

GENERAL REGULATIONS

ESTABLISHED BY THE
SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

*Published under the Authority of the
Supreme Grand Chapter*

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The following are the principal editions of the Royal Arch Regulations to have been published since the formation of the United Grand Chapter in 1817 (renamed Supreme Grand Chapter in 1822):

1817 8vo.	1910	1970	2007
1823	1912	1978	2009
1843	1913	1979	2012
1852	1916	1984	2014
1864	1917	1989	2016
1869	1926	1995	2019
1875	1933	1999	2023
1879	1942	2001	2024
1886 16mo.	1956	2003	
1907	1961	2005	

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ROYAL ARCH REGULATIONS OF 2025

Change No.	Date approved by Supreme Grand Chapter	Date of Insertion

Supreme Grand Chapter

OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND

THE GRAND CHAPTER having approved of this Revised Edition of the General Regulations, the Committee of General Purposes has accordingly superintended its publication.



GRAND SCRIBE E

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When the Rules of Craft Masonry apply

IN all cases for which special provision is not made by the following Regulations, the Order of ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND shall be considered as bound by the Constitutions of the Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, hereinafter referred to as the Grand Lodge, and its proceedings shall be regulated thereby, as nearly as circumstances will permit.

The Grand Chapter

1. The interests of the Order are governed by a general representation of all private Chapters on the Register, and the Grand Officers, present and past, with the Three Grand Principals at their head. This collective body is styled the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND and is hereinafter referred to as 'the Grand Chapter'.

Rank and Precedence of Members

2. The Members of the Grand Chapter rank in the following order:
 1. The First Grand Principal.
 2. The Pro First Grand Principal.
 3. Past First Grand Principals.
 4. Past Pro First Grand Principals.
 5. Second Grand Principal.
 6. Past Second Grand Principals.
 7. Third Grand Principal.
 8. Past Third Grand Principals.
 9. Metropolitan Grand Superintendents.
 10. Past Metropolitan Grand Superintendents.
 11. Grand Superintendents.
 12. Past Grand Superintendents.
 13. President of the Committee of General Purposes.
 14. Past Presidents of the Committee of General Purposes.
 15. Grand Registrar.
 16. Past Grand Registrars.
 17. Grand Scribe E.
 18. Grand Scribe N.
 19. Past Grand Scribes E.
 20. Past Grand Scribes N.
 21. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
 22. Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
 23. Grand Sword Bearer.
 24. Past Grand Sword Bearers.
 25. Grand Inspectors.
 26. Past Grand Inspectors.
 27. Grand Treasurer.
 28. Past Grand Treasurers.
 29. Deputy Grand Registrar.
 30. Past Deputy Grand Registrars.
 31. Deputy Grand Scribes E.

32. Past Deputy Grand Scribes E.
33. Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
34. Past Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
35. Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.
36. Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearers.
37. Principal Grand Sojourner.
38. First Assistant Grand Sojourner.
39. Second Assistant Grand Sojourner.
40. Past Principal Grand Sojourners.
41. Past Assistant Grand Sojourners.
42. Assistant Grand Scribes E.
43. Past Assistant Grand Scribes E.
44. Grand Standard Bearer.
45. Past Grand Standard Bearers.
46. Grand Organist.
47. Past Grand Organists.
48. Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
49. Past Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
50. Grand Janitor.
51. Past Grand Janitors.
52. The Three Principals of every private Chapter.
53. Past First Principals of every private Chapter if qualified under Regulation 5.

Members of the Grand Chapter who at 1 May 2000 held the rank of Past Grand Treasurer shall continue to take precedence after Past Assistant Grand Sojourners.

Additional members may be appointed

3. Companions of eminence and ability, who have rendered Service to the Order, may, by appointment of the First Grand Principal, be constituted members of the Grand Chapter, with such rank and distinction as may be thought proper.

Titles and Prefixes

4. The prefixes to be accorded to and used by Companions are as follows:

Most Excellent (M.E.)

The Three Grand Principals and the Pro First Grand Principal; all Past Grand Principals and Past Pro First Grand Principals. In the case of Metropolitan Grand Superintendents in and over Metropolitan Areas, Grand Superintendents in and over Provinces and Districts and First Principals of private Chapters the prefix 'Most Excellent' is to be attached to the titles but not to the names of the Excellent Companions holding such Offices.

Excellent (E.)

Grand Officers, present and past, and Principals of Chapters, present and past. All other Companions shall be styled 'Companion' only.

Salutes

There are no salutes to any Companions in Royal Arch Masonry.

Qualifications of Past Principals

5. Every Companion who shall have served in the Chair of First Principal of a Chapter for one year shall retain his seat in the Grand Chapter so long as he continues to be a subscribing member of a Chapter; but if such Companion shall not be a subscribing member of any Chapter under the Grand Chapter he shall cease to be a member of the Grand Chapter.

If he has resigned in good standing, he will on becoming a subscribing member of any Chapter under the Grand Chapter again become a member of the Grand Chapter, but if he has been excluded or has resigned from any Chapter without having paid his

subscriptions, he cannot become a member of the Grand Chapter as a Past First Principal until he has again served the office of First Principal of a Chapter under the Grand Chapter.

Regular Convocations

6. Two regular Convocations of the Grand Chapter shall be holden each year, namely on the second Wednesday in the month of November and on the day following the Grand Festival of Grand Lodge at which Convocation shall be held the Annual Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Especial Convocations

7. The Three Grand Principals, or any one of them in the absence of the others, may summon Especial Convocations of Grand Chapter whenever the good of the Order shall in their or his opinion require it. The particular reason for convening such Especial Convocation shall be expressed in the Summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at that Convocation.

GRAND OFFICERS

First Grand Principal

8. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, if an installed First Principal, shall be First Grand Principal. If the Grand Master be not so qualified a First Grand Principal shall be elected at each Annual Investiture and installed forthwith if the appointment be for the first time.

Pro First Grand Principal

9. The Pro Grand Master, if an installed First Principal, shall be Pro First Grand Principal.

Second Grand Principal

10. The First Grand Principal shall appoint at each Annual Investiture a Second Grand Principal who shall be installed forthwith if the appointment be for the first time.

Third Grand Principal

11. The First Grand Principal shall appoint at each Annual Investiture a Third Grand Principal who shall be installed forthwith if the appointment be for the first time.

Grand Scribe E.

12. The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, if an installed First Principal, shall be Grand Scribe E.

Grand Treasurer

13. The Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, if an installed First Principal, shall be Grand Treasurer.

Grand Registrar

14. The Grand Registrar of the Grand Lodge, if an installed First Principal, shall be Grand Registrar.

Appointment of Grand Officers

15. The First Grand Principal shall appoint at each Annual Investiture the following Grand Officers who, together with the Grand Registrar, Grand Scribe E and Grand Treasurer, are thereupon to be invested:

President of the Committee of General Purposes.

Grand Scribe N.

Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Grand Sword Bearer.

Deputy Grand Registrar.

Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.

Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.
Principal Grand Sojourner.
First Assistant Grand Sojourner.
Second Assistant Grand Sojourner.
Six Grand Standard Bearers.
Grand Organist.
Four Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.

He may also appoint not more than two Deputy Grand Scribes E. and not more than two Assistant Grand Scribes E.

Casual vacancies among Grand Officers may be filled by the First Grand Principal.

Note: Metropolitan Grand Superintendents, Grand Superintendents and Grand Inspectors, though not subject to annual re-appointment, are by virtue of their offices Grand Officers. They become Past Grand Officers upon relinquishing their appointments and take precedence in accordance with Regulation 2.

Grand Janitor

16. The Grand Janitor shall be appointed by the First Grand Principal as a vacancy occurs and shall continue in office during the pleasure of the First Grand Principal.

All Grand Officers to be First Principals

17. No Companion shall be appointed to any office unless he be a First Principal or a Past First Principal of a Chapter. If any Officer of the Grand Lodge who would take office in the Grand Chapter by virtue of his office in the Grand Lodge shall not be thus qualified, the First Grand Principal shall appoint and invest some other Companion to hold such office.

Appointment to Past Rank

18. The First Grand Principal is empowered to confer the rank of a Past Grand Officer on any Companion of ability who is a member of the Grand Chapter in accordance with Regulation 5.

Business to be communicated to the Grand Scribe E.

19. Business to be brought under consideration of the Grand Chapter at any regular Convocation shall be communicated to the Grand Scribe E. in writing not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Committee of General Purposes immediately preceding such regular Convocation. This Regulation shall not apply to any business which the Committee of General Purposes shall authorise to be placed on the paper of business.

19A. Notice of any motion which proposes to make any addition to, or alteration or amendment of, these Regulations, shall be delivered to the Grand Scribe E in writing either

(a) not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Committee of General Purposes immediately preceding a Convocation of the Grand Chapter in order that it may be printed in the paper of business for such Convocation; or

(b) if the First Grand Principal agree that the matter be urgent and that he (or the Officer presiding in the Grand Chapter) will permit it to be decided upon as a matter of urgency, not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes immediately preceding a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge in order that it may be printed in the paper of business for such Quarterly Communication as a Special Notice of Motion for the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

Any member of the Grand Chapter desiring to move an amendment to such motion shall give notice in writing to the Grand Scribe E of his intention to move and of the precise terms of his proposed amendment not less than seven days before the regular meeting of the Committee of General Purposes immediately preceding the Convocation of the Grand Chapter next following. The original motion and any such proposed amendments to it shall be printed in the paper of business for that Convocation and be thereat brought under consideration and decided upon.

Paper of Business

20. A paper of business to be transacted in the Grand Chapter at each regular Convocation shall be prepared by the Grand Scribe E. and submitted to the Committee of General Purposes for approval at the regular meeting immediately preceding such regular Convocation.

To whom papers of business and reports to be transmitted

21. A copy of the paper of business so approved together with a printed report of the proceedings at the immediately preceding regular Convocation and at any intervening Especial Convocation of the Grand Chapter shall be forwarded to all Grand Officers present and past, and to Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Scribes E. at least seven days before the Regular Convocation.

At the same time two copies of the paper of business and printed report or reports shall be sent to the Scribe E. of each private Chapter at his address as given on the annual installation return made in accordance with Regulation 60.

