



The Constitution of The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta

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SANCTION

“My Grand Officers and I are happy in the knowledge that
by faith, and with our constant focus on those eternal
principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, we will
leave behind a heritage of which our successors can be
proud.”

Extract from the Consecration speech
of the Most Worshipful Grand Master
Brother Joseph P. Cordina, the first
Grand Master of the Sovereign Grand
Lodge of Malta - 18th November 2004.

Having approved of this fifth edition of
the Book of Constitution, the
Grand Lodge Executive Council
has accordingly supervised its publication.

Right Worshipful Bro. Richard J Bridge
Grand Secretary

26th November 2022

SECTION I

FORMATION

SECTION I

FORMATION

1.1 Whereas Freemasonry is an ancient institution existing from time immemorial And Whereas in AL 5730, AD 1730 “Parfait Harmonie” Masonic Lodge was established in Malta;

1.2 And Whereas three Lodges of the Irish Constitution namely Leinster Lodge No. 387 and Abercorn Lodge No. 273 and Fenici Lodge No. 906 met on the 5th of September 2003 and resolved to form themselves into a Sovereign Grand Lodge;

1.3 And Whereas at a special meeting held on the 30th of June 2004 Count Roger of Normandy Lodge No. 9265 of the English Constitution did resolve to participate with the aforesaid Lodges in the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta;

1.4 And Whereas Hospitaliers Lodge No. 931 of the Irish Constitution was Consecrated in Malta on the 27th of August 2004 and did at that time resolve to join the above-mentioned Lodges in the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta;

1.5 And Whereas the Grand Lodge of Ireland in consultation with the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Scotland has acceded to our prayers and constituted the above-mentioned Regular Lodges into a Grand Lodge on the 18th of November 2004;

1.6 Now Therefore are these five Regular Lodges namely Leinster and Abercorn and Fenici and Count Roger of Normandy and Hospitaliers whilst affirming the ancient landmarks of The Order and in pursuance of the principles of Grand Lodge recognition of regular Masonry now hereby established into the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Republic of Malta;

1.7 And Whereas The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Republic of Malta is an absolute sovereign Masonic body having inherent power and authority to form a Constitution as its fundamental law and subject only to the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry to enact laws for its own government and that of its Subordinate Lodges therefore does the Sovereign Grand lodge of Malta hereby establish ordain and promulgate this Constitution to the provisions thereof and the laws enacted pursuant thereto to which each Mason within this Grand Jurisdiction is obligated to conform and to obey.

1.8 And Whereas, present for the Consecration which took place at Riviera Hotel Marfa, Malta this same day of 18th November 2004, were the delegations from the following regular Grand Lodges:

- United Grand Lodge of England
- Grand Lodge of Scotland
- Grand Lodge of Ireland
- Grand Lodge of Norway
- National Grand Lodge of France
- Grand Lodge of Turkey
- United Grand Lodges of Germany
- Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic
- Regular Grand Lodge of Italy

SECTION II

DECLARATION CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION

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DECLARATION CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION

2.1 The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta acknowledges belief in a Supreme Being to be the great fundamental principle and landmark of Freemasonry upon which foundation our Fraternity is erected. Without an avowal of such belief no man shall be initiated into a Subordinate Lodge of the Sovereign Grand lodge of Malta.

2.2 A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid (*) atheist or an irreligious libertine. In ancient times a Mason was charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was. It is now thought expedient only to oblige him to that belief in which all men agree leaving his particular opinions to his conscience; that is, to be a good man and true, a man of honour and honesty, by whatever denomination or persuasion he may be distinguished, whereby Masonry becomes the centre of union and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must otherwise have remained perpetually at a distance.

(*) From the archaic meaning: uninformed, lacking interest.

SECTION III

DECLARATION CONCERNING THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE,

SUPREME AND SUBORDINATE

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SUPREME AND SUBORDINATE

3.1 A Mason is a peaceable Subject of the civil powers wherever he resides or works and is never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the Nation neither will he behave himself undutiful against the nation.

SECTION IV

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

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DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Pursuant to the settled policy of this Sovereign Grand Lodge to define and reaffirm from time to time certain of the fundamental principles and rules of conduct governing the practice of Freemasonry in the Masonic Jurisdiction of the Republic of Malta;

It is declared that;

4.1 This Grand Lodge is a sovereign and independent body practicing Freemasonry only within the three degrees commonly known amongst the Craft as the degrees of Symbolic Masonry and only within the limits defined in its Constitution and in the exercise of its sovereign power does this Grand Lodge further declare that it does neither recognize nor admit the existence of any superior Masonic authority anywhere howsoever styled.

4.2 Membership of this Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges shall be exclusively of men and shall have neither Masonic affiliation nor dialogue nor association of any kind with any Mixed Lodge or Masonic Entity itself comprising a membership not exclusively of men.

4.3 Freemasonry subscribes to the belief that men of good intention and differing opinion may be united through the objective attainment and accomplishment of the principles further herein defined.

4.4 Freemasonry is a charitable society not organized for profit and none of its income accrues to the benefit of any individual but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

4.5 Freemasonry is a benevolent society in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

4.6 Freemasonry is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

4.7 Freemasonry upholds monotheism yet is neither sectarian nor theological. The Volume of the Sacred Law is open whenever a Lodge is in session. Reverence for the Supreme Being is ever present in ceremonial and Brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality.

4.8 Freemasonry is a social organization only in so far as it furnishes additional inducement for men to foregather in numbers; more material is thereby provided for its primary work of brotherly love, relief and truth.

4.9 Freemasonry seeks to improve the community through development and strengthening of the character of the individual, impressing upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightening them as to those things which make for human welfare, inspiring them with those feelings of charity and good will toward all mankind thus moving them to translate principles and convictions into actions of good deed.

4.10 By the foregoing tenets does Freemasonry stand for truth and justice, for fraternity and philanthropy, for enlightenment and orderly civil, religious and intellectual liberty. It charges each Mason to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the laws of any state in which he may reside.

4.11 The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta affirms its continuing adherence to those ancient and approved rules of Freemasonry which forbid, within Masonic Lodges or meetings, the discussion of Religion, Politics or other topics likely to excite personal animosities or personal differences; This is not to deny the more than three hundred years of Freemasonry in the Maltese Islands during which Masons have exercised their continuing inherent and absolute right of freedom of thought and obedient action in all matters religious and civil. To this end no member or Officer of whatever grade or rank has the right or privilege to speak or to act in the name of or on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta in particular or of Freemasonry in general without the prior authority and written approval of the Grand Master.

SECTION V

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION

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BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION

5.1 To satisfy regularity of origin a Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges.

5.2 That a declared belief in the G.A.O.T.U. and His revealed Will shall be an essential qualification for membership.

5.3 That all Initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from Above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual being initiated.

5.4 That membership of the Grand Lodge and its individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no Masonic intercourse of any kind with mixed Lodges or bodies which admit women to membership.

5.5 That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control in that it shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) within its Jurisdiction; and shall not in any way be subject to, or divide such authority with a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.

5.6 That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry, namely the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square, and the Compasses shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its Subordinate Lodges are at Work; the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.

5.7 That the discussion of religion and politics within all Lodges shall be strictly prohibited.

5.8 That the principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.

SECTION VI

COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE OF

THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE OF MALTA

SECTION VI

COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE OF MALTA

6.1 The Governance of Craft Lodges practicing Symbolic Masonry within the Republic of Malta is vested solely in the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta Ancient Free & Accepted Masons which is composed of its Grand Master, Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and Masters and Wardens of its Subordinate Lodges. Nothing in this Constitution shall be interpreted as derogating from the powers inherent in the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta. Except for the improbable effectuation of Law 7.3, such powers are vested in the Office of the Most Worshipful The Grand Master as the highest recognised Masonic authority. Consequently, the Grand Lodge Executive Council, the Board of General Purposes, other boards, committees, tribunals, and any other bodies are deemed to be of an advisory nature only. Any decisions taken by the said bodies are likewise of an advisory nature until approved by the Grand Lodge Executive Council and ratified by Grand Lodge. All members of Grand Lodge shall be subscribing members of a Subordinate Lodge warranted by Grand Lodge. Honorary Grand rank held by Brethren of Founding Lodges immediately before the formation of this Grand Lodge shall be honoured with equivalent Honorary Grand rank in this Grand Lodge.

6.1.1 Members of Grand Lodge shall rank in the following order:

Most Worshipful The Grand Master
Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Past Senior Grand Wardens
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Past Junior Grand Wardens

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
Right Worshipful Past Grand Secretaries
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Secretaries
Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Secretaries
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
Right Worshipful Past Grand Treasurers
Right Worshipful Grand Mentor
Right Worshipful Past Grand Mentors
Right Worshipful Grand Chancellor
Right Worshipful Past Grand Chancellors
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Chancellor
Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Chancellors
Right Worshipful Grand Director of Ceremonies
Right Worshipful Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain
Right Worshipful Past Grand Chaplains
Right Worshipful President of the BoGP
Right Worshipful Past President of the BoGP
Very Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon
Very Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon
Very Worshipful Past Grand Deacons
Very Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer
Very Worshipful Past Grand Sword Bearers
Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Secretary
Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Secretaries
Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Treasurer
Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Treasurers
Very Worshipful Grand Archivist
Very Worshipful Past Grand Archivist
Very Worshipful Grand Custodian
Very Worshipful Past Grand Custodian
Very Worshipful Grand Superintendent of Works
Very Worshipful Past Grand Superintendents of Works
Very Worshipful Grand Charity Steward
Very Worshipful Past Grand Charity Stewards
Very Worshipful Grand Stewards
Very Worshipful Past Grand Stewards

Very Worshipful Grand Standard Bearers
Very Worshipful Past Grand Standard Bearers
Very Worshipful Grand Almoner
Very Worshipful Past Grand Almoners
Very Worshipful Grand Inner Guard
Very Worshipful Past Grand Inner Guards
Very Worshipful Grand Organist
Very Worshipful Past Grand Organists
Very Worshipful Grand Tyler
Very Worshipful Past Grand Tylers
Worshipful Masters and Wardens of every Subordinate Lodge

6.2 Grand Lodge shall meet always in the Republic of Malta for the despatch of business on the Saturday before the fourth Monday in the months of April (Semi-Annual Communication) and November (Annual Communication) each year or on such other day and at such hour as The Grand Master, or in his absence the Deputy Grand Master, or in their absence an Assistant Grand Master may proclaim, and as may be occasioned by circumstance, and at other times when duly summoned. Grand Officers elected for appointment for the ensuing years shall be proclaimed and saluted at the November Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge shall be opened in the Third Degree, but The Grand Master may direct otherwise provided always that due notice has been given.

6.3 At each Communication Grand Lodge shall be opened and ruled by The Grand Master or in his absence by the Deputy Grand Master or in his absence by an Assistant Grand Master or in his absence by that member of Grand Lodge then present who shall be next in order of precedence according to Law 6.1.1.

6.4 (Vacant)

6.5 Attendance at Grand Lodge Communications of other than Grand Lodge members shall be at the sole discretion of the Presiding Officer. Such Brothers shall have no voting rights and may address the Chair only with the permission of the Presiding Officer.

6.6 Attendees at Grand Lodge Communications shall, before entering, sign their name in the attendance book provided.

6.7 Every Brother attending Grand Lodge or a Subordinate Lodge shall wear the Apron, Collar and Jewel appropriate to his rank and no member of Grand Lodge or of any Subordinate Lodge or visitor thereto shall be permitted to wear any insignia belonging to any Order or Degree beyond that of a Master Mason in which the Jewel of a Past Master is included. Foreign Grand Lodge Representatives may wear the insignia of the Grand Lodges they represent.

