



**ALABAMA MASONIC CODE CONSTITUTION AND EDICT CHANGE PROPOSALS
TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER 2022 GRAND LODGE SESSION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VIII OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND EDICT 33.1 OF THE EDICTS.**

To: All Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge, and Worshipful Master of Each Member Lodge

The following proposed Constitutional changes are presented in accordance with the Article VIII (PROPOSITION TO AMEND) of the Constitution of the Alabama Masonic Code.

Proposal to Amend Article VI, Section 18 of the Constitution

Article VI, Section 18 of the Constitution of the Masonic Code of Alabama currently reads as follows:

Any member of a subordinate Lodge who shall be informed, or who shall know, of his own knowledge, that a brother has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a Mason, and who shall fail to report same to the Lodge at its next regular communication, is hereby declared to be guilty of a shameful neglect of duty and shall forthwith by such Lodge be suspended at its pleasure.

BE IT NOW RESOLVED THAT Article VI, Section 18 of the Constitution of the Masonic Code of Alabama be amended to read as follows:

Any member of a subordinate Lodge who shall be informed, or who shall know, of his own Knowledge, that a brother has been guilty of conduct unbecoming of a Mason, and who shall fail to report same to the Lodge at its next regular communication, **shall be subject to charges of shameful neglect of his Masonic duty and trial therefor as provided for in Article VII and Edict Chapters XXXIII through XXXI of this Masonic Code.**

Reason for change: As this Section is currently written, it deprives any brother accused of failing to notify his lodge of another brother's un-Masonic conduct at the next lodge meeting any chance to defend himself or present his case. It gives his lodge the power to summarily suspend him even if he is not present at the lodge meeting at which he is being suspended. The bedrock of American justice is that ANY person accused of ANY offense is entitled to his "day in court" and due process of law. The purpose of this change is not to let the guilty go free, but to make sure he is guilty before being punished. Our Code provides for a procedure for trial and punishment, and a brother accused of any offense should have the benefit of that due process. The clause, "Any member of a subordinate Lodge who shall be informed" would be considered hearsay evidence in the civil courts and most likely inadmissible unless it falls within certain exceptions.

Submitted by:

Paul J. Adams, District Lecturer, District 39

Proposal to Delete Article VI, Section 18 of the Constitution

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Remove **ARTICLE VI Section 18** from the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Alabama and all references thereto.

AS EXISTS:

ART VI Sec. 18. Any member of a subordinate Lodge who shall be informed, or shall know, of his own knowledge, that a brother has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a Mason, and who shall fail to report same to the Lodge at its next regular communication, is hereby declared to be guilty of a shameful neglect of duty and shall forthwith by such Lodge be suspended at its pleasure.

REASONS FOR REMOVAL:

1. **ART VI Sec 18.** Can and has been interpreted and used to deny Legal Due Process to Alabama Masons accused of violating its strictures.

The **ACT OF INCORPORATION 1859**, and subsequent amendments of **1875, 1911, and 1950**, **Section 1:** all carry forward the same language, to wit:” **make, ordain, and establish its constitution, bylaws, rules and resolutions, not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of this state or of the United States”** Denial of Due Process violates **Amendments V, VI, VII, and VIII of the Constitution of the United States** and the **State of Alabama’s Constitution** and relevant laws.

United States Constitution Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII

In Suits of common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

2. Alabama Grand Lodge EDICTS: 30.1- Punishment

....” No punishments can be assessed except after a legal trial and conviction, and the only way to fix punishment is by roll call of the members” Despite the proscriptions of this Edict, PUNISHMENTS, relevant to **ART. VI Sec. 18**, have been assessed without Legal trial and conviction and fixed by secret ballot rather than prescribed roll call vote.

