

**SUMMARY OF THE  
202<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
OF  
GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M. OF DELAWARE  
OCTOBER 3, 2007**

The Grand Lodge Formal opening was at 9:00 a.m. with all Grand Lodge Officers in their respective stations. Grand Chaplain, Brother William S. Downing offered prayer. Brother Earl L. Emerson, Jr., R.:W.:Deputy Grand Master welcomed and received M.:W.:William R. Stevens, Jr., Grand Master with honors due his station at 9:30 am.

Grand Master Stevens declared the Grand Lodge from Labor to Refreshment at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the ladies and other Distinguished Guests.

Reports were given by the Job's Daughters, Eastern Star, and the Administrator of the Masonic Home of Delaware.

Grand Master Stevens thanked the Distinguished Guest for their remarks and excused all who were not Master Masons at 9:50am.

The Grand Master declared the Grand Lodge called from Refreshment to Labor at 10:00am.

A Roll Call revealed all Constituent Lodges were present. There being a constitutional number of lodges represented, the Grand Master declared the 202<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication ready for the transaction of such business as may lawfully come before it.

The Grand Master thanked all of the lodges for attending to their responsibility of having representation at all communications of Grand Lodge.

The Past Grand Masters, Heads of the Appendant Bodies and Distinguished Guests were received with honors due their stations.

The Grand Representatives were asked to stand and be recognized. The Grand Master asked that they write to their respective jurisdiction counterparts to express this Grand Lodge's fraternal greetings.

Grand Master Stevens gave his Annual Report of his stewardship of this Grand Lodge for the ensuing Grand Lodge year. It was ordered received and printed in the Proceedings for this year. Recommendations were referred to the appropriated committees.

## **Gunning Bedford Medal of Honor**

Grand Master Stevens directed the Grand Marshall to conduct Brother **Lee Moran** west of the Altar. Grand Master Stevens accompanied by Deputy Grand Master Earl L. Emerson, Jr. presented Brother **Lee Moran** the **Gunning Bedford Medal of Honor**. Grand Master Stevens announced he had the honor to present **Right Worshipful Eugene R. Small** the **Gunning Bedford Medal of Honor** at the Grand Masters Banquet the preceding evening.

## **GRAND LODGE AWARD OF HONOR**

The Grand Master announced the following Brothers had been selected to receive the **GRAND LODGE AWARD OF HONOR**.

District No.1

William M. Brown, of Brandywine No.33

District No. 2

W. Brian Irwin, of Ionic No.31

District No.3

Keith Lloyd, of Hope No.04

Grand Master Stevens announced that Brothers Irwin and Lloyd were present and directed the Grand Marshal to conduct them west of the Altar where he presented them their Grand Lodge Award of Honor Aprons and certificates. The Grand Master announced the other recipient would receive his award at a later date.

The Grand Master asked the Necrology Committee to present its report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Grand Lodge considered the reports offered by the Committees. They were ordered received and printed in the 2007 Proceedings. The Committee Reports are on file in the Office of the Grand Secretary for review and inspection.

## **OUTSTANDING WORSHIPFUL MASTER AWARDS**

The Grand Master announced the following Worshipful Masters had been selected to receive the **OUTSTANDING WORSHIPFUL MASTER AWARDS**. He also announced that the awards were presented at the Grand Masters Banquet the previous evening with the exception of Scott Lengel who will receive his award at a later date. They were as follows:

District No. 1

Brother Scott A. Lengel, P.M. of Brandywine Lodge # 33

District No. 2

Brother Harley W. Spry, Jr., P.M. of St. Johns Lodge # 02

Brother Isaac Willis, P.M. of Harmony Lodge # 13

District No. 3

Brother Leon D. Ware, Jr., P.M. of Jefferson Lodge # 15

## **M.S.A. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PLAQUE PRESENTATION**

The M.S.A. Certificate of Appreciation Plaque was received by M.:W.: William R. Stevens, Jr., Grand Master for the outstanding program of the Grand Lodge of Delaware in support of the M.S.A. Hospital Visitation Program.

M.:W.: William R. Stevens, Jr, Grand Master of Masons in Delaware asked Most Worshipful, Steven E. Smith Grand Master of Masons in Rhode Island to respond for the visiting guest. M.:W.: Smith gave appropriate remarks and thanked The Grand Lodge of Delaware for all the courtesies, which were extended the many guests.

M.:W.: M.:W.: William R. Stevens, Jr. thanked M.:W.: Steven E. Smith, Grand Master of Rhode Island for his remarks and proceeded to call the Grand Lodge from labor to refreshment at 12:00 p.m. to be called on again at 1:00 p.m.

M.:W.: Stevens called the Grand Lodge from refreshment to labor at 1:00 p.m.

Deputy Grand Master, Earl L. Emerson, Jr., was asked to announce the names of those who will be serving on his Grand Staff for the ensuing Grand Lodge year.

