

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL**

**ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Revised: 2011

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ARTICLE I: NAME

- Section 1.** This grand council shall be known by the name and style of “The Grand Council of the allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America”, hereinafter referred to as “The Grand Council”.
- Section 2.** Be it remembered that on August 5, 1933, the Grand Council took as its date of formation January 14, 1892, since this date was the beginning of the Allied Masonic Degrees in America with the formation of the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees at the Richmond, Virginia, that on April 16, 1932, the subsequent establishment of a Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America occurred in Salisbury, North Carolina, and that the union of the two bodies was drawn up and entered into July 18, 1933 and was ratified by the North Carolina Grand Council August 5 1933, and was ratified by the Sovereign College at Norway, Maine August 24, 1933, and became effective as of September 7, 1933. (Amended 2000.)

ARTICLE II: DEGREES

- Section 1:** The Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America shall control and superintend the following grades:
- A. Royal Ark Mariner
 - B. Secret Monitor
 - (1) Brotherhood of David and Jonathan – Induction
 - (2) Brotherhood of David and Jonathan – Admission of a Prince
 - (3) Installed Supreme Ruler (Adopted 1994 and Amended 2000)
 - C. Knight of Constantinople
 - D. Saint Lawrence the Martyr
 - E. Architect
 - F. Grand Architect
 - G. Grand Tyler of Solomon Grand Director of Music
 - H. Superintendent
 - I. Master of Tyre
 - J. Excellent Master
 - K. Installed Sovereign Master
 - L. Installed Worthy Master of St. Lawrence the Martyr. (Amended 2001)
 - M. Installed Commander Noah
 - N. Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri and Appendant Orders including
 - (1) Man-at-arms
 - (2) Esquire
 - (3) Knight
 - (4) Knight Commander
 - O. Ye Antiente Order of Corks. (Amended 2000.)

Section 2. The Grand Council shall have the power to take under its direction any other Masonic Order approved by Grand Council and which is not already under the control of a regularly recognized body in the United States.

Section 3. All members of the Allied Masonic Degrees are in possession of all Degrees and Grades under the control of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America by virtue of membership in a coordinate council; provided however, that the grades in Section 1. N. (Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri are governed by the provisions of Article XXII, Section 2; the grades in Section 1 B (3), K, L and M are reserved for those elected as Sovereign Master of a Constituent Council, the grade in Section 1. M. is reserved for those elected as Commander Noah of Royal Ark Mariner Lodge. (amended 1998, 2000); and provided further that the grade in Section 1. O. is reserved for those who have received the degree in a Cellar of the Order of the Cork. (Amended 1998, 2000, 2001.)

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: The Grand Council possesses the supreme superintending authority and has the inherent right of enacting laws and regulation for the Order, and of altering, repealing and abrogating them. It also has the power of investigating, regulating and deciding all matters relative to the Order, and of erasing Councils and trying and expelling members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP OF GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1. The Grand Council shall consist of the Grand Officers as listed in Article VI, together with the several Past Grand Officers, Sovereign Masters, Past Sovereign Masters, Wardens, Treasurers and Secretaries of the several Constituent Councils, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote only.

Section 2. All members of Grand Council must be members of Constituent Councils.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS OF GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1. The annual meeting of Grand Council shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by Grand Council.

Section 2. In case of emergency, the Sovereign Grand Master, with the approval of a majority of the members of the Board of General Purposes, shall have the authority to change the time and place of the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. The Sovereign Grand Master shall have the authority to call Special meetings of the Grand Council at such time and place as he may deem expedient.

Section 4. Except for the institution of a new Council, notice of special meetings shall be given to the Officers of Grand Council, Past Sovereign Grand Masters and the Secretaries of the Constituent Councils by mail at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting and shall specify the date, hour and place of the meeting

and shall set forth the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called.

- Section 5.** At any Annual or special meeting of the Grand Council, representatives of at least ten percent (10%) of the active Councils must be present in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except at a special meeting to constitute a new Council. (Adopted February 20, 1993.)
- Section 6.** Every member of the Order, not otherwise qualified to attend, while not entitled to vote, may be admitted to seats in the Grand Council, and with the permission of the Sovereign Grand Master, may speak upon any question submitted to the Grand Council.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1. The officers of Grand Council shall consist of the following:

- A. Sovereign Grand Master
- B. Deputy Grand Master
- C. Senior Grand Warden
- D. Junior Grand Warden
- E. Grand Secretary
- F. Grand Treasurer
- G. Senior Grand Deacon
- H. Junior Grand Deacon
- I. Grand Chaplain
- J. Grand Director of Ceremonies
- K. Grand Marshal
- L. Grand Tyler
- M. Grand Superintendent

- N. Grand Lecturer

- O. Grand Director of Music

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL

- Section 1.** At its Annual Meeting, Grand Council shall elect a Sovereign Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Deacons, and a member of the Board of General Purposes.
- Section 2.** A majority vote shall be necessary to elect.
- Section 3.** The elected Officer terms of office shall continue until their successors are elected and installed.
- Section 4.** The Sovereign Grand Master shall appoint the remaining Officers and their terms of office shall terminate at his pleasure.