3. Due to the manner in which **ART. VI Sec. 18** has been interpreted and utilized: any Mason presiding over and administering any of the three degree rituals, knowingly or unknowingly, utters a prevarication to the candidate.
4. The use of **ART. VI Sec. 18** to deny Masons Legal Due Process has caused any Mason; enlisted or commissioned, serving, or having served in the U.S. Military or National Guard to unknowingly stand in conflict with a part of their Enlistment Oath. Specifically.....” **to protect and defend the Constitution of these United States”.....**

Respectfully submitted:

Harold L. Belton PM, Endeavor Day Lodge 934

Proposal to Amend Article VIII of the Constitution

We live in an era of instant communications, where we can speak with anyone, anywhere in the world at any moment we desire. Unfortunately, our Grand Lodge is saddled with outdated modes of conducting its business. One of these is the way amendments or propositions are made to our Constitution. Our Acts of Incorporation were last updated in 1950 to a constitution written in 1859.

For a Master Mason to present a proposal in November, maybe have it passed by one-third to be sent to the Lodges, and then wait until June of the following year to act on it, when most were not present to hear any discussion for its merits, not only defies logic, but common sense. Help to let your Grand Lodge make a little progress to modernize by bringing this process out of the 19th century and into the 21st century.

We respectfully propose the following revision/amendment to Article VIII.

ARTICLE VIII PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND, CURRENTLY READS:

Every proposition to revise, alter or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read and if approved by one third of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the several chartered subordinate Lodges for their approval or rejection; and if two thirds of the charted subordinate Lodges that have sent in their returns to the Grand Secretary as required in Edict 8.18, approve thereof by certificate over their respective seals, to the next succeeding Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall so declare it, and from thenceforth it shall be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.

No other proposition to alter, revise or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two thirds vote of the members present agree to waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

It is therefore proposed that ARTICLE VIII be amended as follows:

ARTICLE VIII

PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND

Every proposition to revise, alter or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication.

A. No other proposition to alter, revise, or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two-thirds vote of the members present agree to waive the requirements or previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

B. The Proposition to revise, alter or amend, shall then be distinctly read at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and if approved by one third of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the Chartered Subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

C. At the next subsequent Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the proposition to revise, alter or amend the Constitution will again be distinctly read, deliberated and/or debated, and if approved by two-thirds of the subordinate Lodges present, will be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.

D. Each subordinate Lodge shall have one (1) vote, and (1) one vote only, when casting a vote on any Proposition to alter, revise or amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Votes for each subordinate lodge shall be cast by the Worshipful Master of said Lodge or his designated proxy.

E. Any vote for a proposition to revise, alter or amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Alabama will be taken by Roll call. All votes will be tabulated by the Grand Secretary; vote totals, along with absent Lodges will be entered into the minutes of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Teddy R. Grogan Jr., PGM, Grand Secretary

The following proposed Edict changes are presented in accordance with Chapter XXXIII, Edict 33.1 (PROPOSITION TO AMEND) of the Alabama Masonic Code.

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter IV, Edict 4.1 and Edict 4.2

Whereas Edict 4.1 Masonic Districts currently list the 29th District as Bibb, Perry and Chilton Counties.

And whereas; Edict 4.2 Groups currently list District 29 in Group 3

And whereas; Stanley Cost Lodge # 411 presently in District 29 has merged with Clanton Lodge # 423 presently in District 29.

And whereas; Friendship Lodge # 83 and Clanton Lodge # 423 are presently in District 29.

And whereas; With the merger of Stanley Cost # 411 with Clanton Lodge # 423 would be leaving only two lodges in District 29

Therefore, be it resolved that District 29 be eliminated by moving Friendship Lodge # 83 to District 22 and Clanton Lodge # 423 to District 22.

Fraternally Submitted,

Frank W. Little PGM, Committee on Work, Group 3

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XIII, Edict 13.1

Edict 13.1 presently reads:

13.1. SEVEN MEMBERS PRESENT—To open a Lodge and transact any business there must be present no less than seven (7) Master Masons who are members of the Lodge, and the Master or one of the Wardens must be included in the number. The District Lecturer or Past Grand Master may count as the seventh member for opening of the Lodge he is visiting if in the Lecturer's assigned District or the Past Grand Master's Assigned Group. The Lecturer or Past Grand Master will have no right to vote on any regular business.