6.8 Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and Honorary Past Grand Officers shall wear regalia in gold. Masters and Wardens of Subordinate Lodges shall wear regalia in silver.

6.9 The wearing of evening dress, dress apron, chain of office, jewel of rank, gauntlets and white gloves at Grand Lodge Communications is obligatory for all members of Grand Lodge, including Past Grand Masters. Past Grand Officers and Honorary Past Grand Officers are to wear collars in place of chain of office.

6.9.1 No Masonic jewels other than the appropriate Grand Lodge jewels shall be worn by Grand Lodge Officers during Grand Lodge ceremonies or Grand Lodge delegations.

6.9.2 Other than in accordance with Law 6.8, Grand Officer's 'Undress' aprons are to be worn by Grand Officers for all subordinate Lodge Meetings and similar Masonic events not organised by Grand Lodge.

6.10 Grand Lodge Communication procedures shall normally be in the following sequence:

6.10.1 The Grand Secretary shall:

6.10.1.1 ascertain the representation of Subordinate Lodges and receive apologies for absence,

6.10.1.2 offer the Minutes of the last Communication to be taken 'as read' and, subject to approval or the hearing of amendments, have them submitted for signature by the Presiding Officer,

- 6.10.1.3 receive and record Motions of which due notice has been given.
- 6.10.2 The President of the Board of General Purposes shall then:
 - 6.10.2.1 report on the proceedings of the Board,
 - 6.10.2.2 put forward its recommendations to Grand Lodge.
- 6.10.3 The Grand Treasurer shall then:
 - 6.10.3.1 present his Financial Report and receive arising questions,
 - 6.10.3.2 put forward the Financial Report for adoption by Grand Lodge,
 - 6.10.3.3 have them submitted for signature by the Presiding Officer.
- 6.10.4 The Grand Secretary shall then:
 - 6.10.4.1 present his report and receive arising questions,
 - 6.10.4.2 report on Foreign Relations,
 - 6.10.4.3 receive written notices of motions addressed to the Board of General Purposes by members of Grand Lodge.
- 6.10.5 The Most Worshipful The Grand Master at his pleasure may:
 - 6.10.5.1 address Grand Lodge,
 - 6.10.5.2 carry out investitures and appointments,
 - 6.10.5.3 acknowledge and welcome visitors.
- 6.10.6 Grand Lodge reserves to itself the power of hearing and determining all applications and petitions that it may deem proper whether or not previously submitted to the Board of General Purposes.

6.11 Any Masonic question, dispute, difference or complaint which cannot be settled between the parties concerned may be referred in writing to the Grand Secretary for deliberation by the Board of General Purposes. On receipt of such notification, the Grand Secretary shall promptly advise the brother or Lodge so charged with the details of the charge. As a next step, the Grand Secretary shall attempt to reach a solution by mediation in order to do everything possible for avoidance of having to bring a formal charge/s to the attention of the President of the Board of General Purposes.

- 6.11.1 In the event that the Board of General Purposes determines that the nature of the complaint as submitted under Law 6.11 warrants the convening of an ad hoc Disciplinary Hearing Committee, then the President of the Board of General Purposes shall so advise the Deputy Grand Master who, in his capacity as Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee, shall appoint to the Committee such a member or members of the Board of General Purposes as the Chairman shall in his sole discretion decide.
- 6.11.2 When the Deputy Grand Master is unavailable to act as Chairman, then an Assistant Grand Master, or failing that a Grand Officer, may be delegated by the Board to act as Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee.
- 6.11.3 The Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall be authorized to interview whomsoever and to consider whatsoever it deems appropriate in order to investigate the circumstances of the case and report and make recommendations on it to the Board of General Purposes. The Board of General Purposes, on receipt of the recommendations of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee, may impose such penalty of admonition or suspension upon the Lodge or Brother, as the case may be, and its decision shall be final unless an Appeal be made, pursuant to Law 6.32.1. If, however, also on the

recommendation of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee, the Board determines that a Subordinate Lodge be erased or a Brother expelled, then the matter will be referred to the Grand Master for his decision. In this instance, the Grand Master's decision is final and is not subject to Appeal.

6.11.4 The Grand Secretary will notify the parties concerned of the decision of the Board of General Purposes as soon as possible after the decision has been made.

6.12 Motions considered by Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority vote of voting members, subject only that the Presiding Officer shall have an additional casting vote in the event of equal voting.

6.13 Annual Returns and Payments and an audited set of Lodge Accounts of the previous masonic year, properly due to Grand Lodge by Subordinate Lodges, and remaining unfulfilled beyond the 31st of March of the current year, shall disqualify such Subordinate Lodges from exercising their votes or serving on any board or committee of Grand Lodge.

6.14 A Brother shall always stand whilst addressing the Chair and shall suffer no interruption other than being called to order by the Presiding Officer or by special motion to Order.

6.15 A Brother shall not be at liberty to speak more than once on the same motion, unless in explanation or reply, or when called upon by the Presiding Officer. If any Brother behaves in Grand Lodge in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of Grand Lodge, he shall be formally admonished by the Presiding Officer and if he persists in his irregular conduct, he shall be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the majority vote of the members present.

6.16 A notice for the enactment of a new Law or for the alteration or repeal of an existing Law shall be entertained at any Communication of Grand Lodge; provided that due notice thereof in writing shall have been given; such notice shall be printed in the summons for those Communications and a copy of such summons

shall be sent to the Secretaries of Subordinate Lodges at least ten days before the next Communication. However, the Grand Officer who is to preside, having received prior notice of a matter and deeming it to be of pressing urgency, may agree, prior to any Communication of Grand Lodge, to admit such matter for discussion and resolution.

6.17 Following the Communication of Grand Lodge, Lodge Secretaries shall be advised of any Notices relating to any alterations or additions to these Laws, together with the appointment of Grand Representatives near foreign Grand Lodges, and Appeals from Subordinate Lodges or Brethren.

6.18 A discretionary power is vested in the Presiding Officer of rejecting, at the time of its being handed in, any notice of motion, if such shall be deemed by him improper, unlawful, or inconsistent with the Ancient Landmarks.

6.19 Any motion, the substance of which Grand Lodge has already considered and decided upon, shall not be again brought forward or otherwise discussed until after the lapse of six months from the date of such decision.

6.20 In the absence of the Proposer or his nominee to move a motion it shall be agreeable for any other member of Grand Lodge to move the motion as if he had originally given notice thereof only should Grand Lodge not consent to a postponement.

6.21 Any communication from a Subordinate Lodge submitted to Grand Lodge shall be signed by the Master and Secretary, and have the Lodge Seal affixed.

6.22 Proceedings or any comment thereon or reference thereto, of Grand Lodge or of a Subordinate Lodge or of any of their members or of any of their committees shall be published externally only with the prior written permission of the Grand Master. Such publications include the internet, websites, the press and social media.

6.23 Grand Lodge shall donate annually to such charities as it shall from time to time decide. Such donations shall be the subject of a motion annually in Grand Lodge.

6.24 The financial accounts of Grand Lodge and the Grand Charity shall, as soon as possible following 31st December year-end audit and before 1st March annually, be printed and forwarded to Subordinate Lodges.

6.25 Full detail of all new Laws and a Report of the number of Subordinate Lodge Warrants issued, restored, suspended, or cancelled will be included with the annual distribution of Grand Lodge financial accounts.

6.26 Neither the Grand Secretary nor the Grand Treasurer shall hold a similar office in a Subordinate Lodge.

6.27 Grand Lodge, cognizant of the counsel of the Grand Lodge Executive Council and the Board of General of Purposes may suspend or impose such penalty as it may determine upon any member of a Subordinate Lodge who joins, takes membership of or takes part in any activity of anybody or society purporting to be Masonic but which is without Warrant or Constitution from Grand Lodge or other Masonic body which it recognizes and is in Masonic union with.

6.28 Grand Lodge declares as unlawful in Malta any assembly or activity purporting to be Masonic under any title whatsoever which is without a Warrant or Constitution from Grand Lodge or other Masonic Grand Body which it recognises and is in Masonic union.

6.28.1 Grand Lodge prohibits any response by its Subordinate Lodges or members thereof as to the standing of a member or in reply to enquiry from any non-recognised Body.

6.29 Grand Officers shall wear their chains of office when forming part of a Grand Lodge delegation, unless specifically authorised otherwise by the Board of General Purposes or being specifically ordered to represent The Grand Master.

6.30 A recommendation that a Subordinate Lodge be erased or a Brother be expelled or invited to resign shall take effect as a penalty of suspension until such time as the question of Erasure or Expulsion shall have been considered by the Grand Master, or the Brother shall have resigned.

6.31 (Vacant)

6.32 An Appeals Panel will be appointed annually by the Grand Master at the October Regular Meeting of the Board of General Purposes. The panel will be composed of five (5) Brethren, one of whom will be appointed as the Presiding Officer. Members may remain eligible to be reappointed as often as the Grand Master may see fit. If a member of the Appeals Panel shall no longer be able to discharge his duties, or resign or become disqualified, the Grand Master may appoint an eligible Brother to fill the vacancy. No member of the Board of General Purposes is eligible for consideration.

6.32.1 Any Subordinate Lodge or Brother aggrieved by a decision determined by the Board of General Purposes may appeal the decision. The Appeal is to be made in writing, couched in proper and respectful language, and be delivered to the Grand Secretary within 30 days of the date of advice of the Board of General Purposes decision.

6.32.2 When considering an Appeal, the presence of three (3) members of the Panel shall be considered to form a Quorum. If the Presiding Officer is not available, the members present will elect a Presiding Officer for that Appeal.

6.32.3 The Appeals Panel may confirm or rescind a decision of the Board of General Purposes or may vary the same by increasing or decreasing the penalty or by substituting a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft.

- 6.32.4 If a Brother be invited to resign, it shall take effect as a penalty of suspension until the Brother shall have resigned. If he fails to do so, the original ruling will take effect.
- 6.32.5 The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding on the parties to the Appeal, and they shall be notified thereof by the Grand Secretary as soon as possible.

SECTION VII

GRAND OFFICES AND GRAND OFFICERS

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GRAND OFFICES AND GRAND OFFICERS

7.1 To provide strength, stability and to establish a solid foundation for this Grand Lodge constituted in November AL 6004 (AD 2004), it was the wish and will of the first Grand Master, unanimously supported by the Board of General Purposes, that Grand Officers installed at the consecration of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta should remain in Office for a tenure of three years. Thereafter and in perpetuity The Grand Master after consultation with the Board of General Purposes shall appoint or reappoint Grand Officers to serve Grand Lodge for a tenure of three years. Tri-annually at the appropriate semi-Annual Communication the Board of General Purposes shall recommend worthy Brothers as Candidates for the Offices of The Grand Master, Grand Secretary, President of the Board of General Purposes and Grand Treasurer after which Grand Lodge will vote in the usual Masonic manner. The worthy Brothers so elected shall be invested at the next Annual Communication. Following his investiture, The Grand Master shall announce and invest Grand Officers to serve Grand Lodge for the ensuing three years. In the event of there being more than one nomination for any of the elected Grand Offices, the election shall be conducted by a secret ballot. A simple majority shall determine the outcome of such a ballot. The same shall also hold for the election of Officers in Subordinate Lodges.

