**GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF MINNESOTA**

For Grand Secretary/Recorder’s Use Only

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Date Received:

Number:



FORMAT FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

*Proposed resolutions must be received by the Grand*

*Secretary/Recorder by March 15 to be included in the*

*Advanced Proceedings and for distribution to the*

*Jurisprudence Committee and Constituent Bodies.*

 DATE:

1. York Rite Code to be changed: ( ) Chapter/ ( ) Council/ ( X ) Commandery
2. PORTION to be changed: ( X ) Constitution/ ( ) Bylaws/ ( ) Regulations
3. ARTICLE NUMBER: N/A ARTICLE NAME: N/A
4. SECTION NUMBER: Section 30. SECTION NAME (if any):
5. PARAGRAPH LETTER: N/A PARAGRAPH NAME (if any): N/A
6. SUB-PARAGRAPH NUMBER: N/A
7. SUB-SUB-PARAGRAPH NUMBER: N/A
8. REGULATION NUMBER:

 (Sections 9 – 13 will require additional pages which should be typed and attached to this cover sheet.)

1. CURRENT WORDING OF SECTION TO BE CHANGED:

Entire section to be struck, and replaced with the following under item 12, below.

1. CURRENT WORDING WITH DELETIONS (Line out deletions):

~~BENEVOLENCE FUND COMMITTEE~~

~~Section 30. The Benevolence Fund Committee will consist of three members appointed by the Grand Commander. The Committee will be responsible to raise funds for a Benevolence~~

~~Fund and to select indigent Sir Knights that will have their annual Grand Encampment per capita fees paid out of fund earnings. The fund will pay any costs incurred in carrying out these duties~~

 ~~Eligibility for payment will be determined on the following basis:~~

~~1. A Commandery Recorder must report indigent Sir Knights on the Commandery’s Annual Return. The Annual Return will confirm that the sir knight is permanently indigent, and the Commandery has remitted the indigent’s dues for the prior year. The Recorder will also provide other information regarding the sir knight as may be requested with the Annual Return. (See “Revenue of the Grand Commandery,” Section 46.)~~

~~2. A Commandery reporting an indigent will be required to pay the annual Grand Encampment’ fee with the annual return. The Grand Commandery will reimburse the Grand Encampment fee for those indigent sir knights selected under paragraph 3. Reimbursement will be made following the Annual Grand Conclave.~~

~~3. The committee will give priority to Sir Knights with the highest count of age plus years of membership when fund earnings are not sufficient to pay the Grand Encampment per capita fees for all indigent Sir Knights reported.~~

1. CURRENT WORDING WITH ADDITIONS (Underline additions):

*Not applicable*

1. .ENTIRE PARAGRAPH AS INTENDED TO READ IN THE CODE OF LAWS:

(Not necessary if entire paragraph is new and has been stated in 11above.)

 BENEVOLENCE FUND COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION

Section 30.

The Benevolence Fund Committee will consist of three members appointed by the Grand Commander, of whom one shall be appointed Chair of the committee by the Grand Commander.

DUTIES

Section 30.1

The Committee will be responsible to:

1. To acknowledge loss and offer condolences to any Sir Knights of this jurisdiction and/or their immediate families,
2. To offer financial or material assistance to Sir Knights of this jurisdiction and/or their immediate families by augmentation or support of constituent Commanderies responding to the needs of a Sir Knight and/or their family,
3. Raise funds for a Benevolence Fund,
4. To review the declarations for aid submitted on behalf of Sir Knights via the methods below, to have their annual Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery per capita fees reimbursed out of fund earnings. The fund will pay any costs incurred in carrying out these duties.

The Committee will provided assistance by disbursement of funds to a Sir Knight’s home constituent Commandery to augment the constituent Commandery’s local support, or to aid the constituent Commandery in providing support when the constituent Commandery is unable to provide reasonable assistance.

RECIPIENTS

Section 30.2

Any Sir Knight in good standing or their family is eligible to receive flowers and/or a note of consolation at the discretion of the Benevolence Committee Chair.

A Sir Knight or their immediate family shall be eligible for financial assistance. A Sir Knight who is found not in good standing due to adverse circumstances beyond their control, shall, at the Committee's discretion, also be eligible for assistance. The recipient must be a Sir Knight in good standing with their constituent Commandery and the Grand Commandery of Minnesota, or be an immediate relative by law or blood (including, but not limited to, a parent, spouse, or child, step-parent, or stepchild) to a Sir Knight in good standing for purposes of decedent requests for assistance.