On receipt of these copies the Scribe E. shall immediately forward one of them to the First Principal for the information of the members. Copies of the paper of business shall be provided for the members of the Grand Chapter attending the Convocation.

Any Subscribing member of a Chapter under the Grand Chapter may have such papers of business, notices and reports forwarded to him by post on registering his address with the Grand Scribe E., and paying such fee as shall be from time to time fixed by the Committee of General Purposes.

Duty of Grand Janitor

22. The Grand Janitor and his assistants shall, at every Convocation of the Grand Chapter, attend without the entrance for the purposes of ascertaining whether Companions seeking admission to the Grand Chapter are qualified to attend.

Minutes of Grand Chapter

23. At each regular Convocation, the Grand Chapter being opened, the minutes of the last regular Convocation and of any intervening Especial Convocation of the Grand Chapter are to be put for confirmation as a correct record of the proceedings, and no part of the said minutes nor any matter appearing on the paper of business shall be read in extenso unless the Grand Chapter shall so direct, or a Companion, supported by not less than five other companions, shall so desire, with a view to founding a motion thereon.

Communications from Grand Principals

24. Communications from the Grand Principals, or any of them, shall be received before the business set forth in the paper of business is considered.

General Regulation

25. The First Grand Principal, or in his absence the Presiding Officer, shall have in all respects not herein specifically provided the same powers and duties as are conferred upon the Grand Master in the Grand Lodge by the Book of Constitution.

METROPOLITAN, PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTERS

Formation of Metropolitan Grand Chapters

26. (a) The First Grand Principal has power to form London or any other specified area in England and Wales into a Metropolitan Area by the appointment of a Metropolitan Grand Superintendent whereupon a Metropolitan Chapter shall be formed and given jurisdiction within such area.

The First Grand Principal has also power to rearrange boundaries of Metropolitan Areas, and to combine any Metropolitan Area with another Metropolitan Area or with one or more Provinces or sub-divide any Metropolitan Area as he may think fit.

The First Grand Principal has also power to declare that any Chapter meeting within the area of a Metropolitan Grand Chapter's jurisdiction shall nevertheless be an unattached Chapter subject to the direct jurisdiction of the First Grand Principal.

(b) Save as expressly provided in paragraph (d) of this Regulation or where a particular Regulation makes express provision for Metropolitan Areas, the provisions of the Royal Arch Regulations, and of any rules made under the authority of any provision of the Book of Constitutions or the Royal Arch Regulations, relating to Provinces, Grand Superintendents in and over Provinces and Provincial Grand Chapters and their Officers shall apply equally, *mutatis mutandis*, to Metropolitan Areas, Metropolitan Grand Superintendents and Metropolitan Grand Chapters and their Officers.

Appointment of Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent and Metropolitan Grand Inspector

(c) (i) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent by patent under his hand and seal or otherwise may appoint a Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, and such number of Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendents (to take rank immediately after the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent) and Metropolitan Grand Inspectors (to take rank immediately after the Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendents) as the First Grand Principal

may from time to time authorise, to hold office during his pleasure and to execute forthwith all the powers and duties of such office in his name.

Qualification for office

(ii) No Companion may be so appointed unless he shall be a present or past First Principal of a Chapter.

(iii) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent within one month of the appointment must transmit in writing the name and address of his Deputy, of his Assistants and of any Metropolitan Grand Inspectors to all the Chapters of his Metropolitan Area, and also to the Grand Scribe E. for registration.

(iv) A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or a Metropolitan Grand Inspector may be invested either in the Metropolitan Grand Chapter or in a private Chapter within the Metropolitan Area.

(d) Royal Arch Regulations 27, 28A, 31, 32, 33, 34, 34A and 53 shall not apply to Metropolitan Areas, Metropolitan Grand Superintendents and Metropolitan Grand Chapters and their Officers.

Metropolitan Grand Rank

(e) (i) Metropolitan Grand Superintendent may once a year confer Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank, designated by reference to the name of his Metropolitan Area (e.g. London Grand Chapter Rank), on Past First Principals in Chapters of his Metropolitan Area, who have rendered long and meritorious service to Royal Arch Masonry in the Metropolitan Area and are members of the Grand Chapter in accordance with Regulation 5, to a number not exceeding one for every Chapter in his Metropolitan Area registered in the books of the Grand Chapter on 1 September of the preceding year.

Masonic Celebration

(ii) On such occasions as shall seem to him proper either for Masonic celebration or otherwise, the First Grand Principal

may authorise a Metropolitan Grand Superintendent to confer Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank on an additional number of qualified Companions.

Metropolitan Chapter Rank

(iii) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, to the extent that the numbers permitted to be appointed to Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank under this Regulation have not been exceeded, may confer the rank designated Metropolitan Chapter Rank on Companions in Chapters of the Metropolitan Area who are not Installed First Principals but have rendered long and meritorious service to Royal Arch Masonry in the Metropolitan Area, the holders of such rank to take precedence immediately after Past Metropolitan Grand Stewards; and any holder of Metropolitan Chapter Rank shall, in the event that he becomes a Past First Principal and thereby a member of the Grand Chapter in accordance with Regulation 5, thereupon become a Holder of Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank without the need for further appointment.

Additional Metropolitan Grand Ranks

(iv) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent may also at his discretion and without regard to the above limitation confer Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank on Past First Principals in Chapters of his Metropolitan Area who have rendered long and meritorious service to Royal Arch Masonry in his Metropolitan Area and who are Officers (present or past) of Provincial or District Grand Chapters or holders of Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank (in another Metropolitan Area) or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank.

Senior Metropolitan Grand Rank

(v) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent may annually at his discretion appoint Past First Principals who already hold Metropolitan or any Overseas Grand Chapter Rank, or Past Provincial or District Grand Officers, to be holders of Senior Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank.

(vi) The holders of such respective ranks shall be entitled to wear at all Royal Arch meetings the distinctive regalia prescribed under Regulations 85, 87, 94, 96 and 97, but can claim precedence as such only within their Metropolitan Area.

(f) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that any Brother who before 1 October 2003 was a holder of Senior London Grand Chapter Rank, London Grand Chapter Rank, or London Chapter Rank shall in all respects be treated as a holder of the equivalent Metropolitan rank, notwithstanding that he may no longer be a subscribing member of a Chapter within that Metropolitan Area or of any Chapter under the Grand Chapter.

Metropolitan Grand Officers

(g) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent is also empowered to appoint annually from among the Installed First Principals in Chapters of his Metropolitan Area in addition to a Second and Third Metropolitan Grand Principal such Metropolitan Grand Officers as are specified in the Schedule to this Regulation. The Companions appointed to such Offices, other than that of Metropolitan Grand Steward, shall, if not already holders of Senior Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank, or Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank (as the case may be), be appointed to such of those ranks (and shall be counted against the quota, if any, provided in paragraph (e) above), and shall rank amongst themselves for investiture and otherwise in the order, specified in the Schedule. Metropolitan Grand Stewards appointed to that office after 31 December 2021 shall rank immediately after the Holders of Metropolitan Grand Rank, and on ceasing to hold office shall be designated Past Metropolitan Grand Stewards and shall rank immediately after the Metropolitan Grand Stewards. With the exception of Metropolitan Grand Superintendents, present and past, Metropolitan Grand Officers can claim precedence as such only within their own Metropolitan Area. They are, however, entitled to wear their regalia as defined in Regulations 88, 90, 94, 96 and 97 at all Royal Arch meetings.

SCHEDULE TO REGULATION 26:
APPOINTMENTS AS METROPOLITAN GRAND OFFICERS

Senior Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank:

Metropolitan Grand Scribe E
Metropolitan Grand Scribe N
Metropolitan Grand Treasurer – elected
Metropolitan Grand Registrar
Metropolitan Grand Director of Ceremonies
Metropolitan Grand Sword Bearer
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Registrar
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Scribe E
Three Metropolitan Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies
Metropolitan Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
Not more than sixty Metropolitan Assistant Grand Inspectors
Metropolitan Grand Almoner
Metropolitan Grand Charity Steward
Metropolitan Grand Membership Officer
Metropolitan Grand Communications Officer
Metropolitan Grand Mentor

Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank:

Metropolitan Grand Sojourner
Metropolitan First Assistant Grand Sojourner
Metropolitan Second Assistant Grand Sojourner
Metropolitan Assistant Grand Scribe E
Five Metropolitan Grand Standard Bearers
Metropolitan Grand Organist
Five Metropolitan Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies
Metropolitan Grand Janitor

Metropolitan Grand Stewards:

Ten Metropolitan Grand Stewards

Metropolitan Grand Treasurer to be elected annually

(h) The Metropolitan Grand Officers shall be annually appointed in the Metropolitan Grand Chapter, and such Officers whenever practicable shall be then invested together with the Metropolitan Grand Treasurer who shall be elected annually.

Casual Vacancies

(i) Casual vacancies among Metropolitan Grand Officers may be filled by the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, and the rank, if any, required to be conferred in accordance with paragraph (g) above shall not be counted against the quota there referred to.

(j) A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent within one month of the appointment must transmit, in writing, the name and address of his Second and Third Grand Principals, to all Chapters of his Metropolitan Area, and also to the Grand Scribe E. for registration.

(k)

Formation of Provincial and District Grand Chapters

27. The First Grand Principal has power to form any specified area in England into a Province and overseas into a District by the appointment of a Grand Superintendent whereupon a Provincial or District Chapter shall be formed and given jurisdiction within such area.

The First Grand Principal has also power to rearrange boundaries of Provinces or Districts and to combine any Provinces or Districts or subdivide any Province or District as he may think fit.

Appointment of Grand Superintendents

28. The appointment of a Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent is a prerogative of the First Grand Principal, by the grant of a Patent to be held during his pleasure. By this patent

the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent is invested with appropriate authority in and over his Metropolitan Area, Province or District. He shall be installed at the first Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter which he may hold after his appointment, and until such installation he shall not be qualified to perform any of the functions of his office, except that of summoning the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter to meet for the purpose of his installation.

