

ARTICLE I. NAME AND SEAL

Section 1.01 Name

The name of this organization is "The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota", hereinafter referred to as the "Grand Council".

Section 1.02 Seal

The Grand Treasurer-Recorder shall at all times have the care and custody of the Seal of this Grand Council, which shall be of the following design:



NEW SEAL  
Adopted in 1978 by  
amendment to Constitution.

Said Seal shall be used only to attest formal official papers and documents of the Grand Council.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.01 Of this Jurisdiction

This Grand Council shall be composed of the following members: The Grand Council Officers, together with the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Recorder and all Past Illustrious Masters of each Chartered Council in Minnesota, all Past Illustrious Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, and Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work.

Section 2.02 Past Illustrious Masters of other Jurisdictions.

A Past Illustrious Master of a Council in another jurisdiction affiliated with the *General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International* may be admitted into the membership of this Grand Council with the rank of Past Illustrious Master, as follows:

- a) He is a member of a chartered council in Minnesota
- b) He obtains a letter under the Seal of the Grand Council of which he was formerly a member, stating the fact of such membership.
- c) He petitions the Grand Council by letter giving the following information:  
Name of the Minnesota Council of which he is a member: date on which he became a member.

The above information will be verified by the Grand Treasurer-Recorder and presented to committee of three members for a report. The information will be presented to the members of the Grand Council at their Annual Assembly for a vote. An Affirmative vote of two-thirds [2/3] is required.

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*Section 2.03 Honorary Members*

A Grand Master or a Past Grand Master of another Grand Jurisdiction in communication with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International or having fraternal relations with the Grand Council of Minnesota may be presented with an honorary membership while visiting our annual Grand Assembly. This honorary membership does not allow voting privileges.

*Section 2.04 Requirements*

All members of this Grand Council must maintain membership in a constituent Council of Minnesota.

*Section 2.05 Restoration of a Charter*

Restoration of a Charter must be by written petition of six (6) members in good standing or holding a demit and upon favorable report of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations. When the Grand Council restores a Charter, the same shall be issued when the Grand Master is satisfied that the petitioners are qualified to conduct a Council. Any property belonging to such a council and held by the Grand Council shall be returned. When there are fewer than six (6) members in good standing or holding a demit, desiring to establish a council, procedures as outlined in ARTICLE II, III, and IV of the rules for the Regulation of Constituent Councils must be followed.

**ARTICLE III POWERS AND JURISDICTION**

*Section 3.01 Jurisdiction*

The jurisdiction of this Grand Council is the territorial limits of the State of Minnesota.

*Section 3.02 Government*

This Grand Council shall have the sole government and superintendence of the Councils of Cryptic Masons in the state of Minnesota and is invested with the power to assign their limits, prescribe their fees for admission thereto, and settle controversies that may arise between them. It has power to grant charters for the formation of new Councils and for good cause to suspend, revoke and annul the same; to assess and collect from several councils such fees and dues as may be necessary for its expense; to enact laws for the government of the Rite; to alter or repeal the same and consider all matters and do all things appertaining to the well-being and perpetuity of Cryptic Masonry in Minnesota. It may discipline any of its members for violation of this Constitution or for gross unmasonic conduct.

*Section 3.03 Government*

Whenever this Constitution and Regulations is silent on any subject, the Constitution and General Regulations of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, Then the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota shall govern.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

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Section 4.01 Officers

The officers of the Grand Council shall be:

1. Most Illustrious Grand Master
2. Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
3. Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
4. Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer-Recorder
5. Illustrious Grand Chaplain
6. Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
7. Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
8. Illustrious Grand Marshal
9. Illustrious Grand Steward
10. Illustrious Grand Sentinel
11. Illustrious Grand Trustees

Section 4.02 Elected Officers

The first four officers named in section 4.01 shall be elected by secret, written ballot and majority vote.

Section 4.03 Appointed Officers

Grand Officers other than the elected Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master immediately preceding his installation.

Section 4.04 Eligibility for Office

Every officer must be a member of this Grand Council, and a Past Illustrious Master of a constituent Council, except that Companions may be appointed Chaplain although at the time not members thereof. And in addition, The Most Illustrious Grand Master must have been previously elected and served as the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master or the Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of Minnesota.

Section 4.05 Terms of Office

Grand Officers shall hold office for one year or until their successor shall have been duly elected or appointed and installed.

Section 4.06 Installation

The officers of this Grand Council shall be installed at the Annual Assembly at which they were elected or as soon thereafter as practical.