Change Edict 13.1 to read as follows:

13.1. SEVEN MEMBERS PRESENT—To open a Lodge and transact any business there must be present no less than seven (7) Master Masons who are members of the Lodge, and the Master or one of the Wardens must be included in the number. The District Lecturer and Past Grand Master may count as the seventh member for opening of the Lodge he is visiting if in the Lecturer's assigned District or the Past Grand Master's Assigned Group. The Lecturer or Past Grand Master will have no right to vote on any regular business.

Reason for the change: This will allow both the District Lecturer and Past Grand Master to be counted as one of the seven members present to open the Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tucker, PGM and Teddy R. Grogan Jr., PGM

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XIII, Edict 13.7

WHEREAS the first landmark of Alabama Masonic Ritual (p. 66 of the Monitor), explicitly states that Alabama Freemasonry requires of any Mason only *“to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves – that is, to be good men and true, or men of honor and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished...”*; and,

WHEREAS the supremacy of the Ancient Landmarks is established in the Masonic customs, traditions, and the Alabama Masonic code in Article I Section 6 which reads in part *“The Grand Lodge... shall require a uniform mode of working, but in no case to alter, remove, or displace the ancient and established landmarks of Masonry...”*, as well as in multiple edicts (e.g. Edict 5.1, 8.1, 15.2, 15.3); and,

WHEREAS every Master Mason in this jurisdiction is charged never to suffer an infringement on the ancient landmarks or a deviation from the established usages and customs; and,

WHEREAS Edict 13.7 clearly states that “Masonry has no religious dogma other than that it requires a belief in Deity”; and,

WHEREAS requiring a specific Volume of Sacred Law contrary to that of a candidate’s faith contradicts the established requirement in the first landmark and the established requirement of Edict 13.7; and,

WHEREAS it is disrespectful and inconsiderate to require a candidate to use a text that has no religious or spiritual meaning to him in his degrees; and,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Edict 13.7 be amended as follows:

Current Edict 13.7

13.7. MASONRY AND RELIGION—Freemasonry is a Fraternity and not a Religion. Freemasonry has no plan of salvation, by works or otherwise. Salvation is between man and his God according to the dictates of his religion. The term “religion” used here does not refer to any denomination, sect, or creed. Masonry has no religious dogma other than that it requires a belief in Deity. Any man, good and true, whether he be Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Parsee, Buddhist, Brahman, or Deist may be admitted to Masonry because all these religions require a belief in Deity.

Proposed Amended Edict 13.7

13.7. MASONRY AND RELIGION—Freemasonry is a Fraternity and not a Religion. Freemasonry has no plan of salvation, by works or otherwise. Salvation is between man and his God **according** to the dictates of his religion. The term “religion” used here does not refer to any denomination, sect, or creed. Masonry has no religious dogma other than that it requires a belief in Deity. Any man, good and true, whether he be Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Parsee, Buddhist, Brahman, or Deist may be admitted to Masonry because all these religions require a belief in Deity. **A candidate is entitled to have his preferred Volume of Sacred Law used in his degree. In such cases, the traditional Volume of Sacred Law used by the Lodge is on no account to be removed from the altar or closed. The candidate’s volume is to be used for his degree work only, and any respectful arrangement on the altar to accommodate this is permitted. The candidate will be responsible for providing a copy of his preferred Volume of Sacred Law.**

Respectfully submitted,

M. Cortez Bowlin, PM, Secretary, Hoover Lodge No. 644 F&AM

Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter IV, (NEW) Edicts 4.12 to 4.17, Chapter V, Edict 5.20, Chapter VI, Edict 6.12, Chapter XIII, Edict 13.1, and Chapter XXX, Edict 30.3

Proposition to change Chapter Four of the Edicts of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama

Brethren,

The Grand Lodge of Alabama currently has eleven (11) vacancies in the office of District Lecturer for the 42 Masonic Districts in Alabama. This results in one fourth of the Masonic Districts not having a Brother in their district to provide administrative oversight and leadership on behalf of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. This is a result of several factors with the primary being not having enough qualified Brethren who have earned a Grand Lodge Certificate of Proficiency. As such, the potential exists for these several Masonic Districts to continue without local leadership and continuity for the foreseeable future.