BE IT KNOWN, that at the 202<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware held in the Bay Center, Ruddertowne, Dewey Beach, DE on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October A.D. 2007, A.L. 6007, the following Grand Lodge Officers were elected, appointed, installed and proclaimed to serve the ensuing Grand Lodge Year:

**2007-2008 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

M.: W.:	Earl L. Emerson, Jr.	(05) Middletown	Grand Master
R.: W.:	James E. Willey, Jr.	(12) Georgetown	Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.:	John W. Peronti	(33) Wilmington	Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.:	John E. Bednash	(19) Delaware City	Junior Grand Warden
M.: W.:	James E. Waecker, Sr., P.G.M.	(05) Middletown	Grand Secretary
M.: W.:	Warren F. Schueler, Sr., P.G.M.	(02) New Castle	Grand Secretary Emeritus
M.: W.:	William R. Stevens, Jr., P.G.M.	(27) Wilmington	Grand Treasurer
R.: W.:	Eugene R. Small	(02) New Castle	Deputy Grand Secretary
M.: R.:	W. LeRoy Jones	(07) Dover	Grand Chaplain
W.:	John D. Hiott	(07) Dover	Senior Grand Deacon
W.:	Martin D. Furnish	(09) Milford	Junior Grand Deacon
W.:	James P. Smith	(05) Middletown	Grand Marshal
W.:	Robert L. Emerson	(05) Middletown	Grand Sword Bearer
W.:	William J. Joyce	(35) New Castle	Senior Grand Steward
W.:	Leon D. Ware, Jr.	(15) Lewes	Junior Grand Steward
W.:	David D. Crockett	(19) Delaware City	Grand Tiler
W.:	Harley W. Spry	(02) New Castle	Aide to the Grand Master

**FIRST AND FINAL REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE**

TO: THE M.: W.: GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M. IN DELAWARE

Brethren:

The following Code amendments are properly before Grand Lodge for your consideration:

1. At the 39<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Communication on March 24, 2007, the Adhoc Committee on Code Revision made three (3) recommendations. To expedite these corrections for typographic errors and/or clarity, we have printed and distributed them at sign-in.
  - a. Amend Chapter 3, Article II (Additional Duties and Authorities of Grand Master Suspension of Stated Communications Civil Emergencies and Holidays), Section 4, Reference Number 3-5 to correct a typographical error by removing a misplaced space.

SECTION 4. Authorization may be granted to Lodges by the Grand Master to suspend, by dispensation, Stated Communications of Sub ordinate Lodges which are due to be held on a legal Holiday, or the eve of one.

By eliminating the last unnecessary or misplaced blank. It would then read:

**SECTION 4. Authorization may be granted to Lodges by the Grand Master to suspend, by dispensation, Stated Communications of *Subordinate* Lodges which are due to be held on a legal Holiday, or the eve of one.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the third reading.

**FIRST and SECOND READINGS at the 2007 Semi-Annual, March 24, 2007  
THIRD READING and ADOPTED October 3, 2007.**

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- b. Amend Chapter 3, Article II (Additional Duties and Authorities of Grand Master Conference for Masonic Unity), Section 5, Reference Number 3-6 by adding Delmarva Forest to the list of bodies composing the Conference. Currently, Delmarva Forest is missing. As a result, Reference 3-6 shall read:

**SECTION 5. A Delaware Conference for Masonic Unity shall be composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, the Delegate for the Scottish Rite of Delaware, the Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters, the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Commander of the Knights Templars in Delaware, the Potentate of Nur Temple and the Grand Tall of Brandywine, *Delmarva* and Evergreen Forests. The Grand Master shall be chairman, the Deputy Grand Master, Vice-Chairman, and the Grand Secretary, the Secretary of the Conference.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the third reading.

**FIRST and SECOND READINGS at the 2007 Semi-Annual, March 24, 2007  
THIRD READING and ADOPTED October 3, 2007.**

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- c. Amend Chapter 9, Article IX (Table Lodges), Section 2 by adding a reference number to Section 2. It should be Reference Number 9-41 and will read the same as is currently contained in the code.

**9-41 SECTION 2. A Lodge conducting a table lodge shall follow a ceremony developed by the Committee on Masonic Education, Leadership and Work.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the third reading.

**FIRST and SECOND READINGS at the 2007 Semi-Annual, March 24, 2007  
THIRD READING and ADOPTED October 3, 2007.**

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2. At the 38<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Communication on March 25, 2006, Past Grand Master Mower submitted a code change to include a “CHIP” Committee, which was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee reviewed the proposed changes, but found that it could not rule on the amendment until several additional committees have reviewed and responded due to the broad nature of the proposed amendment as well as the numerous areas governed by other Committees. With the Grand Secretary’s help, other Committees were contacted, but none have responded in time for the last Annual Communication, the last Semi-Annual Communication or this Annual Communication.

Without the input requested from the various Committees, the Committee on Jurisprudence CANNOT recommend further action be taken at this time. In addition, we will no longer report on this proposed code change until further response is received from the appropriate committees.

**NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS TIME**

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3. At the 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication, October 5, 2005, two (2) Constitutional Amendments were proposed, read aloud following proper procedure and properly submitted to the Lodges for their action. At the 201<sup>st</sup> Annual Communication, October 5, 2006 ten (10) Lodges of our twenty-eight had complied with the Constitution. Since we did not have a quorum of Lodges responding, we could not proceed to vote on the alterations to the Constitution. The two (2) Constitutional Amendments remained as unfinished business until this Annual Communication.

The Grand Secretary again forwarded the proposed amendments and again forwarded the instructions for the proper handling of these amendments. This time, we have a quorum of Lodges responding.

- a. The Adhoc Committee on Code Revision submitted the following Constitutional changes. In addition, then Grand Master Donald D. Thomas recommended the removal of the same section of the Constitution. Delete Article V (Appointed Grand Officers), Section 5, Reference Number C-15 which states, “The Senior Grand Warden shall appoint the Junior Grand Deacon.” In addition, the Adhoc Committee on Code Revision submitted a number of corrections to the Constitution to clarify or correct typos and to simplify the procedure for altering the Constitution.
  - i. Amend Article II, Section 3, Reference C-4 by including the specific references after “above enumerated and “above mentioned.”
  - ii. Amend Article IV (Voting), Section 2, Reference C-7 in two places by replacing “afore provided” with specific references. The first reference is “detailed in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-2.” The second reference is “detailed in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-3.”
  - iii. Amend Article IV (Voting), Section 2, Reference C-7 by changing the Phrase “shall have the casting vote” to “shall cast the deciding vote.”
  - iv. Since our code has no provision for a “Committee of Charity” delete Article IV, Section 4, Reference C-9 which states: “The provisions of the preceding sections shall not interfere with or derogate from the duties of the Committee of Charity.”

- v. Our code now contains a method of rotating eligibility of the Grand Lodge elective offices through each district. As a consequence, parts of Article V (Eligibility to Office), Section 1, Reference C-11 no longer make sense. Therefore, remove that portion of the paragraph that states: “no one shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master more than three years in any period of six.” Also, clean up the portion of the paragraph referring to the Grand Chaplain.
- vi. Delete Article V, Section 5, Reference Number C-15 that states: “The Senior Grand Warden shall appoint the Junior Grand Deacon.”
- vii. Amend Article VII (Alterations of Constitution), Section 1, Reference C-17 to clarify and simplify the procedure and to allow the Constitution to be considered at the Semi-Annual Communication.
- viii. Renumber the sections and reference numbers as appropriate. (**Amended language appears in bold letters and is underlined.**)

ARTICLE I  
Style and Title

C-1 SECTION 1. The style and title of the Grand Lodge shall be “THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF DELAWARE.”

ARTICLE II  
Officers and Members

C-2 SECTION 1. The Grand Lodge shall consist of the following officers and members, viz.: a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior Grand Warden, a Junior Grand Warden, a Grand Secretary, a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Chaplain, a Deputy Grand Secretary, a Senior Grand Deacon, a Junior Grand Deacon, a Grand Marshal, a Grand Sword Bearer, a Senior Grand Steward, a Junior Grand Steward, a Grand Tiler, and all the Past Masters of regular Lodges within the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, while said Past Masters shall be members of any Lodges within this Jurisdiction, and of the Masters and Wardens of all regular Lodges under this Jurisdiction.

C-3 SECTION 2. It is the duty of and it is enjoined upon the Master and Wardens of all regular Lodges under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge punctually to attend every Communication of the Grand Lodge; but if neither the Master nor either of the Wardens can attend such Communication, in such case the Master, with the assent of the Lodge to which he belongs, may appoint a proxy. Such proxy must be a Master Mason and a member of the Lodge the Master of which appoints him. The appointment must be under the seal of the Lodge and the hand of the Master, and attested by the Secretary.

C-4 SECTION 3. The members of the Grand Lodge above enumerated **in Article II, Section 1, Reference C-2**, and proxies appointed as above mentioned **in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-3**, shall be the only voters in the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE III  
Rank and Title

- C-5 SECTION 1. Most Worshipful Grand Master  
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master  
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden  
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary  
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer  
Most Reverend Grand Chaplain  
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Secretary  
Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon  
Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon  
Worshipful Grand Marshal  
Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer  
Worshipful Senior Grand Steward  
Worshipful Junior Grand Steward  
Worshipful Grand Tiler

ARTICLE IV  
Voting

C-6 SECTION 1. All questions coming before the Grand Lodge shall be decided by the voters present by a plurality of votes, excepting only the election of officers and all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge.

C-7 SECTION 2. Concerning the election of officers and all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge, every member of Grand Lodge, as above enumerated (other than the Masters and Wardens of Lodges and proxies appointed as detailed **in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-2**), shall be entitled to one vote.

If the Master and both Wardens of a Lodge be present, each shall be entitles to one vote.

If the Master and only one Warden of a Lodge be present, the Master shall be entitled to two votes and the Warden to one vote.

If the Master of a Lodge only be present, he shall be entitled to three votes. If both Wardens of a Lodge be present without the Master, the Senior Warden shall be entitled to two votes and the Junior Warden to one vote.

