to form a new Lodge nor with the new Lodge thus formed.'

The provisions of said section of the Constitution show the clear policy of the Grand Lodge that the funds of the Lodge are trust funds 'for the payment of the necessary expenses of the Lodge and for the special calls for charity for which it was instituted.' And that 'the Lodge cannot by amendment of its By-Laws, or otherwise, use or permit the use of its funds or property or any part of them for any other thing whatsoever.'

It would be contrary to the foregoing provisions of the Constitution and against the policy of the Grand Lodge for any Lodge to grant loans to its members. (Proceedings, 1941)

**MEMBERS; PAYMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS TO LODGE** — In

case a member indebted to the Lodge for loans, assessments or charges other than his annual dues offers to pay his dues, the money so tendered cannot be applied to any other purpose than that for which it is tendered. (Proceedings, 1935, p. 35)

**MISCELLANEOUS RULINGS**

**LODGES; COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION** — Each Lodge should revitalize its Committee on Education to meet and instruct the candidate once before initiation and once after each degree, including the Third, four times in all. (Proc. 1969, pp. 25 and 48)

**LODGES; APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR** — The appointment of an Auditor by every Lodge is compulsory. (Proc. 1960, p. 86)

**DISPLAY OF MASONIC BANNERS, STREAMERS, ETC.** — The display of Masonic banners and streamers, but not insignia and paraphernalia, in socio-civic activities is allowed provided a written authority of the Grand Master is first secured. (Proc. 1975, p. 110)

**LODGES; DISPLAY OF BANNER IN LODGE; COLOR** — There is no reason why a banner or standard with appropriate wordings could not be displayed in the Lodge room. The color of the Banner itself should be BLUE and the lettering be either painted or embroidered in any color that would blend. Purple and Gold should not be used by Subordinate Lodges. (Proceedings, 1951)

**PUBLICITY; RESTRICTION OF**

— Accounts of Masonic activities carried on behind tiled doors, such as the conferring of degrees, elections and private installations of Lodge officers, etc., should never be given to the press. Publicity with reference to Masonic necrological services, public installations and social activities of the Lodges should be limited and controlled. No information on Grand Lodge proceedings should be given out except by, or with approval of, the Grand Master or Grand Secretary. Let there be only such publicity as may be strictly necessary or plainly beneficial to our institution. (Proceedings 1936, p. 37)

#### **LODGES; WHEN THEY MAY PRINT FORMS OF PETITIONS —**

Petitions for the Degrees of Masonry may be printed by our Subordinate Lodges, if same conform to the form printed in the Masonic Law Book. However, should alterations, or additions be made in the wording of such petition, the proposed alterations or additions should be submitted to the Grand Secretary, for the approval of the Grand Lodge before same is printed." (Proceedings, 1951)

#### **PURCHASE OF JEWELS AND**

**PORTRAITS —** There is no provision in our Constitution or laws either permitting or prohibiting the expenditure of Lodge funds for the purchase of a Past Master's jewel to be presented to the retiring Master, or photographs of Past Masters and Officers of a Lodge, the photographs to become property of the Lodge. When a Lodge has the funds

in hand, it would appear to be more just and equitable to pay such expenses out of the funds provided for entertainment, and thus more evenly distribute the burden among the members of the Lodge, and at the same time enable each member to contribute his share in the payment of his dues, rather than have a few brethren raise the money through voluntary contributions. As long as the action of a Lodge in such cases is not extravagant, and the Lodge is not prevented from doing its full duty in entertainment and in the promotion of fraternal intercourse, there would appear no valid objection to such a course. (Proceedings 1916, p. 35)

#### **BURIAL EXPENSES; PAYMENT OF, NOT AN OBLIGATION OF THE LODGE OR GRAND LODGE —**

It is not the obligation of a Lodge to pay the burial expenses of a member, unless he "dies in financial circumstances requiring it," that is, unless it is a matter of charity where the family is unable to pay such expenses. Neither is there an obligation upon the Grand Lodge to pay the burial expenses of a Mason and no such obligation should be undertaken by the Grand Lodge. The greater the expenses of the Grand Lodge the greater must be the assessment it makes upon the Lodges to supply it with funds necessary to pay its obligations. The Grand Lodge should not encourage a policy of shifting financial — burdens upon the Grand Lodge which belong to the respective lodges. All such mat-

ters should be handled under the authority and at the expense of the Lodge of which the deceased brother was a member. (Proceedings, 1933, pp. 129-130)

**SPECIAL TEAMS FOR DEGREE WORK** — On such occasion that degrees shall be conferred by spe-

cial teams composed of members of the Scottish Rite Bodies designations in the program indicating that the members hold the Thirty-third Degree or other degrees foreign to those used in Symbolic Lodges shall not be made. (Proc. 1926, p. 28)

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF MASONS**

1. Lodges and Masons shall obey to the letter the provisions of the Constitution which reads as follows:

Sec. 10. No Lodge nor any Mason shall appear in Masonic clothing in any public procession, or at any public meeting or place, except for the burial of a brother, or for the performance of some other strictly Masonic duty or ceremony.

