



ALABAMA MASONIC CODE EDICT CHANGE PROPOSALS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER 2019 GRAND LODGE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER XXXIII, EDICT 33.1 (PROPOSITION TO AMEND) OF THE ALABAMA MASONIC CODE.

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XII, Edict 12.5

Edict 12.5 currently reads:

12.5 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS- No business shall be transacted at a special communication except that specified in the call. Degrees may be conferred at a special communication called for that purpose, providing the candidate had been elected at a regular communication. A candidate may be examined on his proficiency in the preceding degree when degrees are to be conferred. The minutes must show the call and object of a special communication.

Whereas, the third sentence of this edict states that degrees have to be conferred if a lesson/examination is conducted at the same communication, and

Whereas, this is not the case at a regular communication, and

Whereas, this is a contradiction of Article VI Section 24 which allows the Master of a Lodge the right and authority of convening the Lodge at his pleasure on any emergency or occurrence which in his judgment may require its meeting,

Be it resolved that Edict 12.5 be amended to read as follows:

12.5 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS- No business shall be transacted at a special communication except that specified in the call. Degrees may be conferred at a special communication called for that purpose, providing the candidate had been elected at a regular communication. The minutes must show the call and object of a special communication.

Respectfully submitted by, Billy Jackson, Junior Grand Warden

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XVI, Edict 16.27

Whereas Edict 16.27 currently states:

16.27 MASTER MASON NOT EXAMINED- A brother who has been raised is not required to be examined on his proficiency in the M.M. Degree. Yet it is the duty of the W.M. or presiding officer to impress on the newly raised brother the importance of such proficiency; and

Whereas, it is impossible for a Master Mason to adhere to his obligation if he has not learned what the obligation contains; and

Whereas, it is difficult for Master Masons from Alabama to visit other jurisdictions without knowing certain parts of the Master Mason examination,

Be it therefore resolved that Edict 16.27 be changed to the following:

16.27. MASTER MASON EXAMINED – A brother who has been raised is required to be examined on his proficiency in the M.M. Degree. The examination of the brother will be as that adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama, except a brother can be allowed to return the entire lesson, both questions and answers, upon approval of the Worshipful Master. In such a case the brother can be allowed to recite the entire lesson to the Lodge under the supervision of the brother conducting the examination. No further deviation shall be practiced in his examination and no person, not even a member of the Committee on Work, shall teach or practice any change herein until adopted by the Grand Lodge. The examination of the brother should be to the extent of demonstrating that he understands the ceremonial work of the degree, but not necessarily to the extent of qualifying him to confer the degree. A Master Mason shall be presented with a temporary dues card until proficiency is achieved. Furthermore, a Master Mason shall be ineligible for election to the office of Master, Warden, or Secretary, until proficiency in the Master Mason lesson is achieved. (This is not a proficiency test on the degree work of each station or place) This edict shall only apply to future Master Masons.

Submitted by, Zachary Allen Holmes, Secretary, Notasulga #119

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XXV, Edict 25.17

Whereas at the 2018 Annual Communication, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama enacted Edict 25.17, which reads “25.17 VIOLATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES–The violation of any portion of this Grand Lodge’s Guideline for the Use of Social Media by a Brother, group or Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of F&AM of Alabama is unmasonic conduct”; and,

Whereas the Social Media Policy referenced in the Edict was not adopted by the Grand Lodge in the Annual Communication; and,

Whereas there is concern that the failure to adopt the policy renders Edict 25.17 unenforceable; and,

Whereas an extra-constitutional document that defines punishable masonic offenses results in a *de facto* edict that is not subject to debate or discussion by the constituent lodges, representative delegates, or the Grand Lodge assembled at Annual Communication;

Therefore, be it resolved that Edict 25.17 be amended to read as follows:

25.17 VIOLATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES–The violation of any portion of this Grand Lodge’s Guideline for the Use of Social Media by a Brother, group or Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of F&AM of Alabama is unmasonic conduct.” The Alabama Grand Lodge’s guidelines for the use of Social Media are as follows:

Social Media Guidelines

PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to emphasize the highly public nature of social media channels, and ensure Freemasons use these powerful channels for public conversation in a responsible way. Ultimately, your actions as a Mason on these Social media sites should promote the highest standards of morality and integrity. You should always be mindful of the penalties as described in the Alabama Masonic Code relating to trial, suspension, and/or expulsion for any un-Masonic behavior. Posting a comment related to the Fraternity and then posting a disparaging comment about a social or political stance can easily be misconstrued by readers that your stance is representative of Masonry and all Masons. Be mindful that the public and members of the Masonic Fraternity are reading your posts on Social Media.