- Section 5.** Only Sovereign Masters or Past Sovereign Masters, in good standing, shall be eligible to hold office in Grand Council.
- Section 6.** All Officers, both elected and appointed, shall be installed, each in his own proper person, by the Sovereign Grand Master, or by a Past Sovereign Grand Master, Sovereign Master, or Past Sovereign Master, either in Grand Council or in a Constituent Council as soon as practicable after election or appointment.
- Section 7.** In the event of a vacancy in the elected or appointed Grand Officers, the Sovereign Grand Master shall have the power to advance the remaining Officers and to fill any vacancy created by such advancement with the approval of the Board of General Purposes.
- Section 8.** The Sovereign Grand Master shall have the authority to appoint a Grand Superintendent as may be needed or required in each state. The Grand Superintendent shall be the direct representative of the Sovereign Grand Master in that state or for the number of subordinate Councils assigned and shall be, as may be required, inspect the labors of the subordinate councils under his supervision, convey fraternal greetings from the Sovereign Grand Master and Grand Council; assist the Grand Council and its officer, and the subordinate councils and their officers by giving advise, assistance and recommendations and perform such other duties as may be specifically delegated by the Sovereign Grand Master, with copies to the Grand Secretary, but no less than once each year, at least 30 days prior to the Annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES OF OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL

- Section 1.** The Sovereign Grand Master shall have the authority to convene any Constituent council under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council, to preside therein himself, or by deputy, to inspect proceedings, and to require conformity to the rules of the Grand Council.
- Section 2.** The Sovereign Grand master shall have the authority to suspend any Officer of Grand Council or Constituent Council from office, but in no case shall such suspension affect the standing of the Officer or his membership in the Allied Masonic Degrees. The Sovereign Grand Master shall report his action in detail at the following Annual Meeting of Grand Council.
- Section 3.** The Sovereign Grand Master shall possess the prerogative of investing any Brother, whom he may deem worthy of the honor and who is in possession of the prerequisite Degrees, with the Allied Masonic Degrees at Sight.
- Section 4.** A Charter cannot be forfeited without the authority of the Grand Council; however, the Sovereign Grand Master will revoke the Charter of a Constituent Council that has not submitted an Annual Return, nor communicated with the Grand Secretary as to the reason for the Delinquency for two years.

- Section 5.** All certificates, dues cards, forms, diplomas, etc, issued by Constituent Councils shall have affixed the seal of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA and signature of the Grand Secretary. All other documents are invalid.
- Section 6.** At each Annual meeting, the Sovereign Grand Master shall make a written report to the Grand Council of his official acts and doings, and such other matters as he may deem necessary for the consideration of the Grand Council.
- Section 7.** Any subject that is not provided for in the Constitution of the Grand Council shall be governed by the Sovereign Grand Master, with the approval of the Board of General Purposes, and reported to the next Annual Meeting of the Grand Council.
- Section 8.** The Deputy Grand Master, in the absence or disability of the Sovereign Grand Master, shall possess all the power and privileges of the Sovereign Grand Master, except that the power to grant Dispensations shall be vested in the Sovereign Grand Master only.
- Section 9.** The duties of the various Officers of Grand Council shall be such as usually appertain to officers similar to those of Grand Council.
- Section 10.** The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary are empowered to pay all expenses of this Grand Council between meetings, which expenses shall be presented for ratification as a portion of his Annual Report of the Grand Treasurer.

ARTICLE IX: BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

- Section 1.** The Board of General Purposes shall be an advisory board with whom the Sovereign Grand Master may consult when he so desires.
- Section 2.** The Board of General Purposes shall constitute a Committee of Doings of Grand Officers, to whom the reports of the Sovereign Grand Master and Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall be referred without motion. They shall distribute the various topics in these reports to the proper Committees of the Grand Council.
- Section 3.** The Board of General Purposes shall be composed of three members.
- Section 4.** At each Annual Meeting of Grand Council, one member shall be elected to the Board of General Purposes to serve for a term of three years, or until his successor shall be elected; such term to begin on the day of election.
- Section 5.** In case of vacancy on the Board of General Purposes, by death or otherwise, the Sovereign Grand Master, with the approval of the Board of General Purposes, shall fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting of the Grand Council.