2. Masons may assemble, without dispensation in Masonic clothing to decorate the graves of deceased Brethren.

3. With reference to funerals, the following provision of the Constitution shall be strictly observed:

. . . No Lodge shall attend any funeral or take part in any funeral service or procession unless it is under the direction of the Grand Lodge, the Lodge itself for another Masonic Lodge . . .

If a Mason is buried under the direction of any other society, the members of his Lodge and other

Masons attending the funeral of a brother buried under the direction of any other society shall not wear Masonic clothing.



Masons attending his funeral shall not wear Masonic clothing.

Unless a Loge can make a creditable appearance at a funeral as far as the proper exemplification of the ritual and dress are concerned, it shall not attempt to undertake a Masonic funeral service. At all Masonic funerals, the ceremony must be carried through with the proper order, decorum, and dispatch. The white apron placed on the casket, the regalia of the officers, the aprons and dress in general of the brethren participating, must be such that there cannot be any just criticism.

4. Public installations shall not be held unless they are put in on

such a manner that the Fraternity in general will profit thereby. The dress of the officers must be suitable for the occasion and uniform, if possible. Regalia and aprons must be in irreproachable condition. The place selected for the public ceremony must be a fit one. The installation must be carried through in a dignified and impressive manner. Special care must be taken in the selection of the speakers and nothing must be said or done liable to give offense to any person, class of persons, or religion. The entertainment following the ceremony if any, must be such as not to bring discredit upon the Lodge or the Fraternity.

5. Picnics and excursions arranged by Lodges are not Masonic affairs, and banners and signs with the name of the Lodge or the emblems of Masonry must be avoided.

6. No Lodge or other Masonic body in this jurisdiction shall enter any float, or be represented, in any parade, civic procession, pageant, or fair of any kind.

7. Lodges shall not attend divine service in a body in Masonic clothing, as is customary in certain Grand Jurisdictions where different conditions obtain as far as religion is concerned. (Proceedings, 1932, pages 28-29)

MASTERS; DUTIES OF — The Masters of all Lodges are enjoined

to see that all visitors, whoever they may be, present legal evidence showing them to be in good standing, and that the Tyler does not admit any visitor who cannot furnish such evidence of good standing in his own Lodge. Suspended members found visiting, shall have charges preferred against them. (Proceedings, 1926, page 32)

LODGES; CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN LODGES — All communications between subordinate Lodges of this Jurisdiction and those of other Grand Jurisdictions, requiring official action, should be conducted through the office of the Grand Secretary. (Proceedings, 1914, p. 34)

LODGE; MAY SPONSOR DECLAMATION CONTEST — Union Lodge No. 70, requested for permission to sponsor a Declamation Contest, open to the public on the life of Jose Rizal.

There is nothing in our Constitution or Regulations would prevent one of our Lodges from sponsoring such a Contest, especially as the proposed Declamation will be on the life of Jose Rizal. But if such a Contest was to be on a broader subject, where political and religious matters might be discussed, it should not be allowed. (Proceedings, 1951).

### THE VALUE OF MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE

*Masonic jurisprudence possesses a peculiar value both because the civil courts apply it in determining legal questions pertaining to the order, and also by reason of the striking resemblance which it bears to the judicial system of the state.*

## 5. Rulings Related to the Grand Lodge



Put this into your thick coconut head... Masonic lodges are composed exclusively of men.

**PLARIDEL TEMPLE AS HOME OF GRAND LODGE** – The building known as 'Plaridel Temple' is ceded by the Plaridel Temple Association, Inc., to this Grand Lodge in payment of its mortgage obligations to the Grand Lodge; it shall be the domicile and offices of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The Grand Lodge shall not in any manner whatsoever alienate said property or transfer its domicile and offices to any other place or property EXCEPT BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF F. & A. M. OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC., IN A SPE-

CIAL MEETING CALLED EXPRESSLY FOR THAT PURPOSE" (Proc. 1976, p. 61).