SCOPE

This policy applies to posts made by Freemasons (under the Grand Jurisdiction of Alabama) on any social media platform, whether those platforms are open to the public (such as Facebook and Twitter) or just to Freemasons (such as “The Trestleboard” Masonic Forum as hosted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama).

DEFINITIONS

Term: Post

Definition: refers to any action taken on social media, whether sharing original content, making a comment on content someone else has shared (including 'liking' Facebook posts and Tweets), or re-sharing content to one's own connections.

Term: Social Media

Definition: Any and all computer-based communication systems used to share digital content, posts, and media. (i.e. YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)

BEST PRACTICES

This section provides some guidance on the kinds of content to share using social media platforms. This is by no means an exhaustive list — rather, it is intended to stimulate the mind to consider what other types of content might be interesting to one's social media audience. That is to say, a Freemason may share content or participate in conversations online as long as the content or conversation presents Freemasonry in a positive light and is relevant to the channel in which it is being posted.

SUBJECT MATTER

A Freemason may publicly share any Masonic content that contributes to a positive public image of Freemasonry, such as charitable work and events, good causes supported by Freemasons, and information about Masonic history. Social media channels can also be used to share information only relevant to Freemasons, but care should be exercised to use a more restricted channel, such as a closed or secret Facebook group.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. A Mason should conduct himself as he would in front of the general public with courtesy for others.
- b. As a Mason, he must be aware that his postings are a permanent record; therefore, his conduct may influence the world with a positive or negative opinion about him personally and about the organizations to which he belongs.
- c. A Mason should never use disparaging comments, profanity, etc. while posting; including, but not limited to graphic video and audio recordings.
- d. Dishonorable content such as, but not limited to sexual, religious, racial, ethnic, and physical disability slurs will not be tolerated.
- e. Any message, posting, video, or other form of communication should conform to established Grand Lodge customs, by-laws and edicts.
- f. A Mason should be mindful of "ritual" postings on the web.
- g. Masonic pages are to be supportive of the organization and its members, promote upcoming events, discussion of past events, video sharing, and discussion of times of fellowship and promotion of Masonic bodies.
- h. A Mason should not use Social media to obtain personal advantage in promoting political, religious or business activities by targeting other Masons.
- i. There should never be discussion in regard to an application, background, or investigation of an applicant.
- j. There should never be discussion in regard to the ballot of a candidate.
- k. There should never be discussion related to the Business of a Lodge and what is discussed behind Tiled doors.

Information about Lodge or District social activities must comply with the regulations already in place for them (for example no reference to alcohol or games of chance).

We should seek Brother to Brother intervention. As a Mason, you should advise a brother if something he has posted is improper within the framework of our Grand Constitution, Rules and Regulations, etc.

CONSENT

By your membership as a Mason under the Jurisdiction of the MW Grand Lodge of Alabama, you consent to the Grand Lodge of Alabama Social Media Guidelines, as posted on the Grand Lodge's website and contained in this edict.

SANCTIONS

To ensure our Fraternity represents itself to the high standards we believe that, where possible, we must regulate our actions through Brother-to-Brother intervention. As a Mason, you have the responsibility to advise a Brother if you feel that what he has posted is improper within the framework of our constitution, laws, rules, regulations, edicts or social media guidelines as reflected herein. But you must be mindful that once an item is posted, it is still out there and can be used in the event Masonic Charges are levied against you. All reported violations of this Social Media Guidelines shall be handled as any other Masonic Offense as described in the Alabama Masonic Code & Edicts.

Respectfully Submitted, Marvin "Cortez" Bowlin, WM Hoover Lodge #644