Every officer shall be installed before entering upon his duties, and if not present for the installation at the Annual Assembly. he shall be installed at such time and place as the Grand Master may direct.

It is not mandatory for a reelected officer to be installed as he holds over by virtue of his former election until his successor is installed.

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150 *Section 4.07 Precedence of Rank*

151 The precedence of rank in the Grand Jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- 152 1. Most Illustrious Grand Master
- 153 2. Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
- 154 3. Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
- 155 4. Past Illustrious Grand Masters of this jurisdiction according to
- 156 juniority of service.
- 157 5. Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer-Recorder
- 158 6. Illustrious Grand Chaplain
- 159 7. Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
- 160 8. Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
- 161 9. Illustrious Grand Marshal
- 162 10. Illustrious Grand Steward
- 163 11. Illustrious Grand Sentinel
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165 *Section 4.08 Succession of Officers*

166 In the event of death, or the absence either temporarily or permanently, of the  
167 Grand Master, or his inability for any reason to serve the Grand Council, the Deputy  
168 Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, and the Past Grand Masters, in order of  
169 Juniority, will succeed to his duties and prerogatives.

170 A vacancy in any office, except the first three elective offices, shall be filled for the  
171 unexpired term, by the Grand Master.

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173 *Section 4.09 Duties of the Officers*

174 *Section 4.09.1 The Grand Master*

175 The Grand Master shall

- 176 .01 when present, preside over all Assemblies of the Grand Council
- 177 .02 Exercise general supervision over all the Councils and over Cryptic
- 178 Masonry in his jurisdiction
- 179 .03 see that the Constitution and laws of the Grand Council are observed
- 180 .04 appoint all committees not otherwise provided for
- 181 .05 appoint representatives of this Grand Council, near other Grand Councils
- 182 .06 when visiting constituent Council be empowered to preside, to inspect
- 183 books, proceedings and work, and to instruct its officers
- 184 .07 issue dispensations to form new councils and recall the same
- 185 .08 issue dispensations for the special election of Council officers
- 186 .09 constitute in person or by proxy Councils which have been duly chartered
- 187 .10 suspend from office any Council officer and arrest the charter of a Council
- 188 for good cause, reporting his action and reason therefore to the next Annual
- 189 Assembly
- 190 .11 decide all questions of law and usage that may be submitted to him
- 191 .12 fill vacancies in the Grand Council offices, except as otherwise provided
- 192 .13 at the Annual Assembly succeeding his election, present a written report of
- 193 his official acts during the year, including a detailed expense account, and
- 194 of the condition of the Cryptic Rite, and make such recommendations as he
- 195 may deem conducive to its prosperity and advancement
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- 199 .14 attend the General Grand Council Triennial Assembly when held
- 200 during the term of office. If unable to attend, he shall issue a proxy as
- 201 provided in the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic
- 202 Masons International
- 203 .15 exercise supervisory control over all Grand Officers, instruct them in their
- 204 duties, and see that the same are performed
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*Section 4.09.2 Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work*

- 207 The Deputy Grand Master shall
- 208 .01 in the absence of the Most Illustrious Master, they are to preside in order of
- 209 rank; in his presence, they are to strengthen and support his authority by
- 210 their counsel and advice
- 211 .02 they are to familiarize themselves with all the duties of the Grand Master
- 212 .03 it is their duty to attend the General Grand Council Triennial Assembly
- 213 when held during their term of office. If unable to attend, they shall notify
- 214 the Most Illustrious Grand Master so that he may appoint a proxy
- 215 .04 Submit an Annual report of their activities, including a detailed expense
- 216 account
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*Section 4.09.3 Grand Treasurer-Recorder*

- 218 The Grand Treasurer-Recorder shall
- 219 .01 receive and safely keep in trust all funds and securities of the Grand
- 220 Council
- 221 .02 keep true and correct accounts thereof and pay out monies only as may
- 222 be authorized by the Grand Council
- 223 .03 sign all checks
- 224 .04 submit to the audit committee as soon as possible, after the close of the
- 225 accounts on the last day of December 1991 and each December 31st
- 226 thereafter, his annual report together with the books and vouchers
- 227 covering receipts and disbursements so they may properly audit the same.
- 228 .05 submit the audited financial report to the Grand Council at each Annual
- 229 Assembly
- 230 .06 attend all Assemblies of the Grand Council, keep a true record of all its
- 231 proceedings and publish and distribute the same
- 232 .07 issue report forms to the Constituent Councils so that the Grand Council
- 233 will have available the necessary statistical information to properly govern
- 234 the Councils
- 235 .08 conduct the correspondence of the Grand Council
- 236 .09 have custody of the Grand Council seal
- 237 .10 prepare, sign and seal all dispensations, charters, commissions,
- 238 certificates and other official documents ordered by the Grand Master or
- 239 as directed by the Grand Council
- 240 .11 at the close of his term of office, deliver to his successor all books, papers,
- 241 vouchers, and other properties of the Grand Council
- 242 .12 receive such salary as the Grand Council shall order from year to year
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- 246 .13 furnish the Companions of Minnesota, who have been appointed the
- 247 Grand Representative of another jurisdiction, with Annual Proceedings of