If one Warden of a Lodge only be present without the Master, he shall be entitled to three votes.

If neither the Master nor either of the Wardens of a Lodge attend, and a proxy be appointed as **detailed in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-3**, he shall be entitled to three votes.

In the election of officers, and concerning all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge, a majority of all votes given is necessary to a choice or determination; but in the case of the votes being equal, the Grand Master or brother officiating as such shall **cast** the **deciding** vote.

C-8 SECTION 3. No vote concerning the funds of the Grand Lodge shall be taken at any Communication unless there be present as such Communication a representative from a majority of all the Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

C-9 SECTION 4. Any vote passed in the Grand Lodge may be reconsidered during the Communication at which it was passed, but not afterwards, except that two-thirds of all the Lodges under this jurisdiction request such reconsideration.

## ARTICLE V Eligibility to Office

C-11 SECTION 1. Only actual Past Masters, who have been regularly elected and installed Masters of their Lodges, representing the same in the Grand Lodge, the officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being, and all permanent members, are eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge, except, the Grand Master may appoint a Master Mason Grand Chaplain, he being a member in good standing in a Subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction; but he shall not, by virtue of said appointment, be eligible to any elective office in the Grand Lodge.

### Elective Officers

C-12 SECTION 2. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary and Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer shall be elected annually, and shall hold their offices respectively until their successors shall be duly elected and installed.

### Majority Shall Elect

C-13 SECTION 3. A majority of all votes present shall be necessary to a choice of the officers mentioned in the second section of this Article.

### Appointed Grand Officers

C-14 SECTION 4. All Grand Officers, whose election or appointment is not otherwise provided for, shall be appointed by the Grand Master, and, when duly installed, shall hold their offices until their successors shall be duly appointed and installed.

## ARTICLE VI Time and Place of Meeting

C-16 SECTION 1. The Grand Lodge shall meet as such once, at least, in every year at such time and place as may be directed by law.

ARTICLE VII  
Alterations of Constitution

C-17 SECTION 1. This Constitution shall not be altered, amended or repealed except in the following manner: The proposition to alter, amend or repeal this Constitution shall be made in writing. On the first day of the regular Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge **or at the Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, it** shall be read aloud by the Grand Master **or his designate**, and shall be filed and printed with the journal of proceedings of the Grand Lodge **or the Summary of the Semi-Annual proceedings of the Grand Lodge**, and referred to the several Subordinate Lodges under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. The alterations, amendments or proposition to repeal, so referred, shall be read in each Subordinate Lodge by the Worshipful Master thereof **or his designate** in open Lodge, at three stated meetings of the Lodge. Upon the third reading thereof the Worshipful Master shall put the question distinctly to each member present in the following form: “Shall the entire amendment to the Constitution, as read, pass?” And each member shall answer yes or no, and the Secretary of each Lodge shall carefully record an explicit account of all proceedings held respecting such proposition to amend. At its first regular Communication thereafter, a duly certified copy thereof, signed by the Worshipful Master, and attested by himself under the seal of his Lodge **shall be transmitted to the Grand Lodge**. If it shall appear from such proceedings that two-thirds of all the Lodges have concurred in the proposition to alter, amend or repeal the Constitution as the same was referred to them, then the question shall be again put to the Grand Lodge, upon the first day of its regular Annual Communication **or Semi-Annual Communication**, and if two-thirds of all the votes present be cast in favor of the proposition to amend, alter or repeal, the same shall be and become a part of the Constitution.

The report of the proceedings of the Lodges shows that all lodges have reported (giving us a quorum) and twenty-four (24) are in FAVOR of adoption of this Constitutional change.

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WAS AGAIN READ ALOUD FOLLOWING PROPER PROCEDURE AND MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF ITS ADOPTION.**

**ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED, October 3, 2007**

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- b. Right Worshipful John W. Peronti submitted an amendment to the Constitution to further prepare an aspirant for the office of Grand Master by requiring him to serve as a Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master.

**Article V, Section 1, Reference C-11**

**BACKGROUND**

Chapter 8, Article 3, 8-41 Section of “Code and General Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware” requires, “Before a brother can be installed as Master, he must serve a full year as Warden of a subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction or a subordinate Lodge of a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Delaware.” Yet no similar provision exists for election of a Grand Master. The high office of Grand Master requires more than a casual understanding of the Constitution, Code and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge

A.F. & A.M. of Delaware. Additionally, the person elected to Grand Master must be fully knowledgeable in the workings of Grand Lodge and their Committees. He needs time to fully prepare his programs and to carry out the long-term goals of the Grand Lodge Committees. Given the state of Delaware Masonry, it is important for anyone aspiring to the position of Grand Master to be cognizant of past endeavors and future directions of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. To prepare him for this task, the following amendments to the “Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware” are proposed:

**(Amended language is underlined)**

Article V, Eligibility to Office, C-11 Section 1 now reads:

C-11 SECTION 1. Only actual Past Masters, who have been regularly elected and installed Masters of their Lodges, representing the same in the Grand Lodge, the officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being, and all permanent members, are eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge, except, the Grand Master may appoint a Master Mason Grand Chaplain, he being a member in good standing in a Subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction; but he shall not, by virtue of said appointment, be eligible to any elective office in the Grand Lodge.