7.2 In order to preserve the hierarchical integrity of the Masonic Institution and to benefit from the collective experience of worthy Brethren:

- 7.2.1 Nomination to Grand Office of The Grand Master shall require the candidate to have been an active and subscribing member of a Subordinate Lodge for at least ten (10) active years immediately prior to nomination, and one who has been installed as a Master of a Subordinate or any other Lodge recognised by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta as Regular.

7.2.2 Nomination to Grand Offices of Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master shall require the candidate to have been an active and subscribing member of a Subordinate Lodge for at least eight (8) active years immediately prior to nomination, and one who has been installed as a Master of a Subordinate Lodge or any other Lodge recognised by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta.

7.2.3 Nomination to Right Worshipful ranked Grand Offices other than the above shall require the candidate to have been an active and subscribing member of a Subordinate Lodge for at least five (5) active years immediately prior to nomination, and one who has been installed as a Master of a Subordinate Lodge or any other Lodge recognised by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta.

7.3 The Grand Master shall be duty bound to uphold and obey the Laws of Grand Lodge and to enforce obedience to these Laws by the Brethren and Subordinate Lodges under the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge; and at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge to present a written Report which shall contain inter alia all his official acts and edicts or Decrees effected during his tenure together with an appraisal of the general condition of Masonry within the Jurisdiction together with recommendations for such legislation as he may deem necessary or beneficial to the interests of the Craft within the jurisdiction; and shall in consultation with the Board of General Purposes and, whilst always remaining consistent with the provisions of the Laws and Constitution, have the power, authority, and responsibility to;

7.3.1 Exercise all executive functions of Grand Lodge and preside at its Communications exercising such judicial powers as are granted him by the Constitution, and

7.3.2 Appoint all Officers, Committees and Boards not required to be elected and to fill all vacancies as specified herein, and

- 7.3.3 Require any Officer or member of Grand Lodge to attend the Communication of Grand Lodge and to demand information of a Masonic nature from any member of a Subordinate Lodge, and
- 7.3.4 Convene Grand Lodge Committees or Boards at such place and time as he may identify, and
- 7.3.5 Suspend from Office any Officer in the Board of General Purposes of or acting in contravention of the Laws and Constitution, and
- 7.3.6 Suspend any member of a Subordinate Lodge for cause deemed appropriate to warrant such suspension in accordance with these Laws, and
- 7.3.7 Supervise, direct and approve the functions of any Officer where pertaining to the functions of his Office whether he be elected or appointed, and
- 7.3.8 Convene any Subordinate Lodge at any time, opening and closing same without ceremony as he so desires and presiding therein at his will and pleasure and to inspect records and proceedings and to require conformity with the Laws of Grand Lodge, and
- 7.3.9 Suspend the Warrant of a Subordinate Lodge or suspend the authority to perform Ritual Work for just cause as outlined in the Constitution, and
- 7.3.10 Grant Dispensation enabling a Subordinate Lodge to install or elect Officers when such Subordinate Lodge has failed for adequate reason to elect Officers at the place and time designated and required, and
- 7.3.11 Grant Dispensation upon request and where deemed beneficial enabling a Subordinate Lodge to temporarily convene in a location other than that prescribed in its By-Laws, and

- 7.3.12 Grant Dispensation enabling a Subordinate Lodge to hold its regular meeting on a day other than that prescribed in its By-Laws or to permit a Subordinate Lodge to go into temporary darkness to preclude violation of its By-Laws due to an inability to convene because of unforeseen circumstances of a temporary nature, and
- 7.3.13 Grant Dispensation enabling a Subordinate Lodge to fill the Office of Master by election in the event a valid vacancy in such Office exists, and
- 7.3.14 Order the consolidation of one Subordinate Lodge with another in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and any specific requirements of the respective Subordinate Lodge By-Laws, and
- 7.3.15 Authorize Pay-Orders issued by the Grand Secretary, and
- 7.3.16 Grant Dispensation enabling a new Subordinate Lodge to be formed and to further issue a Warrant to such Subordinate Lodge as he deems worthy, and
- 7.3.17 Issue Edicts and Decrees which shall have the force of Law until enacted as Laws at the next Annual Communication, and
- 7.3.18 Issue Directives establishing administrative and other procedures which shall be binding upon Subordinate Lodges, and
- 7.3.19 Constitute and Consecrate Subordinate Lodges in person, and
- 7.3.20 Receive and distribute any assets, properties, furniture, or regalia of an inactivated Subordinate Lodge, and

- 7.3.21 Grant Dispensation where deemed beneficial enabling Subordinate Lodges to convene emergency meetings as requested and not in conflict with established custom or usage of the Craft or otherwise provided for within the Constitution, and
- 7.3.22 Preserve order and harmony within Grand Lodge and exercise such other powers or prerogatives granted to him, and
- 7.3.23 Present Pay-Orders directly to the Grand Treasurer in the unavailability of the Grand Secretary for the relief of Brethren within the Jurisdiction in times of calamity or disaster, and
- 7.3.24 In consultation with the Board of General Purposes to confer Honorary Past Grand rank on those considered worthy of this distinction, themselves being Grand Officers of other Jurisdictions in Masonic union with Grand Lodge, or Past Masters of and in Subordinate Lodges.

7.4 In the unlikely event that The Grand Master is considered to have abused his powers thus rendering himself unworthy of the obedience of Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges a petition signed by no less than two thirds of the membership of the Board of General Purposes and setting out the nature of the abuse shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for onward transmission to the Deputy Grand Master.

On receipt of such petition the Deputy Grand Master shall be duty bound by this Law to advise The Grand Master accordingly and require that he remit his complete authority in writing to the Deputy Grand Master who shall immediately lodge this document of such transference of authority with the Grand Secretary who shall immediately notify each member of Grand Lodge of this circumstance. Should The Grand Master refuse to transfer his authority as specified then the Deputy Grand Master shall advise the Grand Secretary accordingly that he has assumed the authority of The Grand Master under this Law. As soon as possible the Board of General Purposes shall convene an ad hoc Disciplinary Tribunal

comprising three senior members of their choosing preferably with professional background and who shall not be members of the Board of General Purposes and who shall establish the operating procedures of the Tribunal.

This ad hoc Disciplinary Tribunal shall act expediently taking such evidence and calling such members as it deems appropriate towards establishing whether or not it considers a prima facie 'case to answer' has been established. Upon the Tribunal reaching a majority vote decision the Chairman shall invite The Grand Master to attend the Tribunal in session and inform him of its findings. On advice of this decision and evidences The Grand Master shall either be reinstated forthwith with immediate re-transference of the authority of Office or be given the options of unconditional resignation from Office with immediate effect or of his requesting a full Hearing in Grand Lodge to be specifically convened for the purpose by the Deputy Grand Master.

7.5 DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist The Grand Master as he may direct and, in his absence, to preside at the Communications of Grand Lodge. In the event of the death of The Grand Master, his severance from membership in all Subordinate Lodges or his permanent departure from the Jurisdictional area of Grand Lodge, the Deputy Grand Master shall assume the rights, privileges and responsibilities of The Grand Master and shall be known as the 'Acting Grand Master' until the next Annual Communication.

7.6 ASSISTANT GRAND MASTERS: shall act in order of Masonic seniority determined by their respective date of initiation into the Craft and in the absence of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master shall assume the power, authority, responsibility, and privileges of The Grand Master.

7.7 GRAND WARDENS: shall be duty bound to assist The Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master or an Assistant Grand Master as they may so direct and in the absence of the aforesaid Grand Officers shall preside in succession at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and shall when a vacancy occurs in any of the aforesaid Grand Offices shall assume in succession the duties of such vacant Office until the next Annual Communication.

7.8 **GRAND SECRETARY:** The functions and duties of the Grand Secretary may generally be outlined as follows:

- 7.8.1 Maintain and record all transactions of Grand Lodge, and
- 7.8.2 Pursue and receive all monies rightly due and payable to Grand Lodge and keep a proper record of all, together with pertinent accompanying vouchers and statements and within ten working days of receipt of any funds transfer such funds to the Grand Treasurer against his receipt for same, and
- 7.8.3 Receive, keep in orderly fashion and safely maintain all Grand Lodge papers, documents, and such other data as is committed to his care, and
- 7.8.4 Maintain office hours within Grand Lodge office as agreed with The Grand Master, and
- 7.8.5 Issue Pay-Orders to the Grand Treasurer authorising payment of Grand Lodge liabilities and valid and approved expenditure and provide appropriate support documentation for each and keep complete financial records pertaining to such Pay-Orders, and
- 7.8.6 Maintain all necessary and appropriate records commensurate with good administration and sound Governance of the Craft within Grand Lodge, and
- 7.8.7 Routinely conduct the correspondence of Grand Lodge as so delegated to him including but not limited to communications with Regular Grand Jurisdictions, and
- 7.8.8 Have absolute custody of the Seal of Grand Lodge and certify and attest to all Instruments of Grand Lodge when so required, and
- 7.8.9 (vacant)

- 7.8.10 Report all financial transactions pertaining to his Office at monthly intervals to the Finance Committee and annually to Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication, and
 - 7.8.11 Perform such other administrative or financial duties deemed inherent to his Office.
- 7.9 GRAND TREASURER: The Grand Treasurer shall be required to:
- 7.9.1 Maintain bank accounts in the name of Grand Lodge and to maintain accounting records of all transactions to the standards required by the appointed independent auditor, and
 - 7.9.2 Deposit all funds or credits received by him in said bank accounts at the earliest opportunity following receipt of same and advise the Grand Secretary accordingly, and
 - 7.9.3 Execute Pay-Orders certified in the appropriate format by the Grand Secretary or in his extended absence by The Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master where so authorized, and
 - 7.9.4 Prepare on a monthly basis a Report of all transactions for presentation to the Grand Lodge Finance Committee and on an annual basis a full set of accounts for presentation to Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication, and
 - 7.9.5 Attend with records of his Office as The Grand Master and such other Officers and Committees as may so require from time to time, and
 - 7.9.6 Perform such other duties related to his Office as may from time to time be required by the Board of General Purposes, and
 - 7.9.7 Prepare and effect a transfer of all data, documents and materials pertaining to his Office to his duly installed successor at the close of the Annual Communication and within no more than

five working days of the Annual Communication's closing.

- 7.9.8 Order, stock and provide such Masonic supplies as may be needed by Subordinate Lodges and as approved by the Board of General Purposes.

7.10 **GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES:** The Grand Director of Ceremonies shall ipso facto be a member of the Ritual Committee and shall be required to:

- 7.10.1 Arrange all Grand Lodge ceremonies, conduct processions of Grand Lodge and introduce Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions and distinguished visitors as and when requested to so do by The Grand Master, and
- 7.10.2 Proclaim the installation of Grand Lodge Officers and make such other proclamations as may from time to time be directed, and
- 7.10.3 Prepare ballots for elections as prescribed and collect and transfer results to the Tellers, and
- 7.10.4 Assume custody and safekeeping of such property of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta as may be committed to his care including but not limited to Grand Lodge jewels, ceremonial items, clothing and furniture, and
- 7.10.5 Prepare and maintain an updated inventory of all moveable and immovable Grand Lodge property, which inventory shall be verified with the Grand Secretary immediately upon cessation of tenure of office, and
- 7.10.6 Perform such other duties related to his Office as may from time to time be required by The Grand Master.

7.11 **GRAND CHAPLAIN:** The Grand Chaplain shall perform those services required of and pertaining to his Office and shall officiate at Masonic functions as requested by The Grand Master.