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248 that jurisdiction when available. Also provide him with instructions  
249 necessary to carry out his assignments  
250 .14 furnish all constituent Councils with a copy of the Constitution and  
251 complete operating and accounting instructions  
252 .15 the Grand Treasurer-Recorder shall procure a Grand Master's apron to be  
253 presented to each Grand Master for use during his term of office and  
254 thereafter becoming his property  
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256 *Section 4.09.4 Other Grand Officers*

257 The other Grand Officers shall perform such duties and discharge such  
258 functions as by ancient usage pertain to their office.  
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260 *Section 4.09.5 The Board of Trustees*

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262 The Board of Trustees shall consist of three (3) elected Companions, the Grand  
263 Illustrious Master by virtue of his office and the Grand Recorder and Grand  
264 Treasurer as advisory members. The first Board of Trustees shall be elected  
265 from among the membership of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of  
266 Minnesota, one (1) Companion for one (1) year, one (1) Companion for two (2)  
267 years, and one (1) Companion for three (3) years. The Companion receiving the  
268 highest number of votes at the Grand Convocation shall be elected for three (3)  
269 years, the next highest for two (2) years, and the third highest for (1) year.  
270 Thereafter, as vacancies occur for elected terms, the successors shall be elected  
271 for three (3) years. If any vacancies occur between Grand Convocations, the  
272 Grand Illustrious Master may appoint a member of this Grand Council of Cryptic  
273 Masons of Minnesota to fill the position until the following Grand Convocation.  
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275 *The Board of Trustees shall*

276 .01 direct investments, reinvestment and liquidate or transfer all funds of the Grand  
277 Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota, which are not needed for current operating  
278 expenses, into the investment instruments that are in Moderately Conservative to  
279 Moderate Risk Tolerance Levels. Moderately Conservative investments are sensitive  
280 to short term losses, but can tolerate some risk in an attempt to achieve a higher rate  
281 of return. Moderate investments are to accept more risk than the moderate  
282 conservative, but not willing to accept the short-term risk associated with the goal of  
283 achieving a long-term return dramatically above the inflation rate. The Trustees shall  
284 report on the status of the investments to the Grand Council on a quarterly basis.  
285 .02 hold in trust all records, property, equipment and paraphernalia as may be  
286 owned or controlled by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota and  
287 report annually the net worth of such.  
288 .03 direct an annual audit of the financial condition of the Grand Council of  
289 Cryptic Masons of Minnesota and certify to the accuracy of same at each Grand  
290 Convocation. Such audit to be conducted by auditors chosen by the Board of  
291 Trustees and acceptable to the Grand Illustrious Master; such audit to show  
292 balances, inventories of securities, properties, earnings and disbursements.  
293 .04 serve in a financial advisory position to the Illustrious Grand Master,  
294 Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer. Such position will be in an advisory role  
295 and will not act in an arbitrary manner that would be counterproductive to the  
296 benefit of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota and its members.

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298 .05 not have the authority to override any action voted upon by the members  
299 at the Annual Convocation.  
300 .06 meet on a quarterly basis at a minimum. These meetings may be by email  
301 or telephone conference.  
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**ARTICLE V MEETINGS**

*Section 5.01 Annual Assembly*

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306 An Annual Assembly of this Grand Council shall be held at such time or  
307 place as may have been designated at the previous Annual Assembly. However,  
308 should a conflict occur necessitating a change in time and or place, the Grand  
309 Master may order a change upon issuing a notice to the members at least thirty  
310 (30) days prior to the assembly.