Deputy Grand Superintendent

28A. (i) A Grand Superintendent by patent under his hand and seal or otherwise may appoint a Deputy Grand Superintendent to hold office during his pleasure and to execute forthwith all the powers and duties of such office in his name.

(ii) No Companion may be so appointed unless he shall be a present or past First Principal of a Chapter.

(iii) A Grand Superintendent within one month of the appointment must transmit in writing the name and address of the Deputy to all the Chapters of his Province or District and also to the Grand Scribe E. for registration.

(iv) A Deputy Grand Superintendent may be invested either in the Provincial or District Grand Chapter or in a private Chapter within the Province or District.

Provision in the case of the death of a Grand Superintendent and of other contingencies

29. In the event of the death, resignation, suspension or removal of a Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent, the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Deputy Grand Superintendent, if there be one and he be available, or failing him the Second Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Principal, if

he be available, or failing him the Third Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Principal shall (without prejudice to the rights of the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent designate under Regulation 28) exercise all the functions of Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent until a Companion is duly appointed and has been installed as Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent. No person so exercising those functions shall thereby acquire the right to any additional rank or distinction: while so acting such person shall be designated by the name of the office held by him with the words 'in charge' added thereto.

If for any other reason the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent be not available the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Deputy Grand Superintendent, if there be one and he be available, or failing him the Second Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Principal, or if he too be not available the Third Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Principal, or if he too be not available the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer of such Metropolitan Area, Province or District next senior and then available shall exercise the functions of Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent subject to any direction of the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent.

Membership of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter

30. In addition to the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter consists of the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Deputy Grand Superintendent if there be one, the other Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officers and of the Principals of all Chapters under such Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter and also (so long as they may respectively be both members of the Grand Chapter and subscribing members of a Chapter under such Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter) the Past

Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officers and the Past First Principals of any Chapter under the Grand Chapter.

Provincial or District Grand Officers, acting and past

31. (a) A Grand Superintendent is empowered to appoint annually in addition to a Second and Third Provincial or District Grand Principal no more than such acting Provincial or District Grand Officers as are specified in that column of the schedule to this Regulation which is appropriate to the number of Royal Arch Masons in his Province or District registered in the books of the Grand Chapter on 1 September of the preceding year, and in addition to make appointments to any past Provincial or District Grand Rank which he is empowered to confer as an acting office, except that of Past Deputy Grand Superintendent, Past Second or Third Provincial or District Grand Principal or Past Assistant to the Provincial or District Grand Principals; but so that the aggregate number of first appointments to acting offices and past ranks shall not in any one year exceed the number of Chapters in his Province or District so registered, subject only to the proviso that no Grand Superintendent shall be prevented thereby from appointing the number of acting ranks indicated in the appropriate column of the schedule.

(b) On such occasions as shall seem to him proper either for Masonic celebration or otherwise, the First Grand Principal may authorise Grand Superintendents to confer past ranks.

(c) (i) In addition to the foregoing, a Grand Superintendent may appoint such number of Assistants to the Provincial or District Grand Principals as the First Grand Principal may from time to time authorise.

SCHEDULE TO REGULATION 31
NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS TO ACTING RANK

No. of RA Masons in Province/District	1- 499	500- 999	1000- 1499	1500- 1999	2000- 2499	2500- 2999	3000- 3499	3500+
Provincial or District....								
Grand Scribe E	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Scribe N	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Treasurer (elected - Reg. 31(d))	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Registrar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Director of Ceremonies	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Sword Bearer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Grand Registrar	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Deputy Grand Scribe E	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1*	1*
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3
Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Grand Almoner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Charity Steward	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Membership Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Communications Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Mentor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand Sojourner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1st Assistant Grand Sojourner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2nd Assistant Grand Sojourner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Grand Scribe E	1	1	1	1	1	1*	1*	1*
Grand Standard Bearer	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	6
Grand Organist	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	-	1	2	3	3	3	3	4
Grand Steward	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
Grand Janitor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	21	25	30	34	39	42	46	49

* Over 2500 Royal Arch Masons either a Deputy Grand Scribe E or an Assistant Grand Scribe E may be appointed, but not both; over 3000 Royal Arch Masons both may be appointed.

President of a District Committee of General Purposes

(ii) In addition to the foregoing, the Grand Superintendent of a District may, if he has appointed a District Committee of General Purposes in accordance with Regulation 36, appoint a President of that Committee.

(iii) Provided that in any District, if it shall appear to the First Grand Principal that the area of that District, the means of communication or other sufficient reason renders such a provision desirable, he may authorise the Grand Superintendent to appoint such additional District Grand Officer or Officers as he may indicate without regard to the limitation herein before stated.

Provincial or District Grand Treasurer

(d) The Provincial or District Grand Officers shall be annually appointed in the Provincial or District Grand Chapter, and shall whenever practicable be then invested together with the Provincial or District Grand Treasurer, who shall be elected annually.

(e) A Companion who has held Provincial or District Grand Rank is not hereby rendered ineligible for election as Provincial or District Grand Treasurer.

Casual vacancies

(f) Casual vacancies among acting Provincial or District Grand Officers may be filled by the Grand Superintendent.

(g) No Companion shall be appointed a Second or Third Provincial or District Grand Principal or an Assistant to the Provincial or District Grand Principals unless he be a present or past First Principal of a Chapter.

(h) A Grand Superintendent within one month of the appointment must transmit, in writing, the name and address of his Second and Third Grand Principals, to all Chapters of his Province or District, and also to the Grand Scribe E., for registration.

Appointment to past Provincial or District Grand Rank of Companions who become Members of a Provincial or District Grand Chapter

32. (a) In addition to the entitlement under Regulation 31(a), a Grand Superintendent may at his discretion appoint to past Provincial or District Grand Rank, Officers (present or past) of other Provincial or District Grand Chapters or holders of Senior London, London or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank who have become members of his Provincial or District Grand Chapter.

(b) A Grand Superintendent may also, by dispensation from the First Grand Principal, appoint to past Provincial or District Grand Rank any Companion not already qualified under sub-regulation (a) above who has rendered meritorious service to Royal Arch Masonry and has become a subscribing member of a Chapter in his Province or District, from elsewhere.

Promotions

33. A Grand Superintendent may annually at his discretion promote Provincial or District Grand Officers to any acting office or past rank that he is entitled to confer under Regulation 31(a).

Precedence of Provincial and District Grand Officers

34. Provincial or District Grand Officers present and past take precedence among themselves in the order specified in the schedule to Regulation 31(a), save that a Deputy Grand Superintendent, if appointed, ranks next after a Past Grand Superintendent, and a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent next thereafter; an Assistant to the Provincial or District Grand Principals ranks next after a Past Third Provincial or District Grand Principal, and a President of a District Committee of General Purposes present or past, ranks next before a District Grand Scribe E.

34A. With the exception of Grand Superintendents present and past, Provincial and District Grand Officers present and past can claim precedence as such only within their Province or District. They are, however, entitled to wear their regalia as defined in Regulations 88, 90, 94, 96 and 97 at all Royal Arch meetings.

By-Laws and Regulations of Provincial and District Grand Chapters

35. The Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter has the power of framing and revising suitable By-Laws for its own government, which may provide for the appointment or constitution of committees and the definition of their powers, and of making and altering regulations to be observed by the private Chapters and Companions in the Metropolitan Area, Province or District, but no such By-Law or regulation nor any revision or alteration thereof shall be in conflict with or contrary to anything contained in these Regulations nor be valid until submitted to, and approved by, the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent and the First Grand Principal.

District Committee of General Purposes

36. A Grand Superintendent in and over a District is empowered to appoint a District Committee of General Purposes to exercise and perform all such powers and duties as may be referred to it by him or as may be specified in the By-Laws of the District Grand Chapter. The By-Laws of the District Grand Chapter shall specify the composition of such committee in the event of its being appointed.

Convocations of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapters

37. A Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent shall hold an Annual Convocation of Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter at which the appointment of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officers shall be made and shall also hold such other Convocations of the Metropolitan, Provincial or

District Grand Chapter as he shall consider necessary. All such Convocations shall be held within the Metropolitan Area, Province or District unless a dispensation is granted by the First Grand Principal.

Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Chapter Funds

38. Every Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter shall have power to raise such funds from its members and Chapters as may be requisite for its purposes. A complete schedule of all such charges upon members and Chapters shall appear in the By-Laws of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter. Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Chapter Accounts and Audit

39. Regular accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter funds shall be kept in accordance with the rules laid down in the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter By-Laws. These accounts must be audited once in each year by an auditor or auditors, elected annually in Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter, who must, unless a firm of auditors recognised under the Companies Acts, be a member or members of the Order. Such accounts must be produced annually at the Convocation of the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter specified in the By-Laws for that purpose, and a copy thereof transmitted to the Chapters under the Metropolitan Area, Province or District.

General Regulation

40. The Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent in and over a Metropolitan Area, Province or District shall have in all respects not herein specifically provided the same powers and duties as are conferred upon a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master by the Book of Constitutions.

Groups of Overseas Chapters and Grand Inspectors

41. In the case of Overseas Chapters not included in any District, the First Grand Principal shall have power to divide them, or any of them, into groups and to confer upon Companions appointed by him such jurisdiction as he may think fit in respect of any such group or of any such Overseas Chapters. The First Grand Principal shall have power to alter such groups, to extend or limit such jurisdiction, and to remove any Companion so appointed, and to appoint any other Companion in his place. A Companion while holding such appointment shall be styled Grand Inspector.