7.12 **GRAND SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS:** It shall be the duty of the Grand Superintendent of Works to advise the Board of General Purposes as to the suitability of venues for Grand Lodge Communications and to make arrangements for the same, as directed by the Board of General Purposes.

7.13 **GRAND CHARITY STEWARD:** It shall be the responsibility of the Grand Charity Steward to advise the Board of General Purposes of all matters relating to appeals for charity both from within the membership of Grand Lodge and the world at large. He will co-ordinate the functions of providing relief for distressed Masons and their dependents, supporting Masonic charities and making grants to non-Masonic charities or deserving individuals.

7.14 **GRAND DEACONS:** It shall be the duties of Grand Deacons to convey communications in Grand Lodge and to assist the Grand Master as required and requested always in a manner as ancient usage of the Craft prescribes.

7.15 **GRAND STEWARDS:** It shall be the duties of Grand Stewards to assist Grand Wardens about Grand Lodge and particularly during the hours of refreshment and to assist as requested and required in the arrangements pertaining to festive occasions of Grand Lodge.

7.16 **GRAND STANDARD AND GRAND SWORD BEARERS:** It shall be the duty of Grand Standard and Sword Bearers in all processions of Grand Lodge and in all ceremonies where so required to carry and display the Maltese National Flag, the Standard of Grand Lodge, other Standards as shall be required together with the Grand Sword, in all processions of Grand Lodge and in all ceremonies where so required.

7.17 **GRAND INNER GUARD:** The Grand Inner Guard shall maintain communication with the Grand Tyler and together shall be responsible for the security of Grand Lodge-in-session. His prime duty shall be the securing of the Inner Door of Grand Lodge allowing none to enter or to leave without the direct prior permission of The Grand Master. His responsibilities shall include announcing to The Grand Master at his direction the name and proper Masonic title of any Brother entering Grand Lodge and to ensure that all Brethren are properly clothed and enter and leave Grand Lodge in proper form.

7.18 GRAND TYLER: The Grand Tyler shall maintain communication with the Grand Inner Guard and together shall be responsible for the security of Grand Lodge-in-session. His prime duty shall be the securing of the Outer Door of Grand Lodge ensuring the veracity of the credentials of all Brethren desiring admittance in accord with the ancient usage of the Craft and these Laws and shall report to the Grand Inner Guard the name and proper Masonic title of any Brother desiring entry to Grand Lodge-in-session. His responsibilities shall include making such preparations and arrangements pertaining to the Temple as may be required of him by The Grand Master.

7.19 Grand Lodge Officers may be removed from Office during their tenure at The Grand Master's will and pleasure and at the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes after due process of law as provided within this Constitution.

7.20 Grand Lodge Officers may be suspended from the functions of Office by The Grand Master for cause and at the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes.

7.21 A vacancy in the Office of The Grand Master shall under no circumstances be deemed to exist between Annual Communications. Other than elsewhere prescribed, vacancies in Grand Lodge Offices shall be deemed to exist only should the incumbent die in Office or resign unlawfully from Office or be convicted after due process as defined within this Constitution of a Masonic offence or become removed from the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge or demit from all Subordinate Lodges or be suspended from membership of a Subordinate Lodge.

7.22 In the event that a Grand Officer wishes to tender his resignation from Office, he should tender his resignation in writing to The Grand Master under Strictly Private cover via the Office of the Grand Secretary. A personal meeting between The Grand Master and the resigning Grand Officer will be arranged by the Grand Secretary for the soonest possible date to which the President of the Board of General Purposes will be invited to attend subject to the resigning Grand Officer having no objection. It is expected that the resigning Grand Officer will continue to remain in Office until the next Grand Lodge Communication.

7.23 The Grand Master shall have regard for the views of the Board of General Purposes when appointing a Grand Lodge Officer to fill such vacancies as may arise.

7.24 The Grand Master shall be titled and addressed as ‘Most Worshipful’. The Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Director of Ceremonies and Grand Chaplain as ‘Right Worshipful’ and all other Grand Officers as ‘Very Worshipful’.

7.25 Grand Lodge Officers in procession shall take precedence among themselves as follows: The Grand Master; Deputy Grand Master; Assistant Grand Masters; Senior Grand Warden; Junior Grand Warden; Grand Secretary; Deputy Grand Secretaries; Grand Treasurer; Grand Mentor; Grand Chancellor; Grand Director of Ceremonies; Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies; Grand Chaplain; President of the Board of General Purposes; Senior Grand Deacon; Junior Grand Deacon; Grand Sword Bearer; Grand Superintendent of Works; Grand Charity Steward; Grand Stewards; Grand Standard Bearers; Grand Inner Guard; Grand Tyler.

7.26 Past Grand Lodge Officers shall be entitled to precedence in processions or otherwise, immediately following the current holder of the same office.

7.27 All Grand Officers when installed shall wear the authorised Grand Lodge regalia at Grand Lodge assembled. Grand Lodge regalia may temporarily and for specified period be removed from the Jurisdiction of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta only with the written authority of The Grand Master. No Brother shall appear clothed in any of the jewels, collars or badges of the Craft, in any procession, meeting or assemblage at which persons other than Masons are present, or in any place of public resort, unless the Grand Master shall have previously given a dispensation for Brethren to be there present in Masonic clothing.

7.28 Grand Officers shall be received in Subordinate Lodges as befitting to their Masonic station. Most Worshipful Brethren shall be given eleven salutes, Right Worshipful Brethren seven, and Very Worshipful Brethren five salutes. Grand Officers of other recognised Jurisdictions shall be saluted in accordance with their own tradition.

7.29 Upon an incumbent of 'active' Grand Office attaining seventy-five years of age, the tenure of Office shall automatically lapse as at the next Grand Lodge Communication, subject only to prolongation of the incumbency for a specific period being requested by the Board of General Purposes and accepted by the incumbent. The Board shall recognize the circumstance six months ahead of the anticipated anniversary. Should the Board of General Purposes consider that pertaining circumstances and Grand Lodge best interests may be served by prolongation of the appropriate tenure, the consideration will be duly voted upon. An approving vote of two-thirds of Board of General Purposes shall carry a Motion to request prolongation of tenure, and the Grand Secretary shall be so advised to proceed accordingly. The incumbent is under no obligation to accede and events shall turn in due course.

7.30 Such worthy Grand Officers of Jurisdictions in Masonic union with Grand Lodge and worthy Past Masters of Subordinate Lodges may at the discretion of The Grand Master and the Board of General Purposes be conferred with Honorary Past Grand Rank. Brethren so honoured shall rank after Past Grand Officers and may wear similar Aprons and Collars with a Jewel bearing the insignia of that Office.

7.31 To be eligible to hold Grand Office a Brother needs be a subscribing Past Master of a Subordinate Lodge, with the notable exception, and in full consideration of the provisions of Law 7.1.1 that he shall alternatively have the unqualified approval of The Grand Master and the support of no less than two-thirds of the full prescribed membership of the Board of General Purposes.

7.32 (Vacant)

7.33 Ownership of Grand Lodge property shall be vested in trust or in a Trust incorporated within the State of Malta and in either case the Trustees shall be Grand Lodge Officers and be a minimum of three in number.

7.34 A Brother proven to Board of General Purposes satisfaction to have canvassed directly or indirectly for tenure of Grand Rank Office shall be automatically ineligible for appointment to such Grand Office.

7.35 Should The Grand Master for any cause decline to preside over the Fraternity or be rendered permanently incapable of discharging the duties of his Office the Deputy Grand Master shall assume the powers and privileges of the Office of Grand Master until the next Annual Communication.

7.36 An Advisory Council shall be convened at the pleasure of the Grand Master and shall comprise the incumbent Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Chancellor and Immediate Past Grand Master, together with others as identified from time to time at the sole discretion of the Grand Master.

7.37 The Grand Master or in his absence the Deputy Grand Master or in his absence an Assistant Grand Master shall have authority to require the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary to attend them with their books whenever each shall respectively deem it necessary.

7.38 The Grand Master has authority and right to preside in any Subordinate Lodge and to order the Grand Wardens to attend who, if present, are to fill the Wardens' chairs in such Subordinate Lodge. The Grand Master may issue a Warrant for the Deputy Grand Master or an Assistant Grand Master to exercise a similar authority to preside in any Subordinate Lodge and to order the Grand Wardens to attend who, if present, are to fill the Wardens' Chairs in such Subordinate Lodge. Representation of Grand Lodge by any Grand Officer, under any circumstances whatsoever, shall always be supported by a valid written Authority or Warrant from The Grand Master.

7.39 The Grand Master will receive official communications only via the Office of the Grand Secretary.

SECTION VIII

THE GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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THE GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

8.1 The Grand Lodge Executive Council is composed of:

- All members with the rank of Most Worshipful in the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta;
- The Most Worshipful the Grand Master (Chairman of the Grand Lodge Executive Council)
- The Grand Secretary
- The Grand Treasurer.

8.2 The judicial and legal representation of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta shall be vested in any two (2) members of the GLEC including at least one brother with the rank of Most Worshipful. and another brother with the rank of Right Worshipful. Provided further, that no judicial and legal proceedings may be instituted or otherwise promoted by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta without the approval by majority vote within the Grand Lodge Executive Council. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Grand Lodge Executive Council from ratifying and approving any judicial and legal action taken by the incumbent Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

8.3 The Grand Lodge Executive Council has the duty to administer and control the property of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta also commonly referred to from time to time as Grand Lodge and shall take cognisance of all matters in any way relating to the Craft. The Grand Lodge Executive Council shall appoint Trustees in respect of Grand Lodge property holdings as required under Law 7.32 and subject to approval by Grand Lodge. Such property may be sold, mortgaged, leased, invested or otherwise disposed of as the Grand Lodge Executive Council from time to time may direct and the Trustees shall strictly effect such written directions issuing from the Grand Lodge Executive Council.

8.4 In addition to, and without prejudice to the provision of Law 8.2 hereof, the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta upon a

resolution of the Grand Lodge Executive Council may, in particular case or cases or classes of cases, appoint any person or persons (whether a member of the Grand Lodge Executive Council or not, and including a Most Worshipful) as its delegate/s the incumbent Most Worshipful The Grand Master, the incumbent Past Grand Master and the incumbent Grand Treasurer with full Signatory powers, including the power of substitution, to represent the Grand Lodge Executive Council and the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta, and in particular but without prejudice to the foregoing, to enter into any agreement, whether by public deed or by private writing or instrument, on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta, to sign and execute any documents on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta including bank documents, cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments, any contracts, engagements, undertakings or commitments and to sue or be sued on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta.

8.5 The Grand Lodge Executive Council may recommend or report to Grand Lodge whatever it may deem conducive to the welfare and good governance of the Craft and every recommendation or report of the Grand Lodge Executive Council or of any committee appointed by the Grand Lodge Executive Council shall, when adopted by Grand Lodge, be treated as an Edict of Grand Lodge.

8.6 Any Power of Attorney issued by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta shall be executed by any one (1) Most Worshipful brother or by any person or persons (including a Most Worshipful) authorised by the GLEC for this purpose and any such power of attorney shall be considered as executed by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta. Any such Power of Attorney document is to specify clearly and be limited to only the specific course of action stipulated therein and as may be determined by the Grand Lodge Executive Council.