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312 At the Annual Assembly, the official reports of the Grand Officers, and  
313 committees shall be presented and considered. The Grand Council shall consult  
314 and act on all matters concerning the interest of the Cryptic Rite in its jurisdiction.  
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*Section 5.02 Special Assemblies*

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317 Special Assemblies may be called by the Grand Master at his discretion, due  
318 notice thereof to be given, but no business shall be transacted thereat except such  
319 as mentioned in the call.  
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*Section 5.03 Quorums and Majorities*

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322 A majority of the Chartered Councils must be represented to constitute a quorum  
323 for the transaction of any business mentioned in Section 6.01 and 6.02 of this  
324 Article, but a less number duly assembled may meet in consultation.  
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*Section 5.04 Voting*

*Section 5.041 Voting Eligibility*

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328 In the transaction of the business of the Grand Council, each member of  
329 said Council shall have one (1) vote, except the Grand Master shall have a casting  
330 vote in case of a tie, upon any question other than the election of officers. Each  
331 Council present shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Dais Officer and Recorder  
332 present or by proxy, and one (1) vote for each Past Illustrious Master present;  
333 provided he is not an elected Dais Officer or Recorder of a Constituent Council.  
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335 Then the Past Illustrious Master shall be entitled to only one (1) vote as a Council  
336 Dais Officer or Recorder. If an Illustrious Master, Deputy Illustrious Master or  
337 Principal Conductor of the Work is not present representing his Council in person  
338 or by proxy, his vote may be cast by the Senior Dais Officer of the Council who is  
339 present; or, if no Dais Officer of the Council who is present; or, if no Dais Officer is  
340 present, and none has appointed a proxy, their remaining available votes will be  
341 forfeit.  
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*Section 5.042 Voting Procedure*

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344 All voting in the Grand Council shall be by the usual sign except for the  
345 election of officers which must be by written ballot.

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*Section 5.043 Election or Passage requirements*

A majority vote is required for the election of officers and to consummate other transactions other than amendments to this Constitution. An amendment requires a two-thirds [ $\frac{2}{3}$ ] majority.

*Section 5.044 Blank Ballots*

Blank ballots and those cast for other than eligible members of the council in good standing are void and must be counted in announcing the results.

*Section 5.045 Ballot Counts*

A majority vote means more than half of the votes cast, ignoring the blanks. A two thirds [ $\frac{2}{3}$ ] majority means two-thirds of the votes cast, ignoring the blanks.

*Section 5.04 Jewels*

Each member of the Grand Council shall appear at its annual and special assemblies properly clothed and wearing his proper jewel if an officer. The design for such jewels shall be for all, a wreath having a triangle imposed thereon and with the emblem of the office in the center, all of gold, as follows:

- Most Illustrious Grand Master - the square and compass joined with the trowel.
- Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master - the level joined with the trowel.
- Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work - the plumb joined with the trowel
- Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer-Recorder - crossed keys joined with the trowel.
- Illustrious Grand Chaplain - the open book.
- Illustrious Grand Marshall - baton joined with the trowel.
- Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard - the battle axe joined with the trowel.
- Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council - scroll surmounted by a trowel.
- Illustrious Grand Steward - crossed swords joined with the trowel.
- Illustrious Grand Sentinel - sword joined with the trowel.

**ARTICLE VI REVENUES**

The revenues of this Grand Council shall be derived from sources as outlined in Section 11.031 through 11.034 of ARTICLE XI in the Regulations of Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota

**ARTICLE VII THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER DEGREE**

The degree of Thrice Illustrious Masters will be conferred during the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Minnesota. The degree is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council and administered by the Minnesota Thrice Illustrious Masters Council.

All Illustrious Masters and Past Illustrious Masters of Constituent Councils are eligible for this degree by petition which has been acted upon favorably by the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters.



ARTICLE VIII LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 9.01 Life Membership Program

That this Grand Council establish a Life Membership Program, to be financed and administered in the following manner:

1. Any member in good standing in this Grand Jurisdiction, whose dues are paid to date, may purchase a life membership and be, thereby, relieved from payment of any further dues only in the Council in which he holds his life membership.
2. The purchase of a Life Membership shall be based upon the age of the purchaser at the time of said purchase and the annual dues in effect at that same time. The formula for determining the purchase price is as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Factor Times Dues</b>	<b>Plus General Grand Life Membership Fee</b>
18 to 40	40	GGC LM Fee
41 to 50	35	GGC LM Fee
51 to 60	30	GGC LM Fee
61 to 70	25	GGC LM Fee
71 & up	20	GGC LM Fee