OVERSEAS GRAND CHAPTER RANK

Overseas Grand Chapter Rank

42. The First Grand Principal may once a year confer the rank designated Overseas Grand Chapter Rank on Past First Principals in Chapters abroad not included in any District who are members of the Grand Chapter in accordance with Regulation 5 to a number not exceeding one for every such Chapter registered in the books of the Grand Chapter on 1 September of the preceding year. On such occasions as shall seem to him proper for Masonic celebration or otherwise, the First Grand Principal is empowered to confer Overseas Grand Chapter Rank on an additional number of qualified Companions. The First Grand Principal, to the extent that the numbers permitted to be appointed to Overseas Grand Chapter Rank under this Rule have not been exceeded, may confer the rank designated Overseas Chapter Rank on Companions in Chapters abroad not under a District who are not Installed First Principals, the holders of such rank to take precedence immediately after the Holders of Overseas Grand Chapter Rank; and any such Companion shall, in the

event that he becomes a Past First Principal and thereby a member of the Grand Chapter in accordance with Regulation 5, thereupon become a Holder of Overseas Grand Chapter Rank without the need for further appointment. The First Grand Principal may also at his discretion and without regard to the above limitation confer Overseas Grand Chapter Rank on Past First Principals in Chapters abroad not included in any District who are Officers (present or past) of Provincial or District Grand Chapters or holders of London Grand Chapter Rank. He may also annually at his discretion appoint Past First Principals who already hold Overseas or London Grand Chapter Rank, or are Past Provincial or District Grand Officers, to be holders of Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank; such Companions will thereafter be designated "Holders of Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank". The holders of such respective ranks shall be entitled, during the pleasure of the First Grand Principal, to wear at all Royal Arch meetings the distinctive regalia prescribed under Regulations 85, 87, 94, 96 and 97, but can claim precedence as such only within the Chapters in which Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank, Overseas Grand Chapter Rank and Overseas Chapter Rank are conferred. A registration fee, as laid down in Regulation 98, shall be payable by each Companion upon whom Overseas Grand Chapter Rank or Overseas Chapter Rank is conferred.

Petition for Charter for New Chapter

43. Every application for a Charter to hold a new Chapter must be by petition to the First Grand Principal, signed by not less than nine Royal Arch Masons regularly registered under the Constitution of the Supreme Grand Chapter. Provided that in the case of petitions for Chapters to meet in Districts or abroad not within the territory of any District Grand Chapter, it shall suffice if at least five-ninths in number of the signatories are Companions so registered, but no Companion not so registered shall sign the petition unless he shall have been exalted in a recognised Chapter, and shall at the same time promise in writing strict obedience to the First Grand Principal and to the regulations of the Grand Chapter. The petition must specify every Chapter to which each signatory belongs and every Chapter to which he has at any time belonged, and in respect of each of the signatories must be accompanied by a certificate from every such Chapter giving the information required by Regulation 70.

To such petition must be added a recommendation either

(a) signed in open Lodge by the Master and Wardens of the regular Lodge under the Grand Lodge to which the proposed Chapter is to be attached with the approval of a majority of the members then present; or

(b) signed in open Chapter by the Principals of a regular Chapter under the Grand Chapter with the approval of a majority of the members then present;

and in either case notice that the petition is to be submitted for approval must have been given on the summons convening the meeting at which it is to be considered. The petition must then be transmitted to the Grand Scribe E. for submission to the First Grand Principal, provided that if the Chapter is proposed to be holden in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the petition with the certificates and recommendation is in the first instance to

be forwarded to the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent who is to transmit the same with his observations thereon to the Grand Scribe E.

Form of Petition for Charter

44. The following is the form of petition for a Charter to hold a new Chapter:

**‘TO THE M.E. THE FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL OF THE SUPREME
GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND**

WE, the undersigned, being regularly registered Royal Arch Masons of the Chapters mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the art; and are desirous of forming a new Chapter [to be attached to the

Lodge No. meeting at]*

In consequence of this desire, we pray for a Charter of Constitution empowering us to form and hold a regular Royal Arch Chapter, to be named the “

Chapter” to meet at _____ on the _____
in the months of _____

and there to discharge the duties of Royal Arch Masonry in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the Order and the laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter; and we have nominated and do recommend:

Comp. (AB) († of Chapter No.) to be the
First Principal;

Comp. (CD) († of Chapter No.) to be the
Second Principal; and

Comp. (EF) († of Chapter No.) to be the
Third Principal.

* These words to be omitted if the proposed Chapter is recommended by another Chapter.

Should the prayer of this petition be granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the First Grand Principal and the regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter.’

To this petition must be added the names of the petitioners and such particulars as are required by the form currently approved by the Committee of General Purposes which may be obtained on application to the Grand Scribe E. or to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Scribe E.

Precedence of Chapters

45. Save when the petition for its Charter shall have been recommended by a Chapter, every Chapter shall, except as provided elsewhere in this Regulation, be attached to a regular Lodge, and the rank or precedence of the several Chapters shall be determined according to the number they respectively bear on the register of the Grand Chapter.

Transfer of Chapters

If the Lodge to which a Chapter is attached is erased the Chapter may be transferred to another Lodge at the request of the members of the Chapter and with the approval of such other Lodge, but shall otherwise retain its existing name and number. A Chapter may at the request of its own members and with the approval of the Lodges concerned be transferred from one Lodge to another. In the case of a Chapter not included in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District such request for transfer must be sent to the Grand Scribe E. for submission to the First Grand Principal. In the case of a Chapter in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the request must be sent through the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent. The approval of First Grand Principal must be received before the transfer becomes effective and any Chapter thus transferred shall take the

† Insert as appropriate “First Principal”, “Past First Principal”, “Second Principal”, “Past Second Principal”, “Third Principal”, “Past Third Principal” or “has served for a full year in the office of” [whichever is appropriate] “Scribe/Principal Sojourner/Assistant Sojourner”

number and, unless the First Grand Principal shall decide otherwise, the name of the Lodge to which it is transferred. Not more than one Chapter may be attached to any one Lodge at the same time.

Certificate of Amalgamation

45A. If two or more Chapters desire to amalgamate into a single Chapter, the First Grand Principal may at his discretion and upon such conditions as he shall see fit grant a Certificate of Amalgamation.

New Chapter must be regularly Constituted

46. No new Chapter shall be entitled to meet until it has been solemnly constituted according to ancient usage by one of the Grand Principals, by the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District, or by some other Grand Officer or Installed First Principal of a Chapter appointed to perform that duty. No Companion shall be installed as Principal except the Companion named in the Charter for such office unless by sanction of the Grand Chapter. No Chapter shall be acknowledged, nor its Principals admitted as such into the Grand Chapter, or a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter, unless such Chapter has been regularly constituted and registered.

Chapter not to act without Charter

47. Except as provided in this regulation, no Chapter may meet without a Charter of Constitution from the Grand Chapter or the First Grand Principal (as the case may be) which is to be specially entrusted to each First Principal at his installation, to be held by him in safe custody on behalf of the First Grand Principal, whose property it is. The First Principal shall produce it at every meeting of the Chapter.

Charter lost or withheld

If a Charter be lost or improperly withheld from those lawfully entitled to hold or use the same, or withheld by competent Masonic authority, the Chapter must suspend its meetings until a Charter of Confirmation has been applied for and granted by the First Grand Principal, or until the Charter so lost or withheld be found or restored, in which case the Charter of Confirmation, if any, shall be returned forthwith to the First Grand Principal.

Officers and Members of a Chapter

48. According to ancient custom a complete Chapter of this Order of Freemasonry consists of the Three Principals who, when in Chapter assembled are to be considered conjointly as the Master, and each severally as a Master, two Scribes, a Treasurer, a Principal Sojourner, two Assistant Sojourners, and other companions, making up the number of 72 as a Council: and no regular Chapter can consist of more; but any number may be elected, exalted and received as Companions with all the privileges of membership save that they are not to hold the staff of office or to be considered as Councillors when more than 72 are present.

In addition to the above Officers, a Director of Ceremonies, an Almoner, a Charity Steward, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Organist, an Assistant Scribe E. and Stewards may be elected or appointed as the case may be.

Mode of election or appointment

The Officers shall be elected by ballot on the regular day of election prescribed by the By-Laws of the Chapter, provided that, except for the Principals and Treasurer who must be elected, it shall be in order for the Chapter on the day of election to resolve that

they may be appointed by the Principals so elected. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Principals shall be of the opinion that in the case of any Officer who falls to be elected by ballot in accordance with this Regulation there is only one Companion who is likely to be a candidate for election to the Office, they may direct that the summons for the Convocation at which the election is to take place shall state that such is their opinion (together with the name of the Companion concerned), and that unless any member of the Chapter demands that a ballot be taken for the Office, the named candidate will be declared elected; when the election of Officers takes place any candidate so named on the summons shall be declared elected unless a ballot be demanded for that Officer. The installation of the Principals, if present, shall take place in accordance with the By-Laws of the Chapter and shall be followed by the investiture of the Officers. Any Principal not so installed shall be installed at the next Convocation of the Chapter at which he may be present or as provided by Regulation 53.

Precedence of Officers

The Officers shall take precedence for investiture and otherwise in the following order: the Three Principals, the Scribe E., the Scribe N., the Treasurer, the Director of Ceremonies (if any), the Almoner (if any), the Charity Steward (if any), the Principal Sojourner, the Assistant Sojourners, the Assistant Director of Ceremonies (if any), the Organist (if any), the Assistant Scribe E. (if any), Stewards (if any) and Janitor.

Janitor

The Janitor, who must be a Royal Arch Mason registered as such in the books of the Grand Chapter, shall be elected by show of hands on the regular day of election. A Chapter may, however, resolve that a subscribing member of the Chapter shall be Janitor without

emolument, in which case he may be either elected or appointed as in the case of the other Officers.

No Companion who is not a subscribing member of the Chapter may hold any office therein except that of Janitor. A Chapter in its By-Laws may provide that the service of its Scribe E. be equivalent to the appropriate subscription to the Chapter but shall remit to the Grand Chapter and to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter the requisite payments due in respect of his membership of the Chapter.

Qualification for election as Third Principal

49. No Companion shall be eligible for election to the Third Principal's Chair unless he has served the office of Scribe, Principal Sojourner or Assistant Sojourner of a private Chapter either for a full year or from the regular period of election or appointment to such office to the period of election as Principal, provided that the First Grand Principal may grant dispensation from compliance with this Regulation on receipt of a petition setting forth the circumstances of the case and the special reasons for seeking his intervention.

Qualification for election as Second Principal

50. No Companion shall be eligible for election to the Second Principal's Chair who has not at the time of such election been installed in the Third Principal's Chair, nor until a full period of one year has elapsed since his election as Third Principal.