**Amend Article V, Eligibility to Office, C-11 Section 1 to read:**

C-11 SECTION 1. Only actual Past Masters, who have been regularly elected and installed Masters of their Lodges, representing the same in the Grand Lodge, the officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being, and all permanent members, are eligible to be elected or appointed to an office in the Grand Lodge except as follows:

1. Before a brother can be elected and installed as the Grand Master of Masons in Delaware, he must have first served at least one term as Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware. Except as provided for in Article V, Section 1A.
2. Before a brother can be elected and installed as the Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware, he must have first served at least one term as a Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware. Except as provided for in Article V, Section 1A.

However, the Grand Master may appoint a Master Mason Grand Chaplain, he being a member in good standing in a Subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction; but he shall not, by virtue of said appointment, be eligible to any elective office in the Grand Lodge.

Amend Article V, Eligibility to Office, C-11 by adding the following:

**SECTION 1A. The provisions of Article V, Section 1.1 and 1.2 shall be suspended if the Grand Architect of the Universe calls a worthy brother to the Celestial Lodge above.**

1. **If a brother has been nominated, but not elected, into the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and is called to the Celestial Lodge above, the presiding Grand Master will convene a special nominating committee in the District from which the nominated brother was a member, for the sole purpose of nominating a candidate for that particular office. The nominee’s name will be placed on the floor at the Semi-Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.**

2. If a brother has been elected, but not installed, into the office of Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and is called to the Celestial Lodge above, the presiding Grand Master will convene a special nominating committee, comprising of three (3) Past Grand Masters from the District from which the nominated brother was a member, for the purpose of recommending a brother to be installed in that particular office.
3. If a brother has been elected, but not installed, into the office of Grand Master, and is called to the Celestial Lodge above, the presiding Grand Master will:
  - a. Offer the office to the Deputy Grand Master.
  - b. If the Deputy Grand Master refuses, the presiding Grand Master will convene a special nominating committee, comprising of seven (7) Past Grand Masters, two (2) from each district and an additional one from the District from which the elected brother was a member for the sole purpose of presenting a candidate for the Office of Grand Master. Requirements outlined in Section 1, subsections 1 and 2 shall not apply in this case.
4. If a brother has been installed into his Grand Lodge Office, except in the case of the Grand Master, and is called to the Celestial Lodge above, the Office will remain vacant for the remainder of the departed brother's un-expired term.
5. If a brother has been installed as the Grand Master, and is called to the Celestial Lodge above, the Deputy Grand Master will serve out the remainder of his un-expired term. This shall not preclude him from being nominated, elected and installed as the Grand Master at the conclusion of the un-expired term.
6. If a brother had been nominated and/or elected and/or installed, into the office of Grand Secretary, Deputy Grand Secretary and/or Grand Treasurer and is called to the Celestial Lodge above, the presiding Grand Master may name a pro-tem candidate to assist in the duties of that office for the remainder of its term.

The report of the proceedings of the Lodges shows that all lodges have reported (giving us a quorum) and twenty-four (24) are in FAVOR of adoption of this Constitutional change.

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WAS AGAIN READ ALOUD FOLLOWING PROPER PROCEDURE AND MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF ITS ADOPTION.**

**ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED, October 3, 2007**

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4. Prior to the 39<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Communication on March 24, 2007, then Worshipful Master David Simpkins requested two code changes to the Gunning Bedford Jr. Masonic Scholarship. The code changes were also referred to the Committee on Finance and Audit for review and we proceeded with the first and second readings. The first code change deals with changing the assessment. Amend Chapter 15, Article III, Section 1, Reference Number 15-10. The code currently reads:

SECTION 1. Each Subordinate Lodge shall be assessed an amount of fifteen cents (\$.15) per member per annum, payable to the Grand Lodge with the annual returns, for the continued support of the Scholarship Fund.

The requested change is to raise the assessment to thirty cents (\$.30). The changed code shall, therefore, read:

**SECTION 1. Each Subordinate Lodge shall be assessed an amount of *thirty cents (\$.30)* per member per annum, payable to the Grand Lodge with the annual returns, for the continued support of the Scholarship Fund.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the third reading.

**FIRST and SECOND READINGS at the 2007 Semi-Annual, March 24, 2007  
THIRD READING and ADOPTED October 3, 2007.**

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5. Also prior to the 39<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Communication on March 24, 2007, then Worshipful Master David Simpkins also requested a second code change dealing with the amount of the Gunning Bedford Jr. Masonic scholarship. Amend Chapter 15, Article IV, Section 2, Reference Number 15-16. The code currently reads:

SECTION 2. The amount of the scholarship shall not exceed \$800.00 per recipient per year, nor shall any grant exceed the income of the Committee.

The requested change is to raise the scholarship amount to \$1,500.00. The changed code shall, therefore, read:

**SECTION 2. The amount of the scholarship shall not exceed *\$1,500.00* per recipient per year, nor shall any grant exceed the income of the Committee.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the third reading.