8.7 The Board of General Purposes (hereinafter referred as ‘the Board’) shall comprise of The Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Master, current Grand Officers ranked Right Worshipful, and the Master of each Subordinate Lodge together with the First Principal of the Holy Royal Arch. A Subordinate Lodge Master or a Royal Arch First Principal unable to attend may be substituted by the following: in the case of a Subordinate Lodge, one

of the Wardens or the Secretary; in the case of the Holy Royal Arch, the Scribe E. Each attending member of the Board shall have a single vote, with a tied vote being resolved under Law above. The Grand Master and/or the Board President may invite non-voting attendees whose presence they deem of benefit to the Board's deliberations. A President who shall not be the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master or an Assistant Grand Master, shall be elected from those Grand Officers identified above.

8.8 A President, who shall not be The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master or an Assistant Grand Master, shall be elected from those Grand Officers identified in Law 8.7.

8.8.1 In accordance with the provisions of Law 7.1 of this Constitution the Board shall, at three-yearly intervals at the regular Board meeting immediately prior to the Semi-Annual Communication, recommend and ballot for a worthy Brother for each of the Offices of The Grand Master, Grand Secretary, President of the Board of General Purposes and Grand Treasurer.

8.9 The Board shall regularly convene on the second Thursday of the months of March, May and October, and on such other occasions as The Grand Master may command or the President so require.

8.10 A quorum of the Board shall comprise a minimum of five members of whom three shall be Grand Officers, other than in the hearing and decision of Masonic complaints when a quorum shall comprise a minimum of seven members of whom four shall be Grand Officers. All questions shall be decided by simple majority voting with the Presiding Brother having a casting vote in the case of a tied vote.

8.11 The President of the Board of General Purposes may appoint committees to assist in the resolution of arising issues as he deems it appropriate. In respect of issues arising particularly under the provisions of Laws 6.11.1 and 6.11.3 the Board shall endeavour to appoint at least one legally qualified Brother to serve on a committee. Duly appointed committees shall have the duty of investigating the circumstances of the particular issue and of

reporting its findings and making its recommendations to the Board of General Purposes. Such findings and recommendations shall not be binding on the Board of General Purposes and may be rejected in whole or in part at the discretion of the President of the Board of General Purposes. The President of the Board of General Purposes shall review the resolutions of its committees and where approving, in agreement, these shall be presented as recommendations subject to approval by the Grand Lodge Executive Council. Once approved by the Grand Lodge Executive Council, the resolutions shall be forwarded for ratification by Grand Lodge at a Communication. Grand Lodge, cognisant of the counsel of the Board of General of Purposes may suspend or impose such penalty as it may determine upon any member of a Subordinate Lodge who joins, takes membership of or takes part in any activity of any body or society purporting to be Masonic but which is without Warrant or Constitution from Grand Lodge or other Masonic body which it recognises and is in Masonic union.

8.12 (Vacant)

8.13 The Board shall liaise with the Grand Lodge Executive Council in formulating, reviewing, amending and submitting Laws for Grand Lodge approval and inclusion in the Constitution of Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta. Accordingly, any Brother's considerations or contributions in this respect should be addressed in writing as a formal motion, preferably via his Lodge Master but only otherwise via the Office of the Grand Secretary, to be delivered at least ten days ahead of scheduled Board meetings identified in Law 8.9. Contemplated amendments or new Laws shall be styled as existing Laws and shall identify any and all Laws on which they in any way impinge.

8.14 Should the Board be satisfied that a complaint is justified or that an irregularity has occurred or that unmasonic conduct has been committed then it may impose such penalty of admonition or suspension upon the Lodge or Brother, as the case may be, and its decision shall be final, once approved by the Grand Lodge Executive Council and unless an Appeal be made, pursuant to Law 6.32.1

8.15 (Vacant)

8.16 The Board may summon any Brother or Officer or Officers of a Subordinate Lodge to attend the Board or an appointed committee and produce any Masonic documents they may individually or jointly possess including but not limited to Grand Lodge Certificate, Warrant, books, papers or Subordinate Lodge accounts. Failure by any Brother, Officer or Officers to attend such summons or to provide timely explanation of absence satisfactory to the Board shall further require written statement by a specified date from the offending Brother, Officer or Officers as to why their individual or joint action should not be treated as contumacy and failing timely receipt of such statement or statements the Board may inflict on such Brother, Officer, Officers, or Subordinate Lodge the penalty of admonition or suspension. The Board may retain any Certificate, Warrant, books, papers or accounts produced pursuant to a summons made under this Law.

8.17 In the event that a charge or complaint specifically concerns a member or members of the Board or Subordinate Lodge directly referred in the issue then such members shall not be appointed to any Board committee and shall withdraw during the Board's deliberations.

8.18 The Board shall receive and consider only those petitions, representations or communications that are submitted in writing, duly signed, and addressed to the President of the Board.

8.19 Any matter specifically referred to the Board by The Grand Master shall have precedence over all other business.

8.20 The Board shall have the power to nominate worthy Brethren from Subordinate Lodges to represent recognised Grand Lodges at the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta. Likewise, the Board may accept nominations of worthy Brethren from recognised Grand Lodges to represent the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta at such recognised Grand Lodges. Both types of Representatives, being fully eligible to attend and participate in Grand Lodge meetings when convened, do not have voting powers vested in them unless such powers exist by virtue of their membership of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta.

8.21 The Board shall appoint the following Standing Committees for specific purposes: (a) Grand Charity Committee, (b) Finance Committee, (c) Ritual Committee and (d) Membership Committee. Such Committees shall consist of at least three members of Grand Lodge. Should the Board feel that any members of Subordinate Lodges may have a valuable contribution to make it may co-opt them to any committee.

8.22 All committees of the Board are authorised to invite any Brother to attend their deliberations where it is considered such Brother may have particular or special knowledge of the issues under review or investigation.

8.23 The Grand Charity Committee is charged to constantly remind Brethren that generous giving is central to Freemasonry, and to focus on the commitment made in this respect by every Freemason on his becoming a Member. The further positive role of the Committee is to support Masonic charities, to provide relief to distressed Masons and their dependants, and to make Grants to non-Masonic charities. The Committee shall comprise worthy Brethren recognised for their activity in the field of charity and shall be presided over by the Grand Charity Steward. Fund raising, to which Grand Lodge shall contribute annually after having complied with the terms of Law 6.23 shall be a prime Committee responsibility and Appeals may be raised notwithstanding that Subordinate Lodges conduct their individual charitable programmes. All funds raised shall be held in a separate account maintained by the Grand Treasurer, and shall be distributed by the Committee as by unanimous decision it deems appropriate. Any arising lack of unanimity shall be referred to the Grand Lodge Executive Council for disbursements approval. A full financial and activities Annual Report shall be prepared by the Committee President for submission to the Grand Lodge Executive Council for approval then by the Grand Lodge Executive Council to Grand Lodge for ratification at the Annual Communication.

8.24 The Finance Committee shall always include the Grand Treasurer and shall be charged with the responsibility of submitting a proposed Budget, including the Schedule of Fees for the forthcoming Masonic year to the Grand Lodge Executive Council and later, to Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. Such Budget shall be formulated upon the recommendations of the Board of General Purposes.

The Finance Committee shall additionally be charged with responsibility to effect Quarterly examination of the Accounts of The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and to direct a complete audit of these Accounts to be presented to the Grand Lodge Executive Council for approval and by the Grand Lodge Executive Council to Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. The Report of the Finance Committee together with that of the independent auditor where extant shall be submitted to Grand Lodge via the Grand Lodge Executive Council at the Annual Communication.

8.25 Members of the Ritual Committee, which shall always include the Grand Director of Ceremonies, shall be chosen for their outstanding knowledge of Ritual Work as well as their demonstrated abilities. They shall be appointed to serve for an initial period of two years and shall perform the following duties:

- 8.25.1 to inspect and advise on the Ritual Work of any Subordinate Lodge when requested to do so by the Board.
- 8.25.2 to ascertain that all Ritual Work within Grand Lodge is maintained to a high standard and recommend changes to existing Rituals as deemed appropriate, and formulate Rituals for exemplification of the Degrees or for other ceremonial occasions when required.
- 8.25.3 To develop an approved Ritual, to be known as 'The Maltese Working' for eventual adoption by Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges, and to create a Lodge of Instruction for the further development of this Work.

8.26 The Grand Master may exercise the option of consulting with the Grand Lodge Executive Council and the Board in his nominations of Brethren to hold Office in Grand Lodge and that of Auditor of Grand Lodge accounts, and such nominations shall be submitted at the Semi-Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, together with a Return showing the attendance of Grand Officers during the previous year.

SECTION IX
SUBORDINATE LODGES

SECTION IX

SUBORDINATE LODGES

9.1 A Subordinate Lodge within the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge is defined as an organized body of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, authorised by virtue of a Warrant issued by Grand Lodge to make and admit Masons performing such acts as may be authorised therein and performing their approved Ritual in Maltese, English or other authorised language.

9.2 Should any Subordinate Lodge from a recognised Constitution within this Jurisdiction decide to join Grand Lodge, it may choose to retain its original Workings and Ritual.

9.3 A Subordinate Lodge shall not be assembled without a Warrant or authority from Grand Lodge, nor shall any individual be acknowledged or received as a Freemason who has not been initiated in a regular Lodge. Such Warrant shall be evident at every Communication of the Lodge whether stated or emergency. The Warrant always remains the property of The Grand Master.

9.4 Every application for a Warrant to hold a new Lodge shall be by petition to The Grand Master, and shall be signed by not less than seven Master Masons. At least four sevenths of the signatories shall be regularly registered under the Constitution of Grand Lodge. No Brother not so registered shall sign any petition unless he be regularly registered under the Constitution of a Grand Lodge recognised by the Grand Lodge, and shall at the same time make written declaration of adherence to the Constitution of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta and swear due obedience to The Grand Master and the Laws of Grand Lodge. The petition shall be accompanied by a copy of the proposed By-Laws of the new Lodge Application and shall specify every Lodge to which each petitioner belongs, and every Lodge to which he has at any time belonged, and a Clearance Certificate from every such Lodge in accordance with the terms of Law 9.60. To every such petition shall be added a recommendation from two regular Subordinate Lodges of Grand Lodge, signed in open Lodge by the Master and Wardens and declaring that it meets with the approval of a majority of the Brethren then present. Notice

that the petition is to be submitted for approval shall have been given on the summons convening the meeting at which it is to be considered. Upon receipt by The Grand Master of a petition, presented in accordance with this Law via the Office of the Grand Secretary, The Grand Master may grant a Provisional Warrant for the Formation of the new Lodge pending the issue of a regular Warrant of Constitution.

9.5 The following is the form of petition for a Warrant to hold a new Lodge:

To the Most Worshipful The Grand Master of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta of Antient Free and Accepted Masons

We, the undersigned, being regularly registered Master Masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the Art; and for the convenience of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new Lodge, to be named _____.

In consequence of this desire, we pray for a Warrant of Constitution, empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge, at _____ on the _____, and there to discharge the duties of Masonry, in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the Order and the Laws of Grand Lodge; and we have nominated and do recommend Brother _____, who has served the office of Warden in a regular Lodge to be the first Master, Brother _____ to be the first Senior Warden and Brother _____ to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge. Should the prayer of this petition be granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of The Grand Master and the Laws and regulations of Grand Lodge.

9.6 Every new Lodge shall be solemnly constituted according to ancient usage by The Grand Master or by other Grand Officer or Master or Past Master of a Lodge appointed to act for him. No Brother shall be installed as Master or invested as a Warden except the Brother named in the Warrant for such Office unless by sanction of The Grand Master. No Lodge shall be acknowledged nor its Officers admitted as such into Grand Lodge nor any of its members as such entitled to enjoy any Masonic privilege unless such Lodge has been regularly constituted and registered.