Qualification for election as First Principal

No Companion shall be eligible for election to the First Principal's Chair who has not at the time of such election been installed in the Second Principal's Chair, nor until a full period of one year has elapsed since his election as Second Principal.

The First Grand Principal, Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent may, however, grant dispensation from the observance of this Regulation on receipt of a petition setting forth the circumstances and the special reasons. But in such case a Companion shall not be installed in the First Principal's Chair without having been previously installed in the Second and Third Principal's Chairs, nor in the Second Principal's Chair without having been previously installed in the Third Principal's Chair.

Principals' periods of office

51. No Companion shall continue as First, Second or Third Principal of the same Chapter for more than two years in succession unless by a dispensation which may be granted by the First Grand Principal, or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District by the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent, but he may again be elected after he has been out of office one year.

First Principal of more than one Chapter at same time

52. No Companion shall be First Principal of two or more Chapters at the same time without dispensation from the First Grand Principal, or, if the Chapters are in the same Metropolitan Area, Province or District, from the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent.

Installation of Principal

53. A Principal of a Chapter in the Provinces or Overseas may be installed out of his Chapter upon production of sufficient proof of his having been duly elected and at the written request of his Chapter.

Death of Principals and other contingencies

54. If any Principal elect shall die, be removed or become permanently incapable of discharging the duties of the office, the Chapter shall at the next regular convocation elect by ballot a Principal to take his place from among the qualified Companions, if any, not

already serving in or elected to a regular office which expression shall include that of Principal. If there is no such Companion a dispensation may be granted by the First Grand Principal, Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent to render eligible a Companion already holding or elected to a regular office.

Due notice of such intended election shall appear on the summons and the Principal so elected may be installed forthwith and any Second or Third Principal so elected and installed, shall, provided he serves the office until the next regular period of election, be deemed duly qualified for election as First or Second Principal as the case may be, notwithstanding less than one year may have elapsed since his election under this Rule.

Regulation 5 shall apply to every First Principal elected under this Regulation as if the period of one year therein mentioned were the period from the date of his being so elected to the date of the next regular period of installation in the Chapter.

If any Principal shall after installation die, be removed or become permanently incapable of discharging the duties of his office then at each convocation until the next regular period of election and until a successor shall have been duly elected and installed his place shall be filled pursuant to Regulation 55 as if he were still alive and in office but absent.

Absence of First Principal

55. If the First Principal be not present, the Immediate Past First Principal, or if he be not present, the Senior Past First Principal of the Chapter, or if no Past First Principal of the Chapter be present, the Senior Past First Principal who is a subscribing member of the Chapter shall occupy the First Principal's Chair.

Absence of Second and Third Principals

If the Second or Third Principal be not present, the First Principal, or the Past First Principal occupying the Chair for him, shall invite a qualified Companion to occupy such Principal's Chair.

Vacancies in regular offices

At each convocation held during a vacancy in any other office except that of Treasurer or at which any other officer except as aforesaid is not present the Principals shall nominate a Companion to act in that office.

Devolution of authority by Principals

56. If the Principals' absence be only temporary and circumstances so permit they may exercise such authority over the affairs of the Chapter as devolves upon them by virtue of their office and in pursuance of such authority may request duly qualified Companions to occupy the Chairs and exalt Companions as if they were themselves present.

Vacancy in office of Treasurer

57. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of Treasurer the same shall be filled for the remainder of the year by the election of a member not serving in or elected to a regular office in the Chapter, which expression shall include that of Principal, and notice that such election is to be made shall appear on the summons.

Protracted absence of Treasurer

The First Grand Principal, Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent may upon the representation of the Principals that the Treasurer by reason of ill health, absence likely to be protracted, or other special circumstances, is unable to discharge his duties to the reasonable convenience of the Chapter, grant a dispensation to the Chapter to elect a member not serving in or

elected to a regular office in the Chapter including as aforesaid to discharge the duties of the Treasurer until the Treasurer is able to resume the normal discharge of his duties or until the next regular period of election, whichever shall first occur.

Ten days' notice of intention to propose such an election together with a statement that the requisite dispensation has been obtained must appear on the summons for the convocation at which the election is to take place and such convocation may be either an ordinary convocation or an emergency convocation called by the authority of the Principals pursuant to Regulation 59.

Days and place of meeting

58. The By-Laws of every Chapter shall specify the regular days and place of meeting of the Chapter, also the regular convocation for the election of the Principals and the officers and for their installation and investiture where such installation and investiture do not take place on the same date as their election.

No regular convocation may be cancelled nor may any convocation be held otherwise than at the specified place and on the specified day. But the First Grand Principal, or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent, may on good cause being shown grant a dispensation for the holding of such convocation on an alternative day being not more than twenty-eight days before nor more than twenty-eight days after the specified day. If any convocation of a Chapter at its regular place should be impracticable or undesirable the First Grand Principal, or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent, may grant a dispensation to meet at a specified place to carry on the general business of the Chapter, and if the specified place be outside the area of jurisdiction in which the Chapter regularly meets a dispensation from each of the authorities concerned is necessary.

Emergency Convocations

59. Not more than one convocation of a Chapter may be held on the same day, but, subject to this restriction, an emergency convocation of a Chapter may at any time be called by the authority of the Principals, but on no pretence without such authority. No business (other than the installation of a Principal) which these Regulations require to be transacted at a regular convocation shall be transacted at an emergency convocation, and the business to be transacted thereat shall not include any business whatsoever except such as is mentioned on the summons convening the convocation nor shall the minutes of any previous convocation be read or confirmed at an emergency convocation except in so far as any such minutes relate to or affect the validity of the business so mentioned.

Annual Installation Returns

60. Every Chapter, by its Scribe E., shall annually, immediately after the Installation of the Principals, make a return to the Grand Scribe E. (upon a printed form which he will provide) of the Principals and Past First Principals of the Chapter, and all other members who claim to be entitled to attend the Grand Chapter, specifying the Chapter in which each has served the office of First Principal and no Companion shall be permitted to attend the Grand Chapter unless his name shall appear on such return. This return shall contain the full name and address of the Scribe E. and shall be signed by the First Principal.

**Until the Committee of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Regulation (above) will continue to apply.*

60. Every Chapter, by its Scribe E., shall annually, immediately after the Installation of the Principals, make a return to the Grand Scribe E. of the Principals and Past First Principals of the Chapter, and all other members who claim to be entitled to attend the Grand Chapter, specifying the Chapter in which each has served the office

of First Principal and no Companion shall be permitted to attend the Grand Chapter unless his name shall appear on such return. This return shall contain the full names and contact details (which shall, at least in the case of the First Principal, Treasurer and Scribe E., include an e-mail address) of the Principals and all other Officers appointed, and shall be authenticated by the First Principal.

**The above and amended Regulation has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, Essex, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, Guernsey and Alderney, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales and Wiltshire.*

Annual Return of Members

61. Every Chapter, by its Scribe E., shall within one month after the end of its subscription year, if the Chapter meets in a Metropolitan Area or in a Province, or three months after the end of its subscription year, if the Chapter meets elsewhere, transmit to the Grand Scribe E, upon a printed form which he will provide, an annual return of the Companions who were during such year its subscribing members.

The date of exaltation, joining or rejoining of every new member shall be given together with the date of election to Honorary Membership, death, resignation or exclusion of any subscribing members whose membership has ceased during the year.

Registration of new members

Subject to Regulation 69 every Chapter, by its Scribe E., shall register with the Grand Scribe E. (upon a printed form which he will provide) details of all Companions who have been exalted into, joined or rejoined the Chapter. All such registrations shall be made as soon as may be convenient, but in no case later than the time when the aforementioned annual return is rendered. Such returns and forms shall be signed by the First Principal and the Scribe E. It shall be the

duty of every Chapter to keep a register of its subscribing members and to enter therein all the particulars required to be specified in these returns and forms.

**Until the Committee of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Regulation (above) will continue to apply.*

61. Every Chapter, by its Scribe E., shall within one month after the end of its subscription year transmit to the Grand Scribe E, in such format as the Committee of General Purposes shall from time to time prescribe, an annual return of the Companions who were during such year its subscribing and Honorary members.

The date of exaltation, joining or rejoining of every new member shall be given together with the date of election to Honorary Membership, death, resignation or exclusion of any members whose membership has ceased during the year. Such returns shall be authenticated by the Treasurer and the Scribe E.

Registration of new members

Subject to Regulation 69 every Chapter, by its Scribe E., shall register with the Grand Scribe E. details of all Companions who have been exalted into, joined or rejoined the Chapter. All such registrations shall be made as soon as may be convenient, but in no case later than the time when the aforementioned annual return is rendered. It shall be the duty of every Chapter to keep up to date the information in the register maintained by the Grand Scribe E. of its subscribing and Honorary members and to enter therein all the particulars required in this Regulation.

**The above and amended Regulation has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, Essex, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, Guernsey and Alderney, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales and Wiltshire.*

Remittance of fees

62. Every Chapter when it makes the returns required by the preceding Regulation shall remit the proper fees and annual contribution in respect of its members, as laid down in the schedule of Regulation 98.

Returns by Chapters in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District

63. If a Chapter be in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District it shall make such returns as are required by the By-Laws of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District and shall forward the prescribed fees and contributions to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Scribe E.

Penalty for neglect to make returns

64. If any Chapter shall neglect to make its returns and payments to the Grand Chapter for a period of six months after the same are due according to these Regulations it shall be liable to erasure or such lesser penalty as the Committee of General Purposes may consider fit to impose upon the Chapter or any members thereof who have been responsible for the neglect. The Principals and Past First Principals shall not be permitted to attend Grand Chapter by virtue of a qualification derived from the Chapter until the proper returns and payments have been made to the Grand Chapter.

Qualifications for exaltation

65. No candidate shall be exalted until he has been a Master Mason for four weeks at least.

Number of candidates on same day limited

No Chapter shall exalt more than two candidates on the same day unless by dispensation from the First Grand Principal, or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District from the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent. The application for such dispensation shall specify the names and Lodges of the candidates and the special circumstances on which the application is made.