(Factor X Dues) + GGC LM Fee = Grand Council Life Membership Cost

- 2A. All purchasers of Life Membership may, after a down payment of ¼ the cost of Life Membership, be allowed to pay the balance in bi-yearly or yearly payments equal to ¼ the cost of the Life Membership with no interest added. Payments to be received by the constituent councils and money forwarded to the Grand Recorder upon receipt of the payment. A Life Membership Certificate will only be issued after full payment is received by the Grand Recorder. Companions can, if they desire, pay the full cost of the Life Membership and receive a Life Membership Certificate.
3. All sums to be collected by the constituent Councils and immediately transmitted to the Grand Recorder.
4. The Grand Recorder shall immediately issue to the member, *after paying the full required fees*, Life Membership certificates under the seal of the Grand Council, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Recorder, and shall also issue to the Council a certificate declaring that the Life Membership is held in trust by the Grand Council for the Council transmitting the same to the Grand Recorder.
5. Upon the holder of a Life Membership certificate transferring to another Council within this Grand Jurisdiction, the Grand Recorder shall, upon notice thereof, transfer on the books of the Life Membership Fund, the fees received for such membership regardless of by whom the cost of said Life

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- 443 Membership was paid, to the credit of the Council to whom the transfer was  
444 made.  
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- 446 6. Upon the holder of a Life Membership demitting from this Grand Jurisdiction  
447 to any other and taking a withdrawal certificate from his Council, then the  
448 fee of such Life Membership shall remain to the credit of such Council in the  
449 Life Membership Fund.  
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- 451 7. All monies received by the Grand Recorder from the Constituent Councils for the  
452 purchase of Life Memberships, shall be placed in the Life Membership Fund.  
453 The principal of this Life Membership Fund shall be invested in a manner  
454 determined by Section 4.09.05.01 of The Board of Trustees.  
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- 456 8. Any Council in this Grand Jurisdiction may, by vote, purchase from its funds  
457 a Life Membership certificate for a member thereof, paying the fee as  
458 provided in sub-section 2 of this section.  
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- 460 9. When two or more Councils consolidate, all monies in the Life Membership  
461 Fund to the credit of each such Council shall be transferred to the surviving  
462 or consolidated Council.  
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- 464 10. Upon the dissolution of any Council, holders of Grand Council certificates  
465 of Life Membership shall have such Life Memberships transferred as  
466 provided in sub-section 5 of this section. The interest accruing from the  
467 Fund remaining to the credit of a dissolved Council shall, at the end of the  
468 year, be added to the principal of the Fund.  
469
- 470 11. Holders of Life Membership Certificates are subject to all the laws, rules and  
471 regulations of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota and loss  
472 of membership by expulsion or suspension shall, automatically, abrogate  
473 the Life Membership and any claim to any fees for such Life Membership;  
474 but the Council of which he was last a member shall continue to receive the  
475 income from such funds.  
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- 477 12. The Grand Recorder shall, annually, remit to the Recorders of participating  
478 constituent Councils, their prorated portion of the earnings of the Life  
479 Membership Fund. Such earnings shall be credited to each participating  
480 Council at the end of each calendar quarter. Amounts received by the Grand  
481 Recorder after the passing of the date of the quarter, shall not earn interest  
482 until the opening of the following quarter.  
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- 484 13. The annual per capita year for earnings of the Life Membership Fund will  
485 be as of December 31st of each year.  
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- 487 14. Any Council may request that a Life Membership Certificate be issued to a  
488 member who has paid his dues in a Council for 50 years. There shall be no  
489 cost to a constituent Council or to the member for this Life Membership, but  
490 the Grand Council shall, in such cases, credit to the account of the affected  
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492 Council a sum equal to one half of the cost as determined under sub-  
493 division 2 of this section.

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496 15. Any Council may request a Life Membership Certificate for a member who  
497 has been reported for three consecutive years as having his dues remitted  
498 as an indigent. The cost of such Life Membership shall be one half of the  
499 cost as determined under sub-division 2 of this section. The Grand Council  
500 shall also contribute to the account of the Council, the amount of \$10.00 for  
501 each Life Membership issued to an indigent. The sum of the two amounts  
502 being credited to the Council.

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**ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS**

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510 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all eligible  
511 members as specified in ARTICLE VI, MEETING, Section 6.041 in attendance  
512 and voting at any Annual Assembly, provided notice of such proposed  
513 amendment is filed with the Grand Treasurer-Recorder thirty (30) days previous  
514 thereto. In absence of such notice, it may be amended only by unanimous  
515 consent at any Annual Assembly.

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