9.6.1 If, for whatever reason, a Subordinate Lodge be dissolved, then the Warrant and all books and papers relating to Lodge affairs immediately become the property of the Grand Master. Other Lodge assets may be disposed of according to the resolutions of the Lodge prior to its dissolution. If, prior to dissolution, no such resolutions were made or carried out, then the disposal of said Lodge assets will be directed by the Grand Master.

9.7 When a petition for a Warrant for a new Lodge shall have been received by the Grand Secretary's Office notice of the receipt of such petition shall, prior to its being submitted to the Board, be sent to the Secretaries of all Subordinate Lodges.

9.8 The cost of each Warrant for a Subordinate Lodge shall be in accordance with the Schedule of Fees. This sum shall defray all charges for the registration of the Warrant and of the three Principal Officers of the new Subordinate Lodge and for a copy of the Book of Constitution. The Grand Secretary's Office will forward the new Subordinate Lodge Warrant upon receipt of all due fees.

9.9 (Vacant)

9.10 A Subordinate Lodge Warrant purchased, procured, or by any means obtained without the regular permission of Grand Lodge shall have no validity and any and all acts done under such Warrant shall be regarded irregular and void.

9.11 If any Subordinate Lodge be suspended or have its Warrant cancelled by order of Grand Lodge then each subscribing member of such Subordinate Lodge at the time of its having incurred such penalty, except such member or members as shall be specially excepted by name in such order, shall be considered as under suspension and shall not be allowed to visit or join any other Subordinate Lodge, at labour or refreshment, until his suspension shall have been removed by order of Grand Lodge obtained on the petition of the member so suspended.

9.12 On satisfactory evidence that a Warrant has been lost or destroyed or otherwise rendered unusable then Grand Lodge may grant a duplicate on payment of a fee in accordance with the Schedule of Fees. A Warrant surrendered by order of Grand Lodge shall forthwith be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Secretary for formal cancellation.

9.13 In the absence of a Travelling Warrant a Subordinate Lodge shall not assemble in any house of public entertainment or other place without Grand Lodge approval and the Master of any house of entertainment or premises at which a Subordinate Lodge may be approved to meet shall not hold any Office in such Lodge without permission from The Grand Master.

9.14 A Subordinate Lodge shall not be removed from its warranted place of meeting until a month's notice of the proposition for such removal shall have been given in open Lodge. This proposition requires the approval of a majority of the members present at a Special Communication which shall be summoned by the Secretary for that purpose at least one week before such removed Communication is to be held. Such removal shall require the approval of The Grand Master.

9.15 No Subordinate Lodge shall meet or continue at labour on any day appointed for a Communication of Grand Lodge or during the time Grand Lodge shall be sitting; nor shall any Subordinate Lodge meet for refreshment on any day of which an evening Communication of Grand Lodge is appointed to be held.

9.16 No Subordinate Lodge under the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge shall meet anywhere on a Sunday or Maltese Public Holiday unless granted prior permission in their Lodge By-Laws or by special Dispensation from the MW Grand Master. In case the specified day for the regular meeting of a Lodge shall fall on a Public Holiday, then the meeting shall be held on such alternative day (being not more than seven days before nor more than seven days after the specified day) as the Master shall direct.

9.17 With the exception of the provisions covered in Law 9.16, no Subordinate Lodge shall hold a Lodge of emergency, emergency meeting or make change to a Regular Meeting laid down in the Subordinate Lodge By-Laws without a Dispensation from The Grand Master to so do. Application for such Dispensation, for which a fee in accordance with the Schedule of Fees submitted with the application, shall be made jointly by the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the Subordinate Lodge stating the reason for the Application and that this shall be the sole business transacted at the meeting as is to be confirmed by the Dispensation and the Summons. The granting of such Dispensation shall presume that the applicant Worshipful Master has established that the meeting does not conflict with the usage of the same Temple by another Masonic body.

9.18 Annually on the day stated in the Subordinate Lodge By-Laws each Subordinate Lodge shall proceed to elect, from amongst its members who have served for one Masonic year in the Office of Worshipful Master or Senior or Junior Warden in a Subordinate or other recognised Lodge, a Worshipful Master to be known as the 'Master Elect'. Election shall be by ballot and the Member receiving the largest number of votes shall be the 'Master Elect' to be Installed according to ancient custom at the next regular meeting of the Subordinate Lodge.

9.19 Grand Lodge Certification of the duration and satisfactory completion of tenure of the Office of Worshipful Master of a specified Subordinate Lodge of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta may be formally requested by that Subordinate Lodge. Grand Lodge Certification of subsequent further tenure as Worshipful Master of the same or of another Subordinate Lodge of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta may be likewise requested. Such Certificate issue will be subject to a fee payable by the Lodge in accordance with the Schedule of Fees.

9.20 Prior to his being placed in the Chair of King Solomon a 'Master Elect' shall solemnly pledge himself to preserve the Landmarks of the Order and to observe the ancient usages and established customs and to strictly enforce them within his Lodge.

9.21 A copy of this Constitution and the Lodge By-Laws shall be handed to the Worshipful Master on his installation and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed to be a solemn pledge on his part that he will observe and enforce them.

9.22 The Officers of a Subordinate Lodge are, in order of precedence for investiture and otherwise as follows: - The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Charity Steward, Almoner, Chaplain, Senior and Junior Deacons and Inner Guard who shall be subscribing members of the Lodge. A Subordinate Lodge may also have an Assistant Treasurer, an Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Stewards and an Organist or Organists, but these Brethren shall not be deemed Officers of the Lodge. A Brother shall not hold the position of Secretary whilst serving as Master or Warden in the same Subordinate Lodge, but the Offices of Treasurer and Secretary may be filled by the same Brother. There shall also be a Tyler who is not necessarily a member or officer of the subordinate Lodge.

9.23 For a Brother to be eligible to hold Office in a Subordinate Lodge it shall be obligatory for him to have obtained the Third Degree.

9.24 To be eligible for election to the Office of Master of a Subordinate Lodge a Brother shall have previously served the Office of Warden or Master for one year (that is to say from one regular installation meeting until the next regular installation meeting) in a subordinate Lodge or in a Lodge under a recognised Jurisdiction. A Master of a Subordinate Lodge may be elected for a second consecutive year in the same Subordinate Lodge but may not simultaneously hold Principal Office i.e. Master or Warden in any other Subordinate Lodge. A further Masonic year of Office will require a dispensation from the Grand Master.

9.25 A Subordinate Lodge having completed the annual appointment or election and installation of Officers in accordance with its By-Laws, shall make the Return of the installation to the Office of the Grand Secretary within thirty calendar days of installation and which Return shall, to ensure acceptance, include settlement of any and all fees then outstanding to Grand Lodge.

9.26 The Master and Wardens of Subordinate Lodges which fail to comply with Law 9.25 and who consequently are not registered in the books of Grand Lodge will be refused the right to attend Grand Lodge Communication unless and until their names shall appear in such register.

9.27 Grand Lodge officers visiting a Subordinate Lodge will wear their appropriate Grand Lodge collar and Grand Lodge jewel. They will not wear their gauntlets. No Masonic jewels other than the appropriate Grand Lodge Jewels shall be worn by Grand Lodge Officers when visiting Subordinate Lodges. Those Grand Lodge officers who are also Officers in a Subordinate Lodge shall wear the collar particular to their Lodge Office rather than their Grand Lodge collar, in their Subordinate Lodge. Grand Lodge officers will always wear their appropriate Grand Lodge apron when visiting, or attending a Subordinate Lodge as members.

9.28 The Master of a Subordinate Lodge shall cause all communications to and from the Grand Lodge to be read in open Lodge and attached to the Minutes and forming a part thereof.

9.29 No Communication of a Subordinate Lodge shall be regular unless the Master or a Past Master is present. In the absence of the Master or Past Master of the Subordinate Lodge then a Master or Past Master of any Subordinate Lodge shall occupy the Chair.

9.30 In case the Master of any Subordinate Lodge shall during his term of Office die or be removed, or become incapable of discharging the duties of his Office, then the immediate Past Master, or in case of his absence or incapacity the Senior Past Master, such immediate or senior Past Master being a subscribing member of the Lodge, shall rule the Lodge until the next election of Officers, and the installation of the newly elected Master.

9.31 If a vacancy shall occur in a regular Office other than that of Master, such Office shall be filled for the remainder of the year by the election or appointment (according to the normal method of filling the Office) of a member of the Lodge at the time the vacancy occurs. If an election be required due notice thereof shall appear on the summons.

9.32 Initiating Candidates into Freemasonry is a Subordinate Lodge responsibility. For good reason, all Initiation Candidates and all Joining Members shall accord fully with these Laws and procedures, and any failings shall hazard the offending Subordinate Lodge Warrant to Suspension, even Cancellation.

9.32.1 No Candidate shall be eligible for consideration if he has been refused approval by a Subordinate Lodge within the immediately preceding twelve months.

9.32.2 No Candidate of less than twenty-one years of age shall be initiated unless a special Dispensation has been issued by The Grand Master.

9.32.3 A Candidate shall be expected to have a minimum of six-month continuous residency within the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge although Maltese citizens residing abroad shall be regarded as resident within the Jurisdiction for the purposes of this Law.

- 9.32.4 A Joining Member domiciled without the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge shall be subject to formal documentation from his subscribing lodge/s within the Masonic Jurisdiction of his normal domicile that confirms his Good Standing at time of application for joining the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta. In the case of unattached masons (or masons-at-large) wishing to similarly apply for joining, a letter of Good Standing bearing the date of the year of departure from the lodge shall suffice. Formal proposals or balloting for Joining Members may only be made after the satisfactory results of referred enquiries are received from the Grand Secretary.
- 9.32.5 If a Candidate is of a nationality other than that of the Republic of Malta and one whose Jurisdiction is also present in Malta, then the Candidate shall, as matter of courtesy, be informed of the other jurisdictions working in Malta.
- 9.32.6 Full personal details of a Candidate shall be submitted by completing the official application form available from the Lodge Secretary. Such details shall in no other way be promulgated or displayed.
- 9.32.7 Formal proposals for balloting for Candidates may be entered onto the lodge summons only after the Lodge Secretary receives written confirmation from the Grand Secretary that his submitted Petition has been processed, checked, confirmed as being complete and thereby meeting the minimum requirements for membership in a subordinate lodge of the Sovereign Grand lodge of Malta and after satisfactory results of referred enquiries have been previously announced in open Lodge.

9.32.8 Standard procedure provides that balloting for a Candidate for Initiation or for a Joining Member shall follow at the next Lodge meeting following that in which he is proposed and seconded. Where unusual circumstances warrant, the Master is empowered with the discretion to progress Initiation or admit a Joining Member into the Lodge at the same meeting at which the successful balloting was achieved.

9.33 A Subordinate Lodge may elect a maximum of three (3) of its subscribing members, to the dignity of Emeritus Member in recognition of special service(s) rendered to his/their Lodge or as such special circumstance may so justify. An Emeritus Member shall retain full rights and privileges as normally appertain, including those of proposing motions and voting on any question before the Lodge. Such Emeritus brethren shall be due to pay an annual Lodge membership subscription limited to the annual per capita fee that the Subordinate Lodge is obliged to pay to Grand Lodge.