Candidates

66. Candidates for admission into a Chapter must be duly proposed and seconded by subscribing members of the Chapter or by Honorary Members who have served as First Principal of the Chapter, to whom the candidate is known personally. Such proposition may take place either at a regular convocation or by notice in writing transmitted by the proposer to the Scribe E. at least fourteen days before the next convocation. But no ballot shall take place unless the full name of the candidate, with his occupation (if any) and place of abode as well as the names of his proposer and seconder shall have appeared on the summons to the members of the Chapter. In the case of a candidate for exaltation the name and number of every Lodge of which he is or has been a member and the date on which he was raised and in the case of a candidate for joining the name and number of every Chapter of which he is or has been a member shall be shown on the summons.

Certificate to be produced

In the case of a candidate for exaltation there must be produced a certificate from every Lodge of which he is or has been a member drawn up in accordance with Rule 175, Book of Constitutions, and in the case of a candidate for joining or rejoining there must be produced a certificate from every Chapter of which he is or has been a member drawn up in accordance with Regulation 70.

No candidate for exaltation, joining or rejoining shall be admitted if on the ballot three black balls appear against him, but the By-Laws of a Chapter may enact that two black balls or one black ball shall exclude a candidate; and the By-Laws may enact that a reasonable period therein prescribed shall elapse before any rejected candidate can be proposed again. If a candidate is not exalted or does not take up his joining membership (as the case may be) within one year after his election the election shall be void. Except in the case of a Serving Companion or as provided in Regulation 66A every candidate becomes a subscribing member of the Chapter upon exaltation therein.

**Until the Committee of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Regulation (above) will continue to apply.*

66. Candidates for admission into a Chapter must be duly proposed and seconded by subscribing members of the Chapter or by Honorary Members who have served as First Principal of the Chapter, to whom the candidate is known personally. Such proposition may take place either at a regular convocation or by notice transmitted by the proposer to the Scribe E. at least fourteen days before the next convocation. For this purpose the candidate and his proposer and seconder shall supply such information, and in such format, as may from time to time be prescribed by the Committee of General Purposes. But no ballot shall take place unless the full name of the candidate, with his occupation (if any) and place of abode as well as the names of his proposer and seconder shall have appeared on the summons to the members of the Chapter. In the case of a candidate for exaltation the name and number of every Lodge of which he is or has been a member and the date on which he was raised and in the case of a candidate for joining the name and number of every Chapter of which he is or has been a member shall be shown on the summons.

In the case of a candidate for exaltation the Scribe E. must satisfy himself that the candidate is in good standing in each of the Lodges of which he is a member and that all dues have been paid; he must also ascertain whether the candidate is indebted to any Lodge of which he has ceased to be a member and (unless he shall have resigned in good standing) the circumstances in which he left such Lodge, and whether at that time all dues were paid, or have since been paid. In the case of a candidate for joining or rejoining the Scribe E. must satisfy himself similarly in respect of every Chapter of which the candidate is or has been a member.

No candidate for exaltation, joining or rejoining shall be admitted if on the ballot three black balls appear against him, but the By-Laws of a Chapter may enact that two black balls or one black ball shall exclude a candidate; and the By-Laws may enact that a reasonable period therein prescribed shall elapse before any rejected candidate can be proposed again. If a candidate is not exalted

or does not take up his joining membership (as the case may be) within one year after his election the election shall be void. Except in the case of a Serving Companion or as provided in Regulation 66A every candidate becomes a subscribing member of the Chapter upon exaltation therein.

**The above and amended Regulation has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, Essex, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, Guernsey and Alderney, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales and Wiltshire.*

66A. Every candidate for exaltation, joining or rejoining must both at the date of his election and the date of his exaltation or admission be a subscribing member of (a) a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England or (b) a Lodge under a Grand Lodge recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England (“a recognised Grand Lodge”). Any candidate exalted or, except in the case of a Companion who is already a subscribing member of another Chapter under the Grand Chapter, elected in contravention of this Regulation shall not be permitted to attend the Chapter to which he was elected or any other Chapter under the Grand Chapter until he shall have again become a subscribing member of (a) a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England or (b) a Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge.

66B. This Regulation 66B shall come into effect on 31 December 2016 and shall apply only in respect of events occurring on or after that date, so that the position of any Companion who would have fallen within its provisions if it had been in effect on an earlier date shall not be adversely affected by it.

A Companion who has at any time been a subscribing member of a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England who shall have ceased by reason of an event occurring on or after the aforementioned date to be a subscribing member of every such Lodge to which he

belongs shall, unless he is (a) an Honorary Member of a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England or (b) a subscribing member of a Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge, cease also on the date or dates mentioned below (“the effective date(s)”) to be a subscribing member of each Chapter to which he belongs, unless in the meantime he shall have again become a subscribing member of a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England. In the case of each such Chapter he shall be treated as though he has resigned from that Chapter, unless at the effective date he is indebted to that Chapter, in which case he shall be treated as though he has been excluded under Regulation 71. The effective date shall be the end of the next subscription year after he ceases to be a subscribing member of every Lodge to which he belongs under the United Grand Lodge of England.

Nothing in this Regulation shall preclude the attendance of a Companion at any Chapter of which he is an Honorary Member.

Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter certificates to be produced

67. Every candidate, either for exaltation or joining, who is a member of a Lodge or Chapter under the English Constitution shall, before election, submit his Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter certificate to the Scribe E. of the Chapter for inspection. In the case of a candidate who is a member only of a Lodge or Chapter not under the English Constitution, the certificate of the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter concerned shall be submitted to the Grand Scribe E. for inspection, unless the candidate seeks election to a Chapter under a District Grand Chapter and is a member of a Lodge or Chapter under a duly recognised Constitution having Lodges or Chapters within the District; in which case his certificate from such other duly recognised Constitution may in lieu of being sent to the Grand Scribe E. be submitted to the District Grand Scribe E. In no case shall a candidate from any other Constitution be proposed for election until a certificate that he is eligible has been issued by the Grand Scribe E., or District Grand Scribe E., as the case may be, which certificate must accompany the registration return.

Form of Declaration

Every candidate who has been exalted in a regular Chapter not under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England shall upon election or within one year after his election, and before being admitted for the first time as a member of the Chapter, make the following declaration:

‘I, exalted in the Chapter, No on the Register of the Grand Chapter of do solemnly promise that if I am admitted a member of this Chapter I will pay strict obedience to the commands of the First Grand Principal and the regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter.’

The declaration shall be made in the Chapter which the Companion is joining or in some other Chapter under the Grand Chapter, or in writing witnessed by a Companion, who shall state the name, number and jurisdiction (which must be a Grand Chapter recognised by the Grand Chapter) of the Chapter to which he himself belongs. The declaration validates the election retrospectively and must be recorded in the Chapter minutes.

Candidates joining from other Constitutions or upon exaltation, if not in possession of a current edition of the General Regulations, must be presented with a copy. In the case of an exalte the acceptance or possession thereof shall be deemed a declaration of submission to its contents.

**Until the Committee of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Regulation (above) will continue to apply.*

67. Every candidate, either for exaltation or joining, who is a member of a Lodge or Chapter under the English Constitution shall, before election, submit his Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter certificate to the Scribe E. of the Chapter for inspection. In the case of a candidate who is a member only of a Lodge or Chapter not under the English Constitution, the certificate of the Grand Lodge or Grand

Chapter concerned shall be submitted to the Grand Scribe E. for inspection, unless the candidate seeks election to a Chapter under a District Grand Chapter and is a member of a Lodge or Chapter under a duly recognised Constitution having Lodges or Chapters within the District; in which case his certificate from such other duly recognised Constitution may in lieu of being sent to the Grand Scribe E. be submitted to the District Grand Scribe E. In no case shall a candidate from any other Constitution be proposed for election until a certificate that he is eligible has been issued by the Grand Scribe E., or District Grand Scribe E., as the case may be, which certificate must accompany the registration return.

Form of Declaration

Every candidate who has been exalted in a regular Chapter not under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England shall before election, upon election or within one year after his election, and before being admitted for the first time as a member of the Chapter, make the following declaration:

‘I, exalted in the Chapter, No on the Register of the Grand Chapter of do solemnly promise that if I am admitted a member of this Chapter I will pay strict obedience to the commands of the First Grand Principal and the regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter.’

The declaration shall be made in the Chapter which the Companion is joining or in some other Chapter under the Grand Chapter, or in writing witnessed by a Companion, who shall state the name, number and jurisdiction (which must be a Grand Chapter recognised by the Grand Chapter) of the Chapter to which he himself belongs. The declaration validates the election retrospectively and must be recorded in the Chapter minutes.

Candidates joining from other Constitutions or upon exaltation, if not in possession of a current edition of the General Regulations, must be presented with a copy. In the case of an exalte the acceptance or possession thereof shall be deemed a declaration of submission to its contents.

**The above and amended Regulation has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, Essex, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, Guernsey and Alderney, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales and Wiltshire.*

Fee for Exaltation

68. When a Brother is exalted into Royal Arch Masonry (except as provided hereafter by this Regulation) he shall on or before the day of his exaltation pay to the Chapter the exaltation fee prescribed in the By-Laws. No Chapter shall forgo or defer the payment of this sum or any part thereof.

A Chapter may enact in its By-Laws that, in addition to the exaltation, joining or rejoining fees the candidate shall pay to the Chapter such registration fees as are payable to Grand Chapter and, if applicable, Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter, together with any tax thereon, and the candidate shall before becoming a member be informed of the total amount due.

Exaltation and status of Serving Companions

A Brother may be exalted as a Serving Companion without any fee by the Chapter in which he is to serve or by any Chapter for the service of the Grand Chapter or a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter, subject to a dispensation first being obtained from the First Grand Principal, or in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District from the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Grand Superintendent.

Upon the first registration of a Serving Companion as a joining member of a Chapter the registration fee prescribed by Regulation 98 for exaltation shall be paid by such Chapter, and the Companion shall be entitled to return the special Grand Chapter certificate in exchange for a Grand Chapter certificate of the same date as his original certificate.