**CONSTITUTION; AMENDMENT OF; POLICY ON EFFECTIVITY** – The Grand Lodge made it a policy that amendments to the constitution and by laws approved during the annual communication, particularly as they pertain to increase in dues and fees, be made effective January after that said annual communication. (Proceedings 1937, p. 77 and Proceedings 1980, pp. 67-68)

**JURISDICTION; EXTENT OF** – This Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction in the Philippines and it

has jurisdiction over its Lodges established in open territory outside the Philippines. For instance, the Grand Lodge has established a Lodge on the Island of Guam. Its jurisdiction extends over said Lodge and residence in Guam might be considered residence within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge; but residence in Hongkong cannot be considered as residence within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge because we have no Lodges there. In other words, we have no jurisdiction of any kind where we have no Lodges. (Proc. 1923, pages 25 & 104)

**RECOGNITION OF GRAND LODGES; BASIS USED** – The fundamental requirements in establishing regularity as the basis for recognition of Grand Lodges by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines are:

I. Legitimacy of origin of constituent lodges uniting to form a Grand Lodge.

II. Sovereign and independent control of Ancient Craft Masonry in the States, province or other territorial divisions constituting the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

III. Belief in God, and the presence of the Bible on the Altar as the Great Light in Masonry. Inherent in this is the acceptance of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. (Proceedings 1915, p. 62)

In 1932 the Grand Lodge adopted the following Standards of Recognition used by the United Grand Lodge of England:

1. Regularity of Origin, i.e., each

Grand Lodge, shall have establisher's by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges.

2. That a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe and His revealed will shall be an essential qualification for membership.

3. That all Initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated.

4. That the membership of the Grand Lodge and Individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no Masonic intercourse of any kind with mixed Lodges or bodies which admit women to membership.

5. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control; i.e., that it shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow-craft, and Master Mason) within its own jurisdiction; and shall not in any way be subject to or divide such authority with a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.

6. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely, the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses) shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or

I got you right. I have no complaint if feminine lodges are illegal... but



its subordinate Lodges are at work, the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.

7. That the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited.

8. That the principles of the Ancient Landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed. (Proc. 1932)

**LODGES; FOR WOMEN, ILLEGAL** — Any action that might be taken by the Grand Lodge on the subject of establishing feminine Lodges, either separately or in connection with Lodges for men, would be unmasonic, illegal, null and void for reasons that should be obvious to any Mason, and any action on that subject by the Grand Lodge would subject it to the sever-

ance of fraternal relations by many Grand Lodges. (Proceedings, 1940)

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES** — The proceedings and ceremonies in all Lodges in this jurisdiction should be conducted in either the English or the Spanish Language. (Proc. 1922, page 102).

In 1946, the national language was declared as one of the official languages of the Craft. (Proceedings, 1946, p. 123)

**GRAND MASTER; EMPOWERED TO ORDER EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS** — There is no constitutional or other legal impediment which will prevent the Grand Master from ordering an external audit of Grand Lodge accounts and at the same time requesting a Certified Public Ac-

countant to make recommendations relative to accounting guidelines in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures. The Grand Lodge, however, should have the money to pay for such audit and for the CPA. If this can be done by the proper committee or officer of the Grand Lodge, then it or he should do it first. (Proc. 1973, p. 52)

**GRAND MASTER; POWERS OF** – The request of the Master of a Lodge to reduce the penalty imposed upon one of its members who was charged for unmasonic conduct by another Lodge, tried and sentenced to be suspended for nine months was denied on the

As Grand Master,  
remember I can  
order an external  
audit of the Grand  
Lodge accounts!



ground that the Grand Master under the Constitution cannot reduce the penalty imposed and the brother concerned has other legal

remedies available to him. (Proc. 1970, pp. 44 and 81)

**PAST GRAND MASTERS; COPIES OF THE CABLETOW** –

As an honor to Past Grand Masters of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines they shall be given copies of *The Cabletow* free of charge. The provision of the constitution pertaining to the suspension of a member for refusal or neglect to pay the subscription to *The Cabletow* shall no longer apply to the Past Grand Masters. (Proc. 1969, p. 44)

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER; TITLE OF WHEN HE ASSUMES DUTIES OF GRAND MASTER** –

In case of the temporary absence of the Grand Master from his jurisdiction, the Deputy Grand Master would only have the right to use the title of "Acting Grand Master" in performing the ordinary duties of the Grand Master. If the Grand Master is present in his jurisdiction, but temporarily absent from his post of duty, the Deputy Master could only sign as Deputy Grand Master "By authority of the Grand Master:" but in case of the death of Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, succeeds under the Constitution to the office of Grand Master. In such case it is the right and duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assume the office and title of Grand Master at any time after the death of the Grand Master and to use that title and perform the duties of that office until his successor as Grand Master is elected and installed.