9.34 (Vacant)

9.35 It is obligatory that formal balloting shall precede a person being initiated in, or joining or re-joining a subordinate Lodge and this, always providing that the procedures outlined in Laws 9.32 have been fully observed. Where a Brother is seeking to become a Joining Member, it is required that prior to balloting the following documents shall be provided to, or obtained by the subordinate Lodge and acted upon as noted:

9.35.1 Grand Lodge Certificate from Candidates of another Constitution.

9.35.2 Clearance Certificate from current and previous Lodges stating satisfactory conduct and no financial indebtedness.

9.35.3 Clearance from the Grand Secretary is received in the manner covered under Law 9.32.7

9.36 A Subordinate Lodge knowingly affiliating a Brother who is in arrears of subscriptions in another subordinate Lodge shall be liable for payment of such arrears.

9.37 Prior to a notice of motion or proposal of a particular Candidate for Freemasonry or Joining Member is made in Open Lodge, the Lodge Secretary is to have submitted to the Grand Secretary, the completed Original Petition Form, with all requested information therein, for joining (retaining a copy for Lodge files). The appropriate fee due from the Candidate or Joining Member to the Lodge needs to be paid before the Candidate or Joining Member may be admitted into lodge for the first time. When the Candidate is raised to the Third Degree, the Lodge Secretary shall submit a request the Grand Secretary to issue a Grand Lodge Certificate.

9.37.1 Immediately following the election of a Joining member from a Lodge without the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta's Jurisdiction, the Lodge secretary shall request the Grand Secretary to issue a Grand Lodge Certificate.

9.37.2 (vacant)

9.38 A subordinate Lodge may elect as Honorary Members Brethren of eminence or distinction in the Craft, or who may have rendered special service to the subordinate Lodge or for other meritorious circumstances. Such Brethren may be of this or any other Jurisdiction in amity with the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta. Honorary members shall not be eligible to hold Office or vote on any question before the Subordinate Lodge. No Annual Fee shall be payable to Grand Lodge in respect of such Honorary Members, such membership shall be limited to a maximum of two per Subordinate Lodge.

9.39 No person shall be made a Mason in or admitted a member of a Subordinate Lodge if, on the ballot, three black balls appear against him; but the By-Laws of a Subordinate Lodge may enact that two black balls or one black ball shall exclude a Candidate. Every subscribing member who has obtained the Third Degree, if present, is expected to cast his vote. Voting in Lodge is considered a duty and abstentions are strongly discouraged. Should an abstention occur, it must not be recorded in the minutes or in any other record of the meeting. Only Master Masons may vote in any election or on any other matter held in a subordinate Lodge.

9.40 Subject that all attaching correspondence shall be copied to the Office of the Grand Secretary, a Subordinate Lodge may, as courtesy Work, confer the second or third Degree upon a Candidate if so formally requested to do so by the Master and Secretary of the Subordinate Lodge of which the Candidate is an elected Member. Such request shall bear the signatures of the Master and Secretary duly attested with their Lodge Seal, accompanied by a certification that the request is in conformity with all the applicable provisions of the Constitution. Such request shall be subject of written confirmation of the Subordinate Lodge willingness to do the courtesy Work.

9.41 A Subordinate Lodge may, as courtesy Work and without any attaching fees, Pass or Raise a Candidate from another regular and recognised Masonic Jurisdiction; providing always that formal request for such Work is addressed in the first instance to the Office of the Grand Secretary and confirms the Candidate's Lodge membership status together with the approving signature of the Grand Secretary, or other appropriate Grand Officer, and Seal of the Jurisdiction to which the applicant Lodge owes its allegiance. The Grand Secretary will in turn pass the request to the Subordinate Lodge that is to confer the Degree(s). On completion of the Work the Subordinate Lodge shall report accordingly to the Grand Secretary who will in due course advise the Candidate's member Lodge and the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Jurisdiction that in turn shall formally issue the Certificate of the Degree(s) conferred.

9.42 (Vacant)

9.43 Upon admission as a member of a Subordinate Lodge, every brother shall be informed of the location of the latest version of the Constitution and Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta and shall be presented with a printed copy of the By-Laws of the Subordinate Lodge; that together he shall pledge to observe and uphold, and this will be recorded in the Minutes. Likewise, a brother seeking to join a Subordinate Lodge from a Lodge of a regular and recognized Jurisdiction shall, upon admission as a member of a Subordinate Lodge, be similarly furnished and pledged in open Lodge with his providing a Declaration as follows:

‘I Initiated in Lodge No on the Register of the Grand Lodge of do solemnly declare that in being admitted a member of this Lodge I will adhere to the Constitution of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta and promise due obedience to all the Laws and Regulations thereof and to The Grand Master of this Grand Lodge’.

9.44 White gloves are to be worn by all ranks in Subordinate Lodge, except in the case of a Candidate undergoing one of the three degree ceremonies, if applicable.

9.45 A Subordinate Lodge shall not on any pretence whatsoever confer more than one Degree on the same Candidate on the same day; with the First Degree conferred to a maximum of two Candidates at a time. The Second Degree shall be conferred on no more than three Candidates at a time; and The Third Degree shall be conferred to a maximum of two Candidates at a time.

9.46 A minimum of eight weeks shall intervene between the conferring of Degrees on the same Candidate subject only that the Subordinate Lodge Master and Secretary, having jointly presented good and sufficiently reasoned application for a lesser period, have received formal Dispensation from The Grand Master.

9.47 No visiting Brother who is not subject to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta shall be admitted into a Subordinate Lodge unless he be personally known to, and vouched for, by one of the Brethren present, or unless he shall be well vouched for after due examination.

9.47.1 No visiting Brother who is not subject to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta shall be admitted unless his Certificate is granted by a subordinate Lodge recognised by the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta and he is able to produce proof of his good standing in his Lodge or Lodges. It is incumbent on the Master of any Lodge to which a visitor from another jurisdiction seeks admission to satisfy himself by adequate enquiries, if need be, from the Grand Secretary, that such jurisdiction is recognised by the Grand Lodge.

9.48 A Brother who has not received the Degree of Master Mason shall need to be vouched for when visiting another Subordinate Lodge and shall not claim to have been examined. Brethren of the rank of Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft may, if thus vouched for, be present whilst a Subordinate Lodge is at Labour on the Degrees which they have received.

9.49 A visitor to a Subordinate Lodge claiming to be a Freemason and not being vouched for shall, before being admitted, be Examined by the Master or a Past Master to their satisfaction that the Lodge to which the visitor claims to be a Member is Warranted by a Grand Lodge which is in amity with and recognised by Grand Lodge.

9.50 A Subordinate Lodge shall hazard Suspension or Cancellation of its Warrant, and/or offending members' punishment at the discretion of the Board, if a person not initiated in a regular Lodge, or who is disqualified by Suspension or Expulsion, or subverts the Landmarks of Freemasonry, is knowingly present at its Communication(s).

9.51 A Brother knowingly or wilfully present at, or assisting at any Irregular Meeting of a Subordinate Lodge shall be disciplined as deemed appropriate by the Board.

9.52 The Master of a Subordinate Lodge shall admonish a Brother who disturbs the Harmony of the Lodge and, should the Brother persist in his irregular conduct, the Master shall discipline the Brother by censure or exclusion from the remainder of the meeting according to the opinion of the majority of Brethren present, else in accordance with the Lodge By-Laws.

9.53 A Subordinate Lodge shall at year-end prepare an Annual Return to be signed by the Master and Lodge Secretary for submission to the Grand Secretary on or before the last day of February of the year following. The Return shall list all members of the Lodge, distinguishing between those initiated, joining or re-joining with the respective dates of such, since the last Annual Return. Full payment of all monies properly due to Grand Lodge at year end shall be submitted on or before the 31st of March next.

9.54 A Subordinate Lodge shall make payment to Grand Lodge in respect of its Subscribing membership in accordance with the Schedule of Fees.

9.55 A Subordinate Lodge having less than three Subscribing members or that has not opened for Labour during one calendar year shall have its Warrant Suspended and the Master, Secretary, or Brother having possession of the Warrant shall be called upon to deliver it to the Grand Secretary. A Brother withholding such delivery of the Lodge Warrant shall be liable to disciplinary action or Suspension as may be considered appropriate by the Board.

9.56 Joining members to a Subordinate Lodge shall be registered as such in the books of Grand Lodge, and every Brother joining from a Lodge not on the Register of Grand Lodge shall, after satisfying the conditions of Law 9.43, be provided with a Grand Lodge Certificate together with a current edition of the Constitution and Laws and Regulations of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta and a copy of the Subordinate Lodge By-Laws.

9.57 Every Brother shall be entitled to a Grand Lodge Certificate immediately upon his being registered as a Master Mason in the books of Grand Lodge and his Lodge shall forthwith procure and issue such Certificate accordingly.

9.58 Duplicate Grand Lodge Certificates may be issued subject to the applicant's Lodge recommendation and satisfactory explanation of the loss or destruction of the original, together with the appropriate Schedule of Fees payment.

9.59 A Grand Lodge Certificate shall be validated when duly signed by the Brother to whom it is granted, and preferably so signed in open Lodge upon receipt. A Certificate shall not be recognised unless bearing the signature of the Brother to whom it is granted.

9.60 A Subordinate Lodge shall grant a Clearance Certificate free of charge to a Brother whenever required by him and such Certificate shall bear the Lodge Seal and be dated and signed by the Lodge Master and Secretary, subject always to the following:

- 9.60.1 That when the Brother is a member of the Lodge the Certificate shall carry confirmation of this and, if such be the case, that he is under suspension or disciplinary proceedings and, if such be the case, that he is free of indebtedness to the Lodge, and
- 9.60.2 When the Brother has been, but is no longer a member of the Lodge, the Certificate shall confirm whether he ceased to be a member by his resignation under Law 9.61, or by exclusion, and shall state the date and circumstance thereof and whether and at what time such outstanding indebtedness was discharged by him.
- 9.60.3 Clearance Certificates so issued shall bear the Seal of the Lodge and be signed and dated by the Lodge Master and Secretary. Ideally Clearance Certificates should be handed personally to the Brother but failing which should be despatched by registered post to the Brother's registered or last known address and the envelope clearly endorsed as 'Private and Confidential'.

9.60.4 Except as provided by this Law no Lodge shall grant a Clearance Certificate of any kind to a Brother, particularly a Brother who has been expelled from the Craft or who has resigned from the Craft under Law 6.30.

9.61 A member of a Subordinate Lodge may at any time resign his membership, either immediately or as from some later date specified by him at the time, by written notice of his action to the Secretary or orally to the Lodge at a regular meeting. If the resignation be so notified to the Secretary he shall, unless he be in receipt of written notice to the contrary, communicate this to the Lodge at the next regular meeting thereof.

9.61.1 The resignation, if notified to the Secretary and reported to the Lodge, takes effect from the time such written notification was received by the Secretary or, if communicated orally to the Lodge, takes effect forthwith or, as from such later date if any as has been so specified as above-mentioned. No acceptance of the resignation is necessary and, subject to the foregoing provisions and after notification or communication to the Lodge, is irrevocable.

9.61.2 The resignation of a Brother, notified or communicated to a Lodge after a notice has been served upon him in accordance with Law 9.62 that he be struck off its Roll of Members, cannot be withdrawn and such resignation does not prevent the Lodge considering and voting upon such resolution.