**FIRST and SECOND READINGS at the 2007 Semi-Annual, March 24, 2007  
THIRD READING and ADOPTED October 3, 2007.**

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6. The Grand Secretary submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence one code change to allow the Deputy Grand Secretary to retain the title of “Right Worshipful” in consideration of the fact that any brother has only to serve one year as a Grand Warden to retain the title of “Right Worshipful” yet one can serve as Deputy Grand Secretary for a number of years and lose the title once he leaves office. The Chapter on Delaware Masonic Protocol is the only portion of our code that designates the retention of titles; therefore, amend Delaware Masonic Protocol by adding “Deputy Grand Secretary and Past Deputy Grand Secretaries having served one (1) year or more.” The specific paragraph currently reads:

It is important to address a brother or officer properly. The title of Most Worshipful is accorded the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters; Right Worshipful for the Deputy Grand Master, present and Past Grand Wardens, Grand Secretaries and Grand Treasurer; Most Reverend for the Grand Chaplain and Past Grand Chaplains; and Worshipful for appointed Grand Lodge officers, Masters and Past

Masters. All other brethren are addressed as Brother. It is the practice in Delaware to omit “Brother” when another title is used, i.e. Most Worshipful – not Most Worshipful Brother – or Worshipful – not Worshipful Brother. After the correct title and name is given, the office is set forth, i.e., Most Worshipful Grand Master, or Worshipful - , Past Master. There are other acceptable forms of address, but avoid using “Brother” with a title. Do not use “Sir”, i.e., Most Worshipful Sir or Worshipful Sir. “Sir” is an appellation of civil respect and should not be used in Masonic intercourse. In the introduction of officers of appendant bodies, ascertain beforehand their correct titles.

The revised paragraph will read:

It is important to address a brother or officer properly. The title of Most Worshipful is accorded the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters; Right Worshipful for the Deputy Grand Master, present and Past Grand Wardens, Grand Secretaries, **Grand Treasurer and Deputy Grand Secretary and Past Deputy Grand Secretaries having served one (1) or more terms**; Most Reverend for the Grand Chaplain and Past Grand Chaplains; and Worshipful for appointed Grand Lodge officers, Masters and Past Masters. All other brethren are addressed as Brother. It is the practice in Delaware to omit “Brother” when another title is used, i.e. Most Worshipful – not Most Worshipful Brother – or Worshipful – not Worshipful Brother. After the correct title and name is given, the office is set forth, i.e., Most Worshipful Grand Master, or Worshipful - , Past Master. There are other acceptable forms of address, but avoid using “Brother” with a title. Do not use “Sir”, i.e., Most Worshipful Sir or Worshipful Sir. “Sir” is an appellation of civil respect and should not be used in Masonic intercourse. In the introduction of officers of appendant bodies, ascertain beforehand their correct titles.

The Committee on Jurisprudence agrees with this amendment and recommends this be considered the first and second readings.

**APPROVED AS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS at the 2007 ANNUAL**

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7. Past Grand Master Ronald L. Jefferson submitted a change to the Delaware Masonic License plate code. This change was submitted due to the inability to track the current status of Brethren from other Jurisdictions who are residents of Delaware. The code specifies that Masonic License plates are only to be held by members in good standing; with other Jurisdictions, we are not notified when a change occurs to the status of a Brother (such as suspension, demit, expulsion, etc.). Consequently, the Committee is unable to comply with the code when the plate is issued to someone from another Jurisdiction. Past Grand Master Jefferson requests removing the issuance of plates to residents of Delaware from other Jurisdictions by amending Chapter 6 Duties of Standing Committees, Article I, Section 20, Reference Number 21, subsection a and Standing Resolution 15 by deleting “and of subordinate lodges of Grand Lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge.” Section 20, subsection a would then read:

- a. The duties of the committee shall be to supervise the application and issuance of Masonic Specialty License Plates to Master Mason members in good standing of Delaware subordinate lodges.

The resolution portion of S.R. 15 would likewise read (the remainder of S.R. 15 stays as is):

S.R. 15           RESOLVED, that the Grand Lodge does sanction the issuance of license plates with a Masonic emblem to Master Mason members in good standing of Delaware subordinate lodges. A widow may retain her husband’s license plate.

The Committee on Jurisprudence finds that this proposed change does indeed eliminate the problem generated by members of other Grand Lodges changing status, and given the current situation agrees with the changes. Therefore, the Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the first and second readings.