It may be observed in this connection, however, that during the funeral ceremonies or other proceedings incident to the death of the Grand Master, it would be an act of courtesy on the part of the Deputy Grand Master to sign and be addressed in writing as Acting Grand Master, but when he is presiding in the East, or conducting the funeral ceremonies or any other Grand Lodge proceeding, he should be addressed in the language of the ritual as "Most Worshipful Grand Master."

It should be observed that the Grand Lodge is sovereign within its jurisdiction and that the Grand Master may adopt the rule or practice of his own choice in such matters when the Constitution is silent on the subject. (Proceedings, 1940)

**DDGM; NOMINATION BY DISTRICT** — When a District Convention selects three nominees for the position of District Deputy Grand Master each lodge within the District is entitled to four votes. (Proc. 1975, p. 110)

**DDGM; REAPPOINTMENT PROHIBITED** — In 1978 the Grand Lodge adopted a resolution "prohibiting the appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters for two consecutive terms, except in overseas Lodges." (Proceedings 1978, pp. 102 to 103)

**DISTRICT GRAND LECTURER; PRINCIPAL DUTY** — The principal duty of the District Grand Lecturer is to teach in each Lodge in the Masonic District where he is assigned the ritual as adopted by

the Grand Lodge. (Proc. 1969, pp. 25 and 48)

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVES; DUTIES AND TENURE** — The first duty of a newly commissioned Grand Representative is to write to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Body which he represents, acknowledging receipt of his commission, thanking for the honor conferred upon him, and giving his correct address.

He should then endeavor to familiarize himself with the history and character of the Grand Lodge he represents and with everything concerning the same, until he shall be the best informed man on the subject in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Grand Representatives are expected to attend each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and answer the roll call of Grand Representatives, and it is considered a duty or courtesy for each Grand Representative to write to the Grand Lodge he represents that he has attended the Annual Communication, and to convey to it the fraternal greetings of our Grand Master and Grand Lodge, and to communicate to it any information of special interest that there may be.

It is a tacit rule in this Grand Jurisdiction that if any Grand Representative fails to attend three consecutive Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, the M.W. Grand Master will recommend that he be relieved by another Brother who is apt to be more active.

A similar nomination will be

made in case of removal from the Grand Jurisdiction, suspension, or expulsion. — (Proceedings, 1936, pages 14-15).

#### **COMMITTEES ON GRIEVANCE AND JURISPRUDENCE; DELINEATION OF FUNCTIONS**

— It is the Committee on Grievance which is invested with the power to review the records, proceedings, findings and decisions in all cases for unmasonic conduct acted upon by a subordinate Lodge. This includes the authority to act on all interlocutory incidents. The Committee on Jurisprudence should refrain from making pronouncement on cases which have ripened into charges for unmasonic conduct in order not to trench upon the power of the Committee on Grievance. (Proceedings, 1982)

**USE OF THE TITLE "MASONIC"** — The unauthorized use of the word "Masonic" in connection with the names of societies, clubs and other organizations is forbidden.

The Grand Lodge is the Supreme Masonic authority in the Philippines, and it is improper for any society or organization to prefix the word "Masonic" as part of its name without the authority or consent of the Grand Lodge. No society, club or organization of any kind, even though it be composed entirely of Masons, should include the word "Masonic" in its name without authority from this Grand Lodge. (Proc. 1926).

#### **MASONIC HEROES DAYS** —

The following days were adopted as Masonic Heroes Days:

1. August 30 — the birthday of Bro. Marcelo H. del Pilar.

2. May 7 — the day of martyrdom of M. W. Bro. Jose Abad Santos. (Proc. 1949).

#### **DISTRICT; COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS AGREED UPON**

— Nilad Lodge No. 12 F. & A. M. sought to nullify the yearly assessment of ₱200.00 levied on member lodges by Masonic District No. 1 allegedly because said assessment constitutes an exercise of legislative power that appertains to the Grand Lodge alone.