9.62 A Lodge is empowered to strike a member from its Roll should he be more than twelve months in arrears; provided that within one month prior to such action the Lodge Secretary shall have written, by registered or recorded delivery to the member's last known address, requesting and requiring payment of the arrears and advising that non-payment would oblige his name being removed from the Lodge Roll of members and such removal reported to the Office of the Grand Secretary.

9.63 A Subordinate Lodge member whose membership subscription remains unpaid for two full years shall at the expiration of that period automatically cease to be a member of the Lodge. Such circumstance shall be reported to the Lodge at its next regular meeting, duly recorded in the minutes, and formally notified to the office of the Grand Secretary. Where so provided for in its By-Laws, a Subordinate Lodge may proceed against a defaulting member under Law 9.62 in respect of payments due for a shorter period than two years. A Brother may be reinstated as a member only by regular proposition and balloting in accordance with Law 9.35 and by his payment of the identified arrears precedent to his election. The Subordinate Lodge may elect to forego all or part of such arrears after having resolved so to do by a simple majority vote. Such circumstance shall similarly be formally notified to the office of the Grand Secretary.

9.64 A Brother removed by his Subordinate Lodge from membership for non-payment of subscriptions shall not join, nor shall he continue a member of any other Subordinate Lodge, nor be permitted to visit any Subordinate Lodge at Labour or refreshment, nor be permitted to become a member of Grand Lodge, until it shall have been ascertained by Grand Lodge from the Subordinate Lodge from which the Brother was removed that such arrears have been discharged. Any Subordinate Lodge knowingly violating this Law shall be held liable for such arrears and shall pay same to the Subordinate Lodge of which the Brother was formerly a member and shall be subject to such disciplinary action as the Board may see fit to impose.

9.65 A subordinate Lodge shall have power to exclude or suspend from membership any Brother whose continuance as a member may be considered objectionable or injurious to the Lodge, provided that a simple majority of the entitled members present at a communication specially called to consider the matter shall so decide. The decision of the subordinate Lodge shall be reached by secret ballot. Each entitled member present at the ballot may cast his vote. If the resolution is carried, the exclusion or suspension shall be effective forthwith and the name of the Brother excluded or suspended shall be sent to the Grand Secretary. The decision reached may be referred to the Board of General Purposes by the Brother so

excluded. The Master is empowered to order a second ballot if he has reason to believe that a mistake has been made in the first and shall report the circumstances justifying his action to the Board of General Purposes.

9.66 A Subordinate Lodge shall for its better governance frame its own By-Laws provided always that the same be in accordance with the Ancient Landmarks and with the Laws and Regulations of Grand Lodge and two copies of proposed By-Laws and any subsequent amendments thereto shall be submitted for approval by the Board. Lodge By-Laws shall be valid and effective from the date of approval. Two copies of printed Subordinate Lodge By-Laws shall be deposited by the Lodge Secretary with the Office of the Grand Secretary who shall in due course return one copy duly attested as approved for retention by the Subordinate Lodge.

9.66.1 The By-Laws shall specify the regular days and place of meeting of the Lodge, also the regular meeting for the election of Master, Treasurer and Tyler, (if they are to be elected) and the regular meeting for the installation of Master, which shall be the regular meeting next following that specified for his election. There is no power to cancel any regular meeting, nor may any meeting of the Lodge be held other than at the specified place and on the specified day, except as otherwise provided in these Laws.

9.66.2 Subordinate Lodge By-Laws shall be amended only in the following manner:

By Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting, or emergency meeting as may be called for that purpose, that proposal will be made to amend Lodge By-Laws stating the exact details of the proposed amendment, full details of which shall be given on the summons convening the meeting at which the proposal is to be formally presented, and following presentation, proposal, seconding discussion, the Master of the Lodge shall direct the Brethren present to vote in the

usual manner, and a simple majority, or such other as prescribed in Lodge By-Laws, voting in favour shall adopt the amendment for submission for Grand Lodge approval.

9.67 Each Subordinate Lodge, if it so wishes, can have its own unique Seal with which to verify Lodge transactions and the device design, which shall be subject of Board approval, shall show the full name of the Subordinate Lodge. If a Lodge does not have a seal, then transactions must be verified by the signature of either the Worshipful Master and Secretary.

9.68 It is the duty of any brother who may become a person of interest in a police or judicial inquiry, be informed that he is the subject of a criminal investigation or be convicted of any criminal offence (whether it be in the Republic of Malta or elsewhere) to report such fact/s within 7 days to the Master of his Lodge and the Grand Secretary, or (if he be unattached) to the Grand Secretary. Upon notification, a Worshipful Master shall with immediate effect, report any such information on any member of his Lodge to the Grand Secretary. A Brother, who comes under such duty to report such transpiration as aforesaid, shall not, pending the determination of his case by Masonic authority, attend any Lodge or masonic event. It is also the duty of the Worshipful Master to similarly report and promptly, all such or other cases which are likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

9.69 Grand Lodge strictly prohibits any of its subordinate Lodges and members from Masonically engaging in any civil or religious events, including, but not limited to, marriages (or affirmations of marriage), christenings, baptisms, funerals and remembrance ceremonies. Any such participation will be considered a grave Masonic offence and will result in formal charges being brought against said subordinate Lodge and member(s).

9.70 Should any Mason possess any knowledge which would render unsuitable a potential candidate or a joining member for admission into a Subordinate Lodge, he is duty bound and under an obligation to approach the Worshipful Master/Secretary of the relevant Subordinate Lodge to express his concern, giving his reasons why such a Candidate or joining member is not suitable for

initiation into the Craft or for joining the Lodge. The ultimate decision rests with the Subordinate Lodge and its Master though the opinion of the Grand Secretary should be sought in order to avoid the application of the law.

9.71 Unless differently provided for by a subordinate Lodge's By-Laws, the Quorum, or minimum number required to hold a Lodge meeting, is 3 (three). The brethren officers constituting a Quorum must include the Worshipful Master, Junior, and Senior Wardens. Only Opening, decision making, and Closing are permitted with a quorum of 3 (three) and no degree ceremonies can be worked.

SECTION X
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

SECTION X

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

10.1 Other than as prescribed herein, at all times and on all occasions the provisions and Laws of the Constitution of The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta will apply to Chapters of Royal Arch Masons of Malta within its jurisdiction.

10.2 Every Chapter shall be attached to a regular Lodge and the rank and precedence of several Chapters shall be determined according to the priority of the Lodges to which they may be respectively attached under the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta.

10.3 Application for a Charter of Constitution of a Royal Arch Chapter shall be by petition to The Grand Master and shall be signed by not less than seven regularly registered Royal Arch Masons who shall at the same time make written declaration of adherence to the Constitution of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta and swear due obedience to The Grand Master and the Laws of Grand Lodge. Each signatory shall specify every Chapter to which he belongs and/or to which he has at any time belonged and shall attach a dated Certificate from each such Chapter to the effect that;

10.3.1 He has no indebtedness to such Chapter to which he currently belongs and/or that;

10.3.2 In respect of any such Chapter of which he no longer belongs, certification as to whether he ceased to be a member by resignation or by exclusion, giving the date and circumstances thereof, and stating whether he was at that date indebted to the Chapter and if so when and if that indebtedness was discharged by him.

10.3.3 To every such petition must be added a recommendation, signed in open Lodge by the Master and Wardens of the regular Subordinate Lodge of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta to which the Chapter is to be attached, indicating the approval of the majority of members present and that Notice ‘that a petition is to be submitted for approval’ shall have been given on the summons convening the meeting at which it was to be considered. Additionally, every such petition shall be accompanied with a copy of the proposed By-Laws of the Chapter, and all shall then be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for due submission.

10.4 The format of the petition for a Charter of Constitution of a Chapter shall be: ‘To the Most Worshipful The Grand Master, the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta:

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 Chapter to be attached to the Lodge. 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 Chapter, to convene at on the. in the months of , 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 Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta, and we do nominate and recommend that: comp be First Principal comp.

. be Second Principal comp be Third Principal

Should the prayer of this petition be granted we promise strict obedience to the commands of The Grand Master and the Laws and regulations of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta.

{Followed by the names, signatures, and such details of the petitioners as may be required by the Board of General Purposes}

{Followed by a schedule}

10.5 Every candidate for election into a Chapter shall provide his Grand Lodge Certificate, or in the case of a joining or re-joining member his Grand Chapter Certificate, or if from another Constitution recognised by Grand Lodge his Grand Chapter Certificate, or if a Master Mason from another Constitution recognised by Grand Lodge his Grand Lodge Certificate, for due scrutiny by Scribe E. Every candidate shall complete the registration/application form and sign the declaration thereon, which declaration shall be confirmed in open Chapter at the time of exaltation or joining.

10.6 A candidate for exaltation or joining or re-joining shall be admitted by ballot provided no black balls appear against him, which may be one, two or three as the Chapter By-Laws shall provide. A rejected application may be renewed subject to the Chapter's By-Laws which shall provide for this and after such delay period as they shall prescribe.

10.7 A successful candidate failing to take up his membership within one year from the date of balloting When a candidate is exalted into Royal Arch Masonry he shall, on or before his exaltation, pay all fees required by the By-Laws of the Chapter; the nature of all such fees having been explained to the candidate before the convocation. No provision can be made for delayed or phased payment. The By-Laws of each Chapter, by dispensation from the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta, may allow certain candidates or members to be excused fees, or permitted to pay reduced fees, in particular circumstances e.g. in the case of Emeritus or Student members. In such cases the pertaining annual fee due to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta shall maintain.

10.8 When the particulars of a newly exalted Companion or a joining Companion from another Constitution have been registered, the Grand Secretary will issue a Royal Arch Certificate that shall be presented to the Companion in open Chapter and the fact recorded in the Minutes. In exceptional circumstances where this cannot be done the Certificate shall be hand delivered against signature of receipt or by recorded postal delivery, clearly marked 'Private', and so confirmed to the Chapter at its next regular convocation.

10.9 Immediately upon receipt of a Grand Certificate it shall be signed in the margin by the Companion named in it. In the event of loss or ultimate destruction, of which an explanation shall be required, a replacement may be issued by the Grand Secretary upon payment of the appropriate fee.

10.10 (Vacant)

10.11 Companions may request free-issue certifications from their Chapter in the following circumstances: as to a current member's standing and indebtedness or otherwise to the Chapter, and when a past member of the Chapter, as to the date and circumstance of his resignation or exclusion and his state of indebtedness or otherwise to the Chapter. Such Certificates shall be dated and signed by the Scribe E., and either handed to the individual so requesting against signature of receipt or dispatched by recorded postal delivery clearly marked 'Private'.

10.12 Should a subscribing member default in payment of his subscriptions for a period of two years, or otherwise as prescribed in the By-Laws, he shall at the expiration of that period automatically cease to be member of the Chapter and the fact shall be reported to the Chapter at its next regular convocation. Regaining membership may be advanced by payment of the arrears and subsequent proposition and ballot as to membership as elsewhere defined.

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

10.14 (Vacant)

10.15 Pending the design and availability of approved regalia by Grand Lodge, Chapter regalia used elsewhere may be worn by Royal Arch Chapter Companions in convocation.

10.16 Should the Lodge to which a Chapter is attached be erased, the Chapter may transfer to another Subsidiary Lodge of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta at the request of the Companions of the Chapter and as approved by such alternate Lodge. A Chapter may transfer its attachment to an alternate Lodge at the request of its Companions and as approved by the alternate Lodge and as approved by Grand Lodge Any Chapter transferring its attachment will take the name and/or number of such Lodge. No more than one Chapter may be attached to any one Lodge at any given time.