Grand Chapter certificates

69. When the particulars of a newly exalted Companion or of a Companion who has joined the Chapter from another Constitution have been registered in accordance with Regulation 61 the Grand Scribe E. shall issue a Grand Chapter certificate, provided always that no Grand Chapter Certificate shall be issued in respect of a Companion exalted, or elected a joining member from another Constitution, in breach of Regulation 66A until he shall have again become a subscribing member of (a) a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England or (b) a Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge.

In Districts where the Grand Superintendent is entitled to order the issue of Grand Chapter certificates the particulars shall be sent to the District Grand Scribe E. who shall thereupon issue the certificate and quarterly make a return to the Grand Scribe E. of all certificates so issued. In such cases the particulars required for registration shall be included with the annual return rendered to the Grand Scribe E. on the form which is provided by him.

**Until the Committee of General Purposes has given a direction in relation to any particular area, the current Regulation (above) will continue to apply.*

69. When the particulars of a newly exalted Companion or of a Companion who has joined the Chapter from another Constitution have been registered in accordance with Regulation 61 the Grand Scribe E. shall issue a Grand Chapter certificate, provided always that no Grand Chapter Certificate shall be issued in respect of a Companion exalted, or elected a joining member from another Constitution, in breach of Regulation 66A until he shall have again

become a subscribing member of (a) a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England or (b) a Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge.

In Districts where a Grand Superintendent is entitled to order the issue of Grand Chapter certificates the particulars shall be sent to the District Grand Scribe E. who shall thereupon issue the certificate and quarterly make a return to the Grand Scribe E. of all certificates so issued. In such cases the particulars required for registration shall be included with the annual return rendered to the Grand Scribe E. on the form which is provided by him.

**The above and amended Regulation has been applied to the following area(s): Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cyprus, Derbyshire, Dorset, Eastern Archipelago, Essex, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, Guernsey and Alderney, Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and the Far East, Isle of Man, Jersey, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Wales and Wiltshire.*

Presentation of certificate

A Companion's Grand Chapter certificate shall be presented to him in open Chapter and the fact recorded in the minutes except that in cases where this cannot be done the certificate shall be sent to him by registered post or delivered to him by hand and the fact shall be reported to the Chapter at its next regular convocation and recorded in the minutes.

Certificate must be signed

A Grand Chapter certificate must immediately on receipt be signed in the margin by the Companion to whom it is issued.

Lost certificate

If a certificate has been lost or destroyed, of which satisfactory proof must be adduced, the Grand Scribe E. or the District Grand Scribe E., as the case may be, may issue a replacement to the Companion to whom the original was issued upon payment of the fee prescribed in Regulation 98.

Grants of certificates by private Chapters

70. A Chapter shall grant a certificate free of charge to a Companion whenever required by him in each of the following cases:

(a) When he is a member of the Chapter, a certificate to that effect and stating (if such be the case) that he is not indebted to the Chapter, and

(b) When he has been and is no longer a member of the Chapter, a certificate stating whether he ceased to be a member by resignation or by exclusion, giving the date and circumstances thereof, and stating whether he was at the time indebted to the Chapter and, if so, whether and at what time such indebtedness was discharged by him.

The certificate shall be dated and, unless handed to the Companion himself, shall be transmitted by registered post, the envelope being plainly marked on the outside, 'Private and Confidential'.

Except as provided by this Regulation a Chapter shall not grant a certificate of any kind to a Companion.

Cessation of membership when two years in arrear

71. If the subscription of a member to his Chapter remains unpaid for two full years, at the expiration of that period he shall cease to be a member of the Chapter and the fact shall be reported to the Chapter at its next regular convocation and recorded in the minutes. He can become a member again only by payment of the arrears followed by regular proposition and ballot according to Regulation 66.

This Regulation shall not prevent any Chapter proceeding against any of its members in accordance with Rule 181, Book of Constitutions, in respect of sums due for a shorter period than two years, if so provided in its By-Laws.

Effect of suspension in Craft

72. All sentences of suspension from Craft privileges passed by the Grand Lodge or any other competent authority in the Craft on a Brother who is a Royal Arch Mason shall, unless such authority declares to the contrary, suspend such Companion from the equivalent privilege in Royal Arch Masonry.

All sentences of expulsion by the Grand Lodge shall *ipso facto* expel from Royal Arch Masonry.

General

73. In all cases for which special provision is not made herein the Rules of the Book of Constitutions applying to Private Lodges shall apply to Private Chapters.

CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION

74. Chapters of Instruction may be held under regulations similar to those which are laid down in the Book of Constitutions for the government of Lodges of Instruction.

COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES

Constitution of Committee

75. The Committee shall consist of the President, the Grand Treasurer and not more than five additional members appointed by the First Grand Principal of whom two shall be Grand Superintendents and one a Past First Principal of a Chapter in a Metropolitan Area. The additional members shall be appointed from time to time by the First Grand Principal to serve during his pleasure.

The Committee may from time to time co-opt not more than three further members to serve until the conclusion of the next Annual Investiture (or such earlier date as the Committee may determine at the time of co-opting).

Qualification of Members

The Companions so appointed or co-opted shall be First Principals or Past First Principals eligible to attend Grand Chapter under Regulation 5.

An additional member of the Committee shall automatically retire at the conclusion of the Annual Investiture immediately following the attainment by him of the age of seventy-five years and shall not, thereafter, be eligible to be reappointed to the Committee.

Casual Vacancies

Casual vacancies may be filled by the First Grand Principal.

Meetings

76. The Committee shall meet in each of the months of March, September and December, the dates of the meetings for each

forthcoming year being notified in the Committee's Report to the November Convocation of the Grand Chapter. It may be convened at other times by command of the First Grand Principal or by authority of the President.

Quorum

77. Three members shall form a quorum.

Absence of President

78. In the absence of the President the member highest in rank in the Grand Chapter shall preside.

Control of Finance

79. The Committee shall have the control of the finances of the Grand Chapter.

Audit

The accounts shall be closed each year as at the 31st December and shall be audited by the firm of auditors elected by Grand Lodge. These accounts when audited shall be circulated to every Chapter and presented to the Grand Chapter at the Annual Investiture next following.

Application for Charters

80. The Committee shall receive and examine all applications for Charters and shall report thereon to the Grand Chapter.

General duties and powers

81. In addition to the aforesaid duties imposed upon the Committee the Committee shall take upon itself the same duties, and shall have the same powers in relation to Royal Arch Masonry as are conferred upon the Board of General Purposes by the Book of Constitutions in relation to the Craft: and the proceedings of the Committee shall be regulated as closely as possible by the rules laid down for the proceedings of that Board.

REGALIA

Clothing and Insignia

82. The regalia, clothing, insignia and jewels to be worn are as hereinafter described and no Companion shall be admitted into the Grand Chapter, or any Private Chapter, without the clothing appropriate to his rank under the Grand Chapter.

Appendix

83. The Appendix of illustrations and descriptions is hereby declared to be part of the General Regulations.

Unauthorised Regalia

84. No Masonic Jewel, medal, device or emblem shall be worn in the Grand Chapter or any Private Chapter unless it appertains to, or is consistent with, an order or degree recognised and acknowledged by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Chapter as part of pure Antient Masonry, and has been approved or allowed by the First Grand Principal.

JEWELS

Jewel of the Order

85. The Jewel of the Order (Plate No. 46) is worn pendant from a narrow ribbon on the left breast, the colour varying in accordance with the rank of the Companion:

(a) Present and Past Grand Officers, Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Officers and holders of Metropolitan and Overseas Rank, if Installed Principals, and holders of Metropolitan and Overseas Grand Chapter Rank, tri-coloured (dark blue, crimson and light blue).

(b) All others who are Principals or Past Principals of Private Chapters, crimson.

(c) All other Companions, white.

Colours associated with Royal Arch

The three colours customarily associated with the Royal Arch are purple, crimson and light blue but by long established usage dark blue has been substituted for purple in the manufacture of regalia.

Grand Officers Present and Past

86. The jewels of office of the Three Grand Principals and of Grand Superintendents are as shown in Plates Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. These jewels may be worn suspended from a tri-coloured collarette with Craft regalia.

The jewels of office of the other officers of the Grand Chapter are composed of an emblem of office which is superimposed upon a triangle, the whole placed on a double circle containing two branches of laurel. The whole shall be not more than three inches in diameter (Plates Nos. 6 to 23).

The jewel of a Past Grand Superintendent is composed of the emblem of his former office placed on a double circle enclosing a plate bearing the name of the Province or District concerned.

The jewel of a Past Grand Officer is composed of the emblem of his office superimposed upon a triangle, the whole placed on a double circle enclosing a plate bearing the words 'Supreme Grand Chapter'. The whole shall be not more than two inches in diameter (Plate No. 24).

Metropolitan and Overseas Grand Chapter Rank

87. The jewels of the holders of Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank and Metropolitan or Overseas Chapter Rank are as shown in Plate No. 25, and shall be not more than two inches in diameter.

The jewels of the holders of Senior Metropolitan or Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank are shown in Plate No. 26, and shall be not more than two inches in diameter.

Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand officers Present and Past

88. The jewel of office of a Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Deputy Grand Superintendent, Present and Past, is shown in Plate No. 26A.

The jewel of office of an Assistant to the Provincial or District Principals, Present and Past, is shown in Plate No. 28B.

The jewel of office of an Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, Present and Past, is shown in Plate No. 26C.

The jewels of office of the remaining Provincial and District Grand Officers, Present and Past, are composed of an emblem of office superimposed upon a triangle and a double circle bearing the name of the Province or District without further ornament (Plates Nos. 27, 28, 29 and 30). These emblems are the same as those worn by the corresponding Officers of the Grand Chapter, except those of such Provincial or District Grand Officers as are described in Plate Nos. 30b, 30c, 30d, 30e and 30f.

Save as otherwise provided above, the jewels of present Metropolitan Grand Officers are similar to those of present Provincial and District Grand Officers, save that the name of the Metropolitan Area is to be engraved within the double circle, and the emblems are the same except that of a Metropolitan Grand Inspector which is similar to that of a Grand Inspector as described in Plate No. 11, and that of a Metropolitan Assistant Grand Inspector which is described in Plate No. 30a.