The request lacks merit. Judicial notice can be taken of the fact that Masonic District No. 1 is a voluntary association of 27 lodges in the Metro Manila area. The so-called assessment of ₱200.00 was voluntarily agreed upon by the member lodges themselves pursuant to their district Constitution and By-Laws. Any voluntary association needs monies to defray, among others, its administrative expenses. It is utterly untenable to deny to Masonic District No. 1 the right to receive the so-called assessment which was never imposed but, voluntarily agreed upon by its member lodges. Well to note, Nilad Lodge No. 12, F. & A.M. does not complain that it runs the risk of incurring any sanction for non-payment of the so-called assessment. Clearly then, there is no exercise of legislative power on the part of Masonic District No. 1 in collecting what has been voluntarily agreed upon by its member lodges. (Proceedings 1981, p. 63)

**DISTRICTS; MASONIC PERSONALITY** – Districts, meeting in convention, have masonic personality, such that any resolution passed at such convention has the same legal effect as a resolution from a Lodge (Pro. 1962, p. 63)

**ACACIA MUTUAL AID SOCIETY; MEMBERSHIP** – Membership in the Acacia Mutual Aid Society Group Plan is compulsory

**CHAIN LETTERS; STAND OF GRAND LODGE** – In 1953 and 1954 there were referred to the Grand Master copies of "chain letters" and "chain prayers" received by brethren all over the Philippines. Brethren living in Manila received similar letters "c/o Grand Lodge of the Philippines." The brethren asked: "What shall we do under the circumstances?" *Ruling:* The "chain letter" practice so far as it is worked among "Masons as Masons" is disapproved by the United Grand Lodge of England; the same practice is classified either as a nuisance or considered as un-Masonic by Grand Masters of the other Grand Jurisdictions in-

cluding those of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusettes, and Ohio in which latter case the Grand Master ordered the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Ohio "to take disciplinary action against any Mason of Ohio whose name appears on one of such letters." As early as 1917 the Grand Master of Nebraska rebuked the "chain letter" practice.

**MASONIC HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN; MEMBERSHIP** – All Master Masons owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines are regular members of the Masonic Hospital for Crippled Children. (Proc. 1964, pp. 47 and 80)

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines holds a similar view. It is unbecoming of a Mason to encourage and participate in the writing of such letters and prayers. (Proceedings 1954, pp. 53-56)

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*Lodges are the aggregations of Freemasons as individuals in their primary capacity. Grand Lodges are the aggregations of subordinate Lodges in their representative capacity.*

*Albert Mackey*

## 6. Rulings Related to Ritual/ Ceremonies



**WHEN UNIFORMS OR COSTUMES MAY BE USED** — The masonic dress of Master Mason is white apron and white gloves. This dress should not be worn in public places, except for funerals and for decorating the graves of our departed brothers. The use of white gloves has been, by custom, dispensed with on ordinary occasions.

There is nothing in our Constitution that would permit the use of costumes during the degree work. However, Cosmos Lodge No. 8, several years ago, put on the Second Section of the Third Degree in appropriate costumes.

Your Committee on Jurisprudence is of the opinion that costumes should not be worn by Officers of our Subordinate Lodges, without Special Permission of the Grand Master, and then only in the Second Section of the Third Degree." (Proceedings, 1951)

**THE LAMBSKIN APRON** — The Lambskin Apron Lecture in the E.A. degree is prescribed in our ritualistic work. There is no rule in our Constitution, Laws or Regulations with reference to the use of an elaboration of this lecture, but it is customary and apparently permissible to use an extended form of

this lecture. However, it is well for all brethren to be warned that any elaboration of this lecture must be based upon some authoritative language that would not be subject to the criticism that it is an innovation upon the ritualistic work. (Proceedings 1941)

**SINGING OFF "NEARER MY GOD TO THEE"** – The singing of the hymn 'Nearer My God to Thee' is customary in some Lodges in the Philippines just before the candidate is brought from darkness to light in the M. degree. It is not a part of the ritual, but the addition of appropriate music is not objectionable. (Proceedings, 1941)

**COLUMN OF SENIOR AND JUNIOR WARDEN** – The Senior Warden's Column should be turned down and that of the Junior Warden turned up when the Lodge is at ease, or is called from labor; that is to say, when the Master says that the Lodge is free from restraint, or when it is called from labor to refreshments, the Senior Warden's Column is turned down and that of the Junior Warden is turned up, and, when the Lodge is called from refreshments to labor again, the position of the Columns is reversed. (Proceedings, 1941)

**BALLOTING; GIVING OF SIGN** – When the brethren approach the Altar to deposit their ballots, each should give the sign before depositing his ballot. (Proceedings, 1941)