Several Masonic Jurisdictions have the Appointed Office of a District Deputy Grand Master. These Brethren serve as the personal representative of the Grand Master within their respective Districts and are responsible for serving as a liaison between the Grand Master and the Lodges in their District. They would promote compliance with the Constitution, Resolutions, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge; and provide general leadership, management, and administration for their Lodges. These Brethren would not be required to possess a Certificate of Proficiency, but they would have served as a Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge in Alabama.

The addition of the office of District Deputy would ensure that each Masonic District in Alabama would have a well-informed Brother to serve them and facilitate all necessary communication and coordination between them and the Grand Master. This will also free the District Lecturers to focus their efforts on the Ritual work of our Fraternity without having the additional responsibility of overseeing and mitigating the administrative and judicial issues occurring in the Lodges.

I realize this is a significant change from “the way we have always done it” in Alabama but it is my humble opinion that the creation of the office of District Deputy will have a dramatically positive effect on our Fraternity. At a time when the Leadership Team within each Lodge needs advice, counsel, and assistance more than ever to help them rule and govern their Lodges, this will ensure knowledgeable and experienced Brethren are available and focused on providing all necessary support to them.

Mike Taylor, Dolcito Masonic Lodge #596

**** Current Edicts For District Lecturers ****

CHAPTER IV.

COMMITTEES-DUTIES.

4.3. DISTRICT LECTURER’S APPOINTMENT—The Grand Master shall appoint from each district the District Lecturers as have been approved by the Grand Lodge who shall reside in such district or be a member of a subordinate Lodge in such district. Provided, however, if after diligent search the

M. W. Grand Master is unable to find a suitable person to fill the position within the district, he may appoint some brother from without the district. No one shall be appointed District Lecturer until he shall have procured a certificate from the Chairman of the Committee on Work or some member thereof that he is qualified to teach the work and lectures of the three degrees as adopted by the Grand Lodge.

4.4 LECTURER-ELIGIBILITY: No person is eligible to appointment as a District Lecturer who has not served as Master or Warden of a subordinate Lodge in this state.

4.5. LECTURER-DUTIES: It shall be the duty of such District Lecturer to visit each Lodge in his district once in each year, and to require such Lodge to exemplify the work and lectures of the three degrees, or to examine the officers thereof as to their proficiency therein. The District Lecturer shall exercise a general supervision over the Lodges in his district and report to the Grand Master before each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge the number of Lodges visited, the proficiency of the officers thereof and any irregularity or improper proceedings in such Lodges. Any action or dispensation granted during the preceding year by the District Lecturer or Committee on Work Member shall be reported to the Grand Secretary using dispensation form provided by the Grand Lodge.

4.6. LECTURER-COMPENSATION—On all visits to a Lodge for inspection and examination the District Lecturer shall be paid his necessary expenses by the Lodge, and when visiting a Lodge for inspection or instruction at its request, he shall be paid his expenses and such per diem compensation as is reasonable.

(Edicts 4.7 and 4.8 not listed as there is no change)

4.9. MUST ATTEND GRAND LODGE—It is the duty of each District Lecturer to attend the annual communication of the Grand Lodge and the regular sessions of the Committee on Work thereat.

4.10. OFFICIAL VISITS—A District Lecturer has the right and it is his duty to visit every Lodge in his district if reasonably able to do so. Hence, he cannot be excluded from a Lodge in his district on the objection of a member of the Lodge present, that is to say, when he is visiting as District Lecturer. If he is attending merely as a brother, then he is subject to restrictions like any visitor.