A Past Metropolitan Grand Officer, other than a Past Metropolitan Grand Steward, appointed after 31 December 2021, may wear, instead of the jewel of a holder of Senior Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank or Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank (as the case may be), the jewel described in Plate No. 25A, and a Past Metropolitan Grand Steward, appointed after that date, shall wear a jewel not more than two inches in diameter similar to that of his former office.

A Past Deputy Grand Superintendent, or Past Second or Third Provincial or District Grand Principal may wear, in any Royal Arch meeting, his Past Provincial or District Grand Officer's Jewel suspended from a tri-coloured collarette, not more than 1½ inches wide.

A Past Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, Past Metropolitan Grand Inspector or Past Second or Third Metropolitan Grand Principal may wear, in any Royal Arch meeting, his Past Metropolitan Grand Officer's Jewel suspended from a tri-coloured collarette, not more than 1½ inches wide. For the purposes of this Rule a Companion who before 26 April 2007 held the rank of Past Metropolitan Group Chairman shall be treated as though he were a Past Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent.

The jewel of office shall be not more than three inches in diameter in the case of a Present Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer and not more than two inches in diameter in the case of a Past Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer.

Private Chapters

89. The jewels of Officers and Past First Principals of Private Chapters shall be as shown in Plates Nos. 31 to 44.

90. All the above jewels shall be of gold or metal gilt.

Optional Jewels

91. Application for permission to wear a Centenary Jewel is to be by petition or memorial to the First Grand Principal, containing the necessary particulars as to the origin and regular working of the Chapter as well as proof of its uninterrupted existence for one hundred years.

Application for permission to attach a Bi-Centenary Bar to the ribbon of the Centenary Jewel must be similarly made and proof of two hundred years of uninterrupted existence established.

When permission has been granted to a Chapter to wear a Centenary Jewel (or Bi-Centenary Bar), the privilege of wearing the Jewel (or Bi-Centenary Bar) is restricted to subscribing members and any Honorary Member who within the year before his election as such was a subscribing member.

The designs of a Centenary Jewel with its ribbon and for a Bi-Centenary Bar have been approved by the First Grand Principal (Plate No. 45). The fee for a Charter authorising a Chapter to wear the Jewel (or Bi-Centenary Bar) is prescribed by Regulation 99.

CHAINS AND COLLARS

92. In every case there shall be appended to the chain or collar the jewel appropriate to the office or rank to which such chain or collar relates, and no other.

Grand Officers' Chains

93. In the Grand Chapter and on any occasion when so ordered by the First Grand Principal the present Grand Officers shall wear chains of gold or metal gilt (Plate No. 5).

A Grand Superintendent shall wear a chain in his Provincial or District Grand Chapter or when officially present at any Chapter in his Province or District, or when visiting another Provincial or District Grand Chapter.

A Grand Inspector shall wear a chain when officially present at any Chapter in his Group or when visiting Provincial or District Grand Chapters.

Grand Officers' Collars

On all other occasions present Grand Officers shall wear the appropriate jewel suspended from a collar four inches wide, of dark blue, crimson and light blue.

Past Grand Officers' Collars

Past Grand Officers shall wear the appropriate jewel suspended from a similar collar on all occasions.

Metropolitan, Provincial, District, and Overseas Grand Chapter Rank Collars

94. A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Deputy Grand Superintendent shall wear a chain of gold or metal gilt (Plate Nos. 26B and 26D) in the Grand Chapter, or in his Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter or when officially present at any Chapter in his Metropolitan Area, Province or District or when visiting another Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter.

A Metropolitan Grand Inspector shall be permitted to wear a chain of gold or metal gilt (Plate No. 26E) in the Grand Chapter, or in his Metropolitan Grand Chapter or when officially present at any Chapter in his Metropolitan Area or when visiting another Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter.

Second and Third Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Principals shall be permitted to wear a chain of gold or metal gilt (Plate No. 28A) in the Grand Chapter or in their Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter or when officially present at any Chapter in their Metropolitan Area, Province or District or when visiting another Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Chapter.

Except when chains are worn as above, all Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Officers present and past and holders of Senior Metropolitan or Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank, Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank and Metropolitan or Overseas Chapter Rank shall wear the appropriate jewel suspended from a collar two inches wide of dark blue, crimson and light blue.

A Grand Officer who is performing official duties as a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer may wear the appropriate chain or collar of such Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Officer with the apron of a Grand Officer.

Collars of Past First Principals and Officers of Private Chapters

95. Past First Principals of Private Chapters shall wear on all occasions collars of crimson ribbon four inches wide with gilt braid a quarter of an inch wide in the centre, and the appropriate jewel suspended therefrom.

Principals of Private Chapters shall wear collars of crimson ribbon four inches wide with the appropriate jewel suspended therefrom in the Chapters of which they are the Principals or when representing their Chapters in the Grand Chapter, or in their Provincial or District Grand Chapter or on any special occasion when ordered by the First Grand Principal.

Other officers of Private Chapters shall wear similar collars with the appropriate jewel, but only in the Chapter in which they hold office.

Aprons

96. Companions shall wear an apron of white lamb skin, from fourteen to sixteen inches wide, twelve to fourteen inches deep, rectangular and with a triangular overlap. The apron and the overlap shall have a border of indented crimson and dark blue except along the top: this border shall be not more than two inches wide and the crimson indents shall point inwards (Plate No. 47).

In the centre of the overlap shall be a triangle of white silk with a gilt border and within the triangle three taus united in gilt embroidery (hereinafter called the emblem: Plate No. 48).

There shall be two tassels of gold or metal gilt suspended from beneath the overlap by ribbons.

The backing and ribbons shall be white.

Principals and Past Principals shall wear the same save that the silk triangle on the overlap with the backing and ribbons shall be crimson.

Holders of Senior Metropolitan or Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank, Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank and Metropolitan or Overseas Chapter Rank shall wear the same save that the silk triangle on the overlap shall be dark blue. In the centre of the apron there shall be the gilt emblem (if any) of office or rank superimposed upon an equilateral triangle, the whole placed on a double circle, the points of the triangle extending to the inner circle. In the case of Senior Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank the words, e.g., "London Senior", or "Overseas Senior" (to correspond with the jewel) shall be embroidered between the two circles, in the case of Metropolitan Grand Chapter Rank and Metropolitan Chapter Rank the name of the Metropolitan Area and in the case of Overseas Grand Chapter Rank and Overseas Chapter Rank the word "Overseas"; provided that a Companion appointed to Senior London

Grand Chapter Rank before 1 January 2000 may continue to wear the apron of a holder of London Grand Chapter Rank.

The backing and ribbons shall be dark blue.

Holders of Provincial or District Grand Rank, Present Metropolitan Grand Officers (other than Metropolitan Grand Stewards) when ordered by the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent to appear in an Official Capacity, and Present and Past Metropolitan Grand Stewards shall wear the same, save that the name of the Province, District or Metropolitan Area shall be embroidered between the two circles and the points of the triangle upon which the emblem of office is superimposed shall extend to the outer circle.

The backing and ribbons shall be dark blue.

Grand Officers shall wear the same, save that there shall be a double indented crimson and dark blue border four inches wide and in the centre the emblem of office within two branches of laurel all embroidered in gilt. In the case of Grand Superintendents the name of the Metropolitan Area, Province or District shall be embroidered above the emblem.

The backing and ribbons shall be dark blue.

97. All Companions shall wear a sash of the prescribed pattern (Plate No. 49) over the left shoulder with a silk fringe at the end and with the emblem embroidered on a white background save that:

(i) In the case of Principals and Past Principals the fringe shall be of gold or metal gilt and the emblem shall be embroidered on a crimson background.

(ii) In the case of Companions who hold Grand Chapter Rank, Senior Metropolitan or Senior Overseas Grand Chapter Rank or Metropolitan or Overseas Grand Chapter Rank, the fringe shall be of gold or metal gilt and the emblem shall be embroidered on a dark blue background. Provincial or District Grand Officers and holders of Metropolitan or Overseas Chapter Rank shall wear the same save that if the Companion is not an Installed Principal the fringe shall be of silk.

Fees payable to the Fund of Grand Chapter

98. Fees shall be payable to the Fund of the Grand Chapter for:

(a) the Registration of

- (i) A Grand Officer, present or past, on first appointment
- (ii) A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent or Metropolitan Grand Inspector (under Regulation 26(c) (iii)), Deputy Grand Superintendent (under Regulation 28A (iii)), 2nd or 3rd Metropolitan Grand Principal (under Regulation 26(j)) or 2nd or 3rd Provincial or District Grand Principal (under Regulation 31(h))
- (iii) A holder of Overseas Grand Chapter Rank or Overseas Chapter Rank (under Reg. 42)
- (iv) A Royal Arch Mason, inclusive of Grand Chapter Certificate (on exaltation from a Lodge not under the United Grand Lodge of England or joining from a Chapter not under the Grand Chapter unless already registered under the United Grand Lodge of England)
 - 1. in a Chapter in a Metropolitan Area or a Province
 - 2. in a District Chapter
 - 3. in a Chapter abroad not under a District

(b) the replacement or amendment of a Grand Chapter Certificate

(c) a Certificate for a Serving Companion

(d) a Dispensation by the First Grand Principal

of such respective amounts as fixed by resolution of the Grand Chapter in April or May of each year to take effect from the first day of January next following.

No fee is payable for the registration of a Companion who joins a Chapter from another under the Grand Chapter.

99. The fees for Charters for new Chapters, or Charters of Confirmation, and for Charters, or Charters of Confirmation, for a Centenary Jewel or Bi-Centenary Bar and for Certificates of Amalgamation, shall be based on the cost of producing the documents.

<Note: Current costs will be published in the Report of the Committee of General Purposes to Grand Chapter in April or May of each year, and be effective from the first day of May of that year.>

100. Contributions shall be payable in respect of each of its members who has been on the register of the Chapter during any part of the year for which the Return of Members is made annually in accordance with Regulation 61 by every Chapter in a Metropolitan Area or a Province of such amount as shall be fixed for each calendar year by resolution of the Grand Chapter in the preceding April or May.