**WHEN CAN BRETHREN PASS BETWEEN ALTAR AND THE EAST** – It is a matter of courtesy

based upon ancient usage for the brethren not to pass between the Altar and the station of the Worshipful Master when the Lodge is

*Don't ever pass  
between altar and Master's  
Station when  
Lodge is open*



open and engaged in work; but the Master will usually not enforce this rule during elections or other work requiring frequent passage of brethren from one side of the Lodge room to the other. It is always a proper courtesy, however, to observe this rule. It is like the rule or custom about smoking in open lodge; it is always a courtesy to observe it, but there are times when the Master will announce that the brethren may smoke during the transaction of business. (Proc. 1941)

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS; APPLAUSE** — Applause during the installation of officers of Blue Lodges can be made at all times. In other words, the practice which seems to prevail in public installation of Blue Lodges should continue and no more restraint should be made regarding applause. (Proceedings 1978, p. 95)

**CEREMONIES IN PILIPINO** — The versions in Pilipino of the ceremonies of (a) Installation of Lodge Officers, (b) Funeral Services and (c) Memorial Services as translated by WB Lazaro Francisco were approved on October 5, 1967 and were subsequently published. (Proc. 1968, p. 23)

**USE OF WORD "PROFANE"** — The use of the word "profane," when reference is made to persons not Masons, shall be avoided whenever possible by the use of some other word or expression in its stead, such as "uninitiated" and "non-Mason." (Proc. 1926, p. 56)

**CEREMONY FOR ADOPTION, BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE** — Resolution recommending that the Grand Lodge goes on record as being opposed to including in its ritual any form of ceremony for either the adoption or baptism of children of Master Masons or of any form of Masonic marriage for brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction. (Proc. 1927, p. 92)

Hey, Brod avoid the use of the word "profane" when ever you refer to Brod. Batok, ha!



## 7. Rulings Related to Masonic Crimes & Punishment



**ELECTION OF TRIAL COMMISSION** — The election of a commission to try a brother cannot be held on the day on which the charges are presented to the Lodge; but must be held at a subsequent special meeting called for the purpose. (Proc. 1923, page 25)

**TRIAL COMMISSION POWER OF** — Questions attacking the sufficiency of a complaint and the impartiality of the members of the commission, should be initially addressed to the trial commission itself. In case of dissatisfaction with

any ruling of the trial commission, appeal, pursuant to Par. 636 of the Constitution, may be taken to the Grand Lodge whose Grand Secretary will then endorse the matter to the Committee on Grievance. Henceforth, the issue may be presented to the Grand Master and ultimately to the Annual Communication. (Proceedings 1982)

**SUMMARY EXPULSION; NOT AUTHORIZED** — The expulsion of a member for disobedience to a summons cannot be ordered in a summary manner by resolution of



the Lodge, without previous opportunity for defense (Proc. 1923, page 25)

**MEMBER; EXPULSION OF; PRESCRIBED PROCEDURE MUST BE FOLLOWED** – A Lodge, without charges or specifications and without a hearing, voted to expel a member. *Held:* The procedure prescribed by the Constitution was not followed, hence the action of the Lodge was null and void. (Proceedings 1938, p. 65)

**TRIAL PROCEDURE; REQUIREMENTS NOT STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH; WHERE THEY MAY BE DEEMED WAIVED** – In a fit of deplorable temper the Junior Warden in open Lodge, insulted all those present using very foul and disgusting language. The event was aggravated by the fact that the District Deputy Grand Master and delegations from two other Lodges were present.

The Master of the Lodge was obviously shocked. There was some resulting turmoil; charges were brought. The accused in open Lodge admitted his guilt, vacated his position "temporarily" as Junior Warden and apologized.

Trial was held but the proceed-

ings appear to have been informal.

It is our opinion that procedural requirements should normally be strictly complied with, but in this case, where the offense was committed in open Lodge and was clearly unmasonic, where the accused admitted his guilt in open Lodge and stated that he would accept any punishment imposed by the Grand Lodge, and where he attended the trial proceedings and interposed no objection as to form or procedure and, indeed, interposes no appeal to the Grand Lodge, we are of the opinion that it would be an unnecessary imposition on the Lodge to refer this case back for a retrial as there is no question that the results would be the same and thus cause unnecessary activity in and bring unwanted attention to what is a very unpleasant and unfortunate case. (Proceedings 1980)

#### **SPECIFIC MASONIC OFFENSES AND PENALTIES**

1. Accused was living in the same house with a sister-in-law of his and one night he made an attempt on her honor, but was unsuccessful, owing to her cries. The accused did not appear at the trial, was declared in default, convicted, and sentenced to be expelled. *Held:* Sentence confirmed (Proc. 1925).