4.11. VACANCIES—A vacancy occurs in any Masonic District or Division in the State, or upon any Board or Committee of the Grand Lodge appointed with reference to a particular District or Division, when the person holding the appointment removes his actual residence from the District or Division with reference to which the person was so appointed, to another District or Division, or removes out of the State, and upon learning of such removal, the Grand Master shall declare a vacancy to exist and shall forthwith appoint some competent Master Mason residing in said District or Division to fill such vacancy. Until such vacancy is filled the Committee on Work Member of that Group shall perform the duties of the District Lecturer.

***** PROPOSED EDICTS CHANGE *****

4.3. DISTRICT LECTURER'S APPOINTMENT—The Grand Master shall appoint from each district the District Lecturers as have been approved by the Grand Lodge who shall reside in such district or be a member of a subordinate Lodge in such district. Provided, however, if after diligent search the M. W. Grand Master is unable to find a suitable person to fill the position within the district, he may appoint some brother from without the district. No one shall be appointed District Lecturer until he shall have procured a certificate from the Chairman of the Committee on Work or some member thereof that he is qualified to teach the work and lectures of the three degrees as adopted by the Grand Lodge.

4.4. LECTURER-ELIGIBILITY: No person is eligible to appointment as a District Lecturer who has not served as Master or Warden of a subordinate Lodge in this state.

4.5. LECTURER-DUTIES: It shall be the duty of such District Lecturer to visit each Lodge in his district once in each year and provide instruction to the Lodge membership on the Ritual Work of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. He shall also require such Lodge to exemplify the work and lectures of the three degrees, or to examine the officers thereof as to their proficiency therein.

4.6. LECTURER-COMPENSATION—On all visits to a Lodge for inspection and examination the District Lecturer shall be paid his necessary expenses by the Lodge, and when visiting a Lodge for inspection or instruction at its request, he shall be paid his expenses and such per diem compensation as is reasonable. ***

4.9. MUST ATTEND GRAND LODGE—It is the duty of each District Lecturer to attend the annual communication of the Grand Lodge and the regular sessions of the Committee on Work thereat.

4.10. OFFICIAL VISITS—A District Lecturer has the right and it is his duty to visit every Lodge in his district if reasonably able to do so. Hence, he cannot be excluded from a Lodge in his district on the objection of a member of the Lodge present, that is to say, when he is visiting as District Lecturer. If he is attending merely as a brother, then he is subject to restrictions like any visitor.

4.11. VACANCIES—A vacancy occurs in any Masonic District when the person holding the appointment removes his actual residence from the District to which the person was so appointed, to another District, or removes out of the State, and upon learning of such removal, the Grand Master shall declare a vacancy to exist and shall forthwith appoint some qualified Master Mason residing in said District to fill such vacancy. Until such vacancy is filled the Committee on Work Member of that Group shall perform the duties of the District Lecturer.

4.12. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER APPOINTMENT—The Grand Master shall appoint from each Masonic district a District Deputy who shall reside in such district or be a member of a subordinate Lodge in such district. Provided, however, if after diligent search the M. W. Grand Master is unable to find a suitable person to fill the position within the district, he may appoint some brother from without the district.

4.13. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER-ELIGIBILITY: No person is eligible to appointment as a District Deputy who has not served as Master of a subordinate Lodge in this state.

4.14. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER-DUTIES: Within his District, the District Deputy is the personal representative of the Grand Master. It shall be the duty of such District Deputy to exercise a general supervision over the Lodges in his district and report to the Grand Master before each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge the number of Lodges visited, the administrative proficiency of the officers thereof and any irregularity or improper proceedings in such Lodges. Any action or dispensation granted during the preceding year shall be reported to the Grand Secretary using dispensation form provided by the Grand Lodge.