**APPROVED AS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS at the 2007 ANNUAL**

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8. Right Worshipful John W. Peronti, Junior Grand Warden proposed the following alteration to the Constitution in order to clarify the number of votes to which each member is entitled. His change is as follows:

Proposed Amendment  
To  
Article IV, C-7, Section 2  
Of the

CONSTITUTION of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
Of  
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS of DELAWARE

BACKGROUND:

There always seems to be some confusion regarding the right of voting by members of Grand Lodge. While the above mentioned section states “*C-7 SECTION 2. Concerning the election of officers and all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge, every member of the Grand Lodge, as above enumerated (other than the Master and Wardens of Lodges and proxies appointed as afore provided), shall be entitled to one vote*” the confusion arises when a Past Master is sitting either as a Master or Warden of the Lodge. This proposed amendment is to clarify the one-man one-vote intent:

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Add the following wording to “*C-7 SECTION 2. Concerning the election of officers and all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge, every member of the Grand Lodge, as above enumerated (other than the Master and Wardens of Lodges and proxies appointed as afore provided), shall be entitled to one vote.* **Any past master who has been elected and installed as Worshipful Master or either Warden of a Lodge, under this Grand Jurisdiction, cedes his vote as a Past Master for the duration of his term. The above section does not preclude him from voting a prescribed later in this Section.**”

Article IV, C-7, Section 2 would now read:

C-7 SECTION 2. Concerning the election of officers and all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge, every member of the Grand Lodge, as above enumerated (other than the Master and Wardens of Lodges and proxies appointed as detailed in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-2), shall be entitled to one vote.

**Any past master who has been elected and installed as Worshipful Master or either Warden of a Lodge, under this Grand Jurisdiction, cedes his vote as a Past Master for the**

**duration of his term. The above section does not preclude him from voting as prescribed later in this Section.**

If the Master and both Wardens of a Lodge be present, each shall be entitled to one vote.

If the Master and only one Warden of a Lodge be present, the Master shall be entitled to two votes and the Warden to one vote.

If the Master of a Lodge only be present, he shall be entitled to three votes. If both Wardens of a Lodge be present without the Master, the Senior Warden shall be entitled to two votes and the junior Warden to one vote.

If one Warden of a Lodge only be present without the Master, he shall be entitled to three votes.

If neither the Master nor either of the Wardens of a Lodge attend, and a proxy be appointed as detailed in Article II, Section 2, Reference C-3, he shall be entitled to three votes.

In the election of officers, and concerning all matters touching the funds of the Grand Lodge, a majority of all the votes given is necessary to a choice or determination; but in case of the votes being equal, the Grand Master or brother officiating as such shall cast the deciding vote.

The Committee on Jurisprudence finds this alteration to the Constitution to be in order for consideration and recommends following the revised procedure to alter the Constitution considering this as the official reading by the Grand Master or his designate.

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WAS READ ALOUD BY THE GRAND MASTER’S DESIGNATE (CHAIRMAN OF JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE) AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE LODGES TO FOLLOW THE REVISED PROCEDURE TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION.**

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9. Right Worshipful John W. Peronti, Junior Grand Warden also submitted the following amendment to the code in the event that the second alteration to the Constitution is adopted. In that case, the code would need to take into consideration the altered Constitution. His proposed amendment is:

Proposed Amendment  
To  
Chapter1, Article II, 1-9, Section I  
Of the

Code and Regulation of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
Of  
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS of DELAWARE

BACKGROUND:

If the proposed constitutional amendment, offered at the 2005 Annual Communication passes, the wording in the above section will need to be reworded. Chapter 1, Article II, Section 1 currently states, *“1-9 Section 1. The annual election for offices of the M. W. Grand Lodge shall be held at eleven o'clock in the morning of the Semi-Annual communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge. Said elected officers shall be installed at the close of the following Annual Communication. In the event of the death or inability to serve of an Elected Officer prior to installation, the vacancy shall be filled at a Special Election held at the Annual Communication.”*

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Amend to read as follows:

“1-9 Section 1. The annual election for offices of the M. W. Grand Lodge shall be held at eleven o'clock in the morning of the Semi-Annual communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge. Said elected officers shall be installed at the close of the following Annual Communication. In the event of the death or inability to serve of an Elected Officer prior to installation, ~~the vacancy shall be filled at a Special Election held at the Annual Communication.~~ **the requirements outlined in Article V, Section II C-11 of the ‘CONSTITUTION of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE Of ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS of DELAWARE’ shall be the followed.**”

Chapter 1, Article II, Section 1 would now read:

1-9 SECTION 1. The annual election for offices of the M. W. Grand Lodge shall be held at eleven o'clock in the morning of the Semi-Annual communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge. Said elected officers shall be installed at the close of the following Annual Communication. In the event of the death or inability to serve of an Elected Officer prior to installation, **the requirements outlined in Article V, Section II C-11 of the ‘CONSTITUTION of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE Of ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS of DELAWARE’ shall be the followed.**

Since the referenced alteration to the Constitution was adopted, the Committee on Jurisprudence finds that this proposed change is necessary due to the alteration to the Constitution. The Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the first and second readings.