2. Accused arrived late for the installation of officers of his Lodge which resulted in a dispute between him and another Brother during which time he uttered the word "foolishness." Sentenced to expulsion, he appealed. *Held:* The Bro-

ther deserved merely a warning to be more careful in his actions, especially in Masonry. (Proc. 1925)

3. The accused, a married man with four children, abandoned his wife and children and married a second women. *Held:* The sentence of expulsion meted out by his Lodge should be affirmed. (Proc. 1925)

4. A Master Mason was found guilty of having abjured or recanted upon his oath his fidelity to Masonry as made public in a newspaper and was sentenced to expulsion. *Held:* Decision affirmed. (Proc. 1925)

5. A brother was charged with unmasonic conduct, but even before charges were preferred against him, the Lodge, during his absence, passed a resolution expelling him. *Held:* The proceedings were held null and void. The accused was exonerated, without prejudice to the Lodge filing new charges in accordance with the provisions

of the Constitution. (Proc. 1925)

6. Accused upon being informed of the charges against him, stood mute. This was taken by the trial commission as an admission of guilt and he was sentenced to suspension without any evidence having been taken. *Held:* His silence should have been construed as a plea of not guilty. Sentence reversed. (Proc. 1925)

7. Bro. PS malversed lodge funds in the amount of ₱1,300.00. *Held:* PS expelled from the Fraternity. (Proc. 1966, p. 74)

8. Bro. A, a member in good standing of Memorial Lodge No. 90, voluntarily executed and subscribed to a retraction from Masonry before joining the catholic movement known as the "Cursillo de la christianidad." *Held:* Bro. A is ordered expelled. (Proc. 1968, pp. 83-84)

9. A member who persistently refuses to pay just debts to his Lodge, such as money borrowed

ton stand accused of seducing your mother-in-law!



or relief received from the Lodge under a pledge to repay it, being able to pay such indebtedness, is guilty of unmasonic conduct and subject to masonic charge and trial. (Proceedings 1935, p. 35)

10. Respondent, while the duly elected secretary of his lodge, failed to remit the sum of ₱4,921.10 which he received from the Brethren to the lodge secretary. During the trial, he appeared and accepted liability which was held tantamount to a plea of guilty. Respondent was ordered expelled. (Proceedings, 1980, 47-48)

11. A brother is guilty of unmasonic conduct when he insisted on presenting the petition for degrees of a man who twice gave him bad checks in payment of initiation fees. (Proceedings 1930, p. 61)

12. A brother addressed a letter to members of other Lodges asking for aid and assistance because his house had been burned, without first having appealed to his own Lodge or members of the same for such assistance. It also appears that he directed said letters even to Lodges in the United States. *Held:* He was ordered suspended. (Proceedings 1930)

**SOME ACTS DECLARED MASONIC OFFENSES** – The following are defined to be Masonic Offenses:

To use or to permit the use of the word "mason" or any-kindred word or emblem of Ancient Craft Masonry in any form of advertising,



or in the promotion of any business, or in connection with announcement of political speakers.

To publish a list of members of a Lodge or any portion of same without the consent of the Grand Master.

To print the names of candidates in any Lodge bulletin or circular; nor should the names of members who have been expelled or suspended or names of masons who are being tried for a masonic offense be printed in such bulletin or circulars; except in official correspondence with the Grand Secretary as required by regulations. (Proc. 1950).

## THE OBJECT OF MASONIC TRIALS

*It is the duty of a judge, says the great Roman orator, in every cause to seek for truth. This is the great, the only object of a Masonic trial, and hence, in such a trial, no advantage is ever permitted to be taken of those legal and verbal technicalities, the use of which, in profane courts, so often enables the guilty to escape. This great principle of Masonic law must never be forgotten in the management of a trial. Every part of the investigation is to be directed with a single view to the acquisition of truth. Masonic trials are therefore to be conducted in the simplest and least technical method, that will preserve at once the right of the Order and of the accused, and which will enable the Lodge to obtain a thorough knowledge of all the facts in the case.*

Mackey

## WHY MASONIC CRIMES

*The division of wrongs made by the writers on municipal law, into private wrongs, or civil injuries, and public wrongs, or crimes and misdemeanors, is not admissible in, or applicable to the system of Masonic jurisprudence. In Freemasonry, every offense is a crime, because, in every violation of a Masonic law there is not only sometimes an infringement of the rights of an individual, but always, superimposed upon this "a breach and violation of public rights and duties which affected the whole community (of the Order), considered as a community," and this is the very definition of a crime.*