4.15. MUST ATTEND GRAND LODGE—It is the duty of each District Deputy Grand Master to attend the annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

4.16. OFFICIAL VISITS—A District Deputy has the right and it is his duty to visit every Lodge in his district if reasonably able to do so. Hence, he cannot be excluded from a Lodge in his district on the

objection of a member of the Lodge present, that is to say, when he is visiting as District Deputy Grand Master. If he is attending merely as a brother, then he is subject to restrictions like any visitor.

4.17. VACANCIES— If a vacancy occurs for the District Deputy in any Masonic District, the Grand Master shall forthwith appoint some qualified Master Mason residing in said District to fill such vacancy.

***** PROPOSED EDICTS CHANGE *****

5.20. EXPENSES OF OFFICERS ATTENDING GRAND LODGE—With the exception of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary; all Grand Lodge Officers, all past elected Grand Lodge Officers, members of standing committees, District Lecturers, **and District Deputies** shall be paid not less than twenty cents per mile each way for their travel from and returning to their homes when attending any Grand Lodge Communication they are authorized to attend. In addition, they are entitled to receive their expenses while attending of not less than twenty-five (\$25.00) per day for each day they are authorized and do attend.

6.12. LOSS OF LIMB — An E. A. or F. C. who suffers the loss of a leg, foot, arm or hand, or who in any way becomes physically defective, is not necessarily rendered ineligible thereby. His eligibility shall be determined by the Lodge with the approval of the District **Deputy** of that district in writing, as provided in the case of applicants for the degree.

13.1. SEVEN MEMBERS PRESENT—To open a Lodge and transact any business there must be present no less than seven (7) Master Masons who are members of the Lodge, and the Master or one of the Wardens must be included in the number. The District Lecturer, Past Grand Master, and **District Deputy** may count as the seventh member for opening of the Lodge he is visiting if in the Lecturer's or **District Deputy's** assigned District or the Past Grand Master's Assigned Group. The Lecturer, **District Deputy**, or Past Grand Master will have no right to vote on any regular business.

30.3. MODE OF FIXING—In fixing the punishment of a brother found guilty in a Masonic trial the W. M. shall put the question first on expulsion, and if two-thirds of the members present do not vote for expulsion, he shall then put the question on indefinite suspension. If this does not receive the required two-thirds vote, he shall put the question of definite suspension. Should the Lodge by a two-thirds vote refuse to suspend the brother for as long a term as the W. M. names in the question, he shall put the question on definite suspension for a shorter term, and then still a shorter term as his judgment may dictate. Should the Lodge refuse to expel or suspend the brother, they shall then by a majority vote order a reprimand. It is permissible for a member to name the period of definite suspension in a motion. In the event the Trial Commission finds as accused guilty and affixes the penalty of reprimand, the following procedure shall be followed to impose the penalty. The acting Chairman of the Trial Commission, who presides over the trial shall write a reprimand and send it to the District **Deputy** of the district, who shall read the reprimand to the sentenced member without addition or amplification at a regular communication of that Lodge, with no other visitor present, within sixty days. The District **Deputy** delivering the reprimand shall notify the Chairman of the Trial Commission of the date the reprimand was delivered.

Index III (Add)

District Deputy, appointment & eligibility, 4.12; 4.13; duties, 4.14; official visits, 4.16; to attend Grand Lodge, 4.15; vacancies filled by G.M. appointment, 4.17

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

Whereas Edict 16.27 currently states:

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.

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

16.27 MASTER MASON EXAMINATION- A brother who has been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason is required to be examined on his proficiency in the Master Mason Lesson. **This Edict shall only apply to Master Masons who are raised AFTER the passage of Edict 16.27 as herein stated.** 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 whole 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 (This is not a proficiency test on the degree work of each station or place).

Reasons for the changes: Information that is not accurately memorized slowly changes with time and is eventually lost.

Respectfully submitted: James Kenneth Yokem, Past Master, Lunar Lodge # 918

TEDDY R. GROGAN, JR, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