**APPROVED AS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS at the 2007 ANNUAL**

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10. Right Worshipful John W. Peronti, Junior Grand Warden also submitted the following amendment to the code that is in conflict with another portion of the code. To wit:

Proposed Amendment  
To  
Chapter3, Article I, 3-1, Section I  
Of the

Code and Regulation of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
Of  
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS of DELAWARE

BACKGROUND:

Currently the Code reads as follows, "3-1 SECTION 1. The Grand Officers shall perform all the duties assigned them in their installation charges as set forth in the "Ceremony of Installation of Officers of Grand Lodge." The installation shall be held on the second day of the Communication, as soon as practical following the election." This was adopted prior to the election of officers at the Semi-Annual Communication and is in conflict with Chapter 1, Article II, Section 1, [Reference Number 1-9] of Grand Lodge Code.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Amend to read as follows:

*"3-1 SECTION 1. The Grand Officers shall perform all the duties assigned them in their installation charges as set forth in the "Ceremony of Installation of Officers of Grand Lodge." The installation shall be held ~~on the second day of the Communication, as soon as practical following the election~~ **prior to the close of the following Annual Communication.**"*

Chapter3, Article I, Section I, would now read:

3-1 SECTION 1. The Grand Officers shall perform all the duties assigned them in their installation charges as set forth in the "Ceremony of Installation of Officers of Grand Lodge." The installation shall be held **prior to the close of the following Annual Communication.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence believes the Junior Grand Warden to be correct and finds that this proposed change does eliminate the conflict in the code. Therefore, the Committee on Jurisprudence recommends that this be considered the first and second readings.

**APPROVED AS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS at the 2007 ANNUAL**

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11. The Grand Master made one (1) recommendation. Namely,

RESOLVED: That each subordinate lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction be authorized, without regard to waiting periods, to confer all subsequent degrees on any Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft member who has received written orders for military service outside of this Grand Jurisdiction.

The Committee on Jurisprudence agrees with the Grand Master's recommendation and submits the above resolution as Standing Resolution No. 18. The Committee on Jurisprudence moves for adoption of Standing Resolution No. 18.

**ADOPTED AS STANDING RESOLUTION NO. 18 at the 2007 ANNUAL.**

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In accordance with the provisions of Reference Number 6-7, Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6 of the Code, the Committee on Jurisprudence has reviewed the address of M.: W.: William R. Stevens, Jr. and submits the following to Grand Lodge. We pleasantly note that this is the first time in several years that we received a Grand Master's address in time to review it.

2. The Grand Master issued 25 dispensations during the year. We have reviewed the dispensations, and advise that they are all within his authority and that no additional action is required by Grand Lodge.
3. The Grand Master issued one (1) official decision, which was approved at the 39<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Communication.
4. The Grand Master issued no edicts.

Most Worshipful William R. Stevens, Jr., Grand Master has truly lived his theme of EDUCATE AND COMMUNICATE during his term of office. Our Grand Master has spent a number of years in the quarries as Assistant and/or Grand Instructor. He is also the Chief Financial Officer of Highfield, the Masonic Home of Delaware, Inc. Consequently, he has seen the need for Masonic Education in many areas of Masonry in Delaware. Likewise, he has noted the need to Communicate to the Craft, the status of Masonry in Delaware. Combined, he has created a very influential and forceful story for areas of Delaware Masonry either in need of help or to highlight for attention. As a result, donors to the Masonic Home were up several hundred Brothers and total donations were up quite a number of dollars; and every Lodge saw an increase in both the number of donors and the amount donated. Our Grand Master is to be commended for his efforts.

Our distinguished Brother is the seventh Grand Master in the notable list of Grand Masters from Oriental Lodge No. 27. Oriental Lodge and all Brethren in our Jurisdiction can well be proud of his service to his Brethren, his representation of our Jurisdiction in other Jurisdictions and his dedication to the Masonic Home of Delaware. We thank him for his endeavors and wish him well in future undertakings. We look forward to his continued service to our beloved Craft as he continues to **Educate and Communicate** to our fraternity for many years to come.

Finally, all members of Grand Lodge are hereby advised that for the 40<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Communication, it will only consider proposed changes or amendments that are in the hands of the Chairman no later than February 10, 2008.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE

Warren F. Schueler, Sr., PGM

Ronald L. Jefferson, PGM

Herbert P. Fulmer, II, PGM

Charles H. Lengel, Jr., PGM

Herbert J. Atkinson, PGM, Chairman

**Report of the Committee on Finance and Audit**

1. The Recommendations of the Committee on Finance and Audit of annual dues of \$19.85 per member together with assessments of \$5.00 for the Masonic Home, \$.15 for the Gunning Bedford, Jr. Scholarship Fund, \$.50 for M.S.A. Hospital Visitation, \$.50 for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for a total of \$26.00 were **APPROVED**.

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There being no further business, the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:45 p.m., to be resumed on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Newport Masonic Building in Newport, Delaware for the open installation of the Grand Lodge Officers.

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor by M.:W.: William R. Stevens, Jr. at the, Newport Masonic Building in Newport Delaware at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of the installation of Officers for the ensuing Grand Lodge year of 2007-2008.

The Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE form by Most Worshipful Earl L. Emerson, Jr., Grand Master, at 9:00 p.m.



Given under my hand and the Seal  
of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of Delaware this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October  
A.D. 2006, A.L. 6006.

*James E. Waecker Sr.*

James E. Waecker, Sr., P.G.M.  
Grand Secretary