Mackey

## THE OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER

*The office of Grand Master is one of such antiquity as to be coeval with the very origin of the Institution, whether we look at that origin in a traditional or in a historical point of view. There never has been a time in which the Order has not been governed by a chief presiding officer under this name.*

*From this fact we derive the important principle that the office of Grand Master is independent of the Grand Lodge, and that all his prerogatives and duties, so far as they are connected generally with the Craft, are inherent in the office, and not derived from, nor amenable to, any modern Constitution.*

*Mackey*

## THE MASONIC OATH

*However binding an obligation may be, as between members of the same society, secret or otherwise, not to divulge to others that which may be confidentially communicated to them, such an obligation must be understood to be subject to the laws of the country, and doubtless the societies themselves recognize that such a limitation attaches to the obligation; and therefore it cannot be said that obligation is violated when the disclosure is compelled in a court of justice, in the course of administration of the laws.*

*From a Decision of a Wyoming Court*

**DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND  
MASTERS 1984-1985**

- 1-A — John L. Choa
- 1-B — Benjamin B. Malig
- 1-C — Plutarco Bawagan
- 2 — Leandro B. Resurreccion
- 3 — Perfecto B. Martinez Jr.
- 4 — Eduardo Alcantara
- 5 — Ishmael Sanchez, Sr.
- 6 — Ruben O. Azarcon
- 7 — James R. Ruckman
- 8 — Antonio D. Salvador
- 9 — Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.
- 10 — Levy M. Narvaez
- 11 — Andrew Nocon
- 12 — Wiro C. Tejada, Sr.
- 13 — Santiago Ferrer, Jr.
- 14 — Selmo O. Bernas
- 15 — Salvador Santiago
- 16 — Jesus Limkimso
- 17 — Eutropio Magdale
- 18 — Benjamin S. Geli
- 19 — Carlos C. Aguilar
- 20 — Fred G. Dumlao
- 21 — Kenneth M. Crabtree
- 22 — James B. King
- 23 — Jose R. Anes
- 24 — Mariano Garantoza
- 25 — Moises F. Dalisay, Sr.
- 26 — Hector P. Narajos
- 27 — Antonio Ko
- 28 — Carlos G. Aguba
- 29 — Virgilio G. Evangelista
- 30 — George F. Krause
- 31 — Antonio I. Codina
- 32 — Claudio C. Guerrero
- 33 — Gregorio O. Calit
- 34 — Russell B. Atkins
- 35 — Jose S. Sarria
- 36 — Fulgencio A. Mella
- 37 — Gauvain J. Benzozan
- 38 — Jose M. Lagahit
- 39 — Busi T. Dy
- 40 — Philip A. Gerenia

**DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS  
1984-1985**

- 1-A — Ramon G. Gonzales, Sr.
- 1-B — Serafin Z. Valenzuela
- 1-C — Benjamin G. Brown
- 2 — Bienvenido V. de Guzman
- 3 — Geminiano M. Alvarado
- 4 — Dennis T. Rivas
- 5 — Gaudencio M. David
- 6 — Deogracias Rivera
- 7 — Antonio R. Manio
- 8 — Luperio F. Villanueva
- 9 — Maximiano M. Tuazon, Jr.
- 10 — Mariano M. Baldemoro
- 11 — Rosauro M. Magcalas
- 12 — Guillermo V. Rabuel
- 13 — Tomas A. Reyes
- 14 — Raymundo M. Magat
- 15 — Fedelindo G. Fernandez
- 16 — Pablo C. Ko
- 17 — Gregorio Iyoy
- 18 — Jose Lim III
- 19 — Mahmud Bagis
- 20 — Leonilo T. Alger
- 21 — Elson R. Ross
- 22 —
- 23 — Magtanggol A. Nuevo
- 24 — Aurelio Lee
- 25 — Angelito G. Flores
- 26 — Ali Bagundang
- 27 — Enrique Maravilla
- 28 — Modesto A. Tatlonghari
- 29 — Crispiniano G. Lamorena
- 30 — Anthony S. Vasconcellos
- 31 — Paulino T. Lim
- 32 — Llewellyn M. Mangilet
- 33 — Rodolfo E. Papa
- 34 — Mariano A. Cantos
- 35 — Saturnino O. Alfonso
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