To be eligible for financial assistance the recipient should be experiencing an emergency requiring financial or material need.

PROCESS

Section 30.3

Any Sir Knight or their immediate family member (as defined in section 30.2, above) may report a need to the Sir Knights home constituent Commandery, who will then vote in a stated or special Conclave to approve submitting the request to the Grand Commandery for consideration.

The requesting Commandery shall also provide a detailed statement of what assistance they are providing the requestor. If a constituent Commandery cannot provide assistance due to financial hardship, the requesting Commandery will provide a statement supporting their decision, attaching a copy of their last fiscal year’s treasury statements, to their request for assistance. The request will be filed with the Grand Recorder who will forward the request to the Chair of the Benevolence Committee. District Officers of the Grand Commandery are encouraged to report any emergencies and/or need to the Chair of Benevolence Committee directly. The Benevolence Committee Chair, working with the Grand Prelate, will send flowers and a note when appropriate, and such an action can be conducted without vote of the Benevolence Committee. For financial assistance, the Chair will attempt to contact the potential financial recipient Commandery to find out the level of assistance needed and the level of information the individual wishes shared with the Committee and/or Knights Templar community. The Chair will also ascertain that assistance would be welcome. The Chair will then gather information regarding the nature of the request and the type of assistance requested. The Chair will then convene the Committee to rule on any action to be taken. At least two of the three committee members must agree on any action taken. The Grand Commander may substitute and vote in place of a committee member if two of the three committee members are unavailable when a request must be considered.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Section 30.4

The amount of initial financial assistance provided shall be at the discretion of the Benevolence Committee members, with the intent to preserve fairness to Sir Knights and constituent Commanderies; and provide a mechanism to ensure funds will exist for future requests. The requesting constituent Commandery can change the initial aid amount by vote in a stated or special Conclave and forward that change to the request to the Grand Recorder or Benevolence Committee Chair. The Benevolence Committee is free to facilitate non-cash aid for individuals. In cases where financial need is greater than the contribution made by the Benevolence Committee a direct fundraising campaign may be undertaken by the Knights Templar community. To facilitate direct fund raising on behalf of the recipient, an account may be set up in the name of the person (with the financial need) at a local bank or credit union, or through an online provider for such an action. It may include the initial financial contribution by the Committee and any additional funds raised or donated by the Knights Templar community. Additional financial assistance is at the discretion of the Benevolence Committee.

Any tax liabilities resulting from donations are solely the responsibility of the individual receiving aid.

REMITTANCE OF PER CAPITA FOR INDIGENT SIR KNIGHTS

Section 30.4.1

Eligibility for waiver of per capita on behalf of indigent Sir Knights will be determined on the following basis:

1. A constituent Commandery must remit the indigent Sir Knight’s dues and fees for the reported year.
2. A Commandery Recorder must report indigent Sir Knights on the Commandery’s Annual Return. The Recorder will also provide other information regarding the Sir Knight as may be requested with the Annual Return. (See “Revenue of the Grand Commandery,” Section 46.)
3. If a Commandery reports indigent Sir Knights, the Grand Commandery will pay the Grand Encampment fees for those Sir Knights, as well as waive the annual Grand Commandery per capita fee for those Sir Knights reported.
4. The committee will give priority to Sir Knights with the highest count of age plus years of membership when fund earnings are not sufficient to pay the Grand Encampment per capita fees for all indigent Sir Knights reported.

FUNDING SOURCES

Section 30.5

The Benevolence Committee is responsible for fund raising. Funding may come from a variety of sources. These sources may include, but are not limited to, direct donations to the Benevolence Committee fund, auctions, fundraising drives and activities, material donations and other creative methods to raise money to help those in need. The Chair of the Benevolence Committee shall assist the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer to keep accurate accounts of all funds held and disbursed by the committee and report at the annual Grand Commandery Conclave. The Chair, or the Grand Treasurer will also issue receipts to donors and recipient Commanderies, when appropriate, for donations or disbursements to or from the benevolence account.

1. RATIONALE (Why the author thinks the proposed change is needed):
2. PROPOSERS - PRINTED NAMES, SIGNATURE, OFFICE and CHAPTER/COUNCIL/COMMANDERY NUMBERS of submitting members. (NOTE: Must be signed by no less than three members of the Grand York Rite or by the High Priest, Illustrious Master, or Commander; or Grand Officer and attested under Seal.)

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