- Section 6.** The Board shall meet upon the call of the President or any two of its members.
- Section 7.** The senior member of the Board shall be President.
- Section 8.** The Board of General Purposes shall have the power to call special meetings of the Grand Council for the consideration of the removal of any Grand Officers for cause.

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES OF GRAND COUNCIL

- Section 1.** The following Committees shall be appointed by the Sovereign Grand Master:
- A. Jurisprudence
 - B. Finance
 - C. Credentials
 - D. Necrology
 - E. Time and Place of Annual Meeting
 - F. Publication
 - G. Archives and History
- (Amended to delete Charts Committee 2001.)
- Section 2.** Such other Committees as may be necessary may be appointed by the Sovereign Grand Master or by the Grand Council.

ARTICLE XI: FINANCE

- Section 1.** Each petition for a Charter to form Constituent Council shall be accompanied by a contribution of \$50.00 (Amended 2001.)
- Section 2.** Each Constituent Council shall contribute the sum of \$10.00 annually for each member on its roll at Low Twelve on the 31st of December, such contribution to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary at the time of making the Annual Report.
(Amended February 12, 2011.)
- Section 3.** Each Constituent Council shall contribute the sum of \$7.00 to Grand Council for each Brother invested with the Allied Masonic Degrees. This contribution shall be forwarded at the time of making the Annual Report.
- Section 4.** Each Constituent Council shall contribute the sum of \$100.00 to Grand Council for each Brother invested as a Knight Commander, (1 per year unless grandfathered @ \$10.00 for those who served as SM prior to Jan 1, 2009) \$75.00 for each Knight, (1 per year), \$50.00 for each Esquire (2 per year) \$25.00 for each Man at Arms, (no limit), of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri. N. These contributions shall be forwarded with the Annual Report.

- Section 5.** Each Constituent Council shall contribute the sum of \$2.00 to Grand Council for each Brother invested as an Installed Sovereign Master. This contribution shall be forwarded with Annual Report.
- Section 6.** The Fiscal Year of the Grand Council and of Each Constituent Council shall be the calendar year.
- Section 7.** The compensation of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall be such as may be determined by the Grand Council.
(Amended to delete the then existing Sections 2 and 3 are renumbered accordingly, 2001.)

ARTICLE XII: FORMATION OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

- Section 1.** A Charter for a Constituent Council may be granted by the Sovereign Grand Master provided the following conditions are met:
- A. Upon request, the Grand Secretary shall issue to a member in good standing in a Constituent Council the form required to request a Charter to form a new Council.
 - B. Five (5) Royal Arch Masons, at least one of who must be an AMD member, must sign the form requesting a Charter.
 - C. The signers must be certified by this, or another, AMD member, as being in good standing in a Royal Arch Chapter.
 - D. A set of By-Laws must be adopted.
 - E. The By-Law, together with the signed request form, the certification, and the fee specified in Article XI, Section 1, must be sent to the Grand Secretary.
(Amended 2001.)
- Section 2.** The Officer named as Sovereign Master of a New Council need not have served as a Warden of a Council, but he must be an AMD member.
- Section 3.** The request for Charter shall include the proposed name of the new Council, which shall not be that of a living person. (Amended 2001.)
- Section 4.** If a Charter to form a new Council is granted by the Sovereign Grand Master, he shall arrange with the Sovereign Master for the constitution of the new Council.
(Amended 2001.)
- Section 5.** Prior to the institution of a new Council, those Royal Arch Masons who have not previously received the Allied Masonic Degrees shall be invested at Sight by the Sovereign Grand Master or by the authority of the Sovereign Grand Master, by the member commissioned to constitute the new Council. Members of a new Council invested with the Degrees at Sight shall not

automatically become members of the Grand Master's Council.
(Amended to delete Sections 6, 7 and 8, 2001.)

ARTICLE XIII: MEMBERSHIP IN CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

- Section 1.** Membership in the Allied Masonic Degrees shall be by invitation only to Royal Arch Masons in good standing.
- Section 2.** Proposals for membership in a constituent Council may be received and acted upon at either a Regular or Special Meeting.
- Section 3.** A member wishing to terminate his membership in a Council can do so only by written resignation, by Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues, or by failure to attend at least one Council meeting each year, for a period of two years, unless excused by the Council.
- Section 4.** No Constituent Council shall consist of more than twenty-seven members; provided however, this shall not apply to Grand Master's Council.
- Section 5.** A Brother may be a member of more than one Council; provided, however, that he must be reported annually to the Grand Council and the annual contribution made on him by all of the councils of which he is a member. Councils other than the first the Brother joined shall report him as a multiple member and shall not count against the maximum membership of twenty-seven in that Council. Dual membership in Grand Masters Council is not permitted except as provided in Article XVIII. A brother suspended or expelled from one Council is automatically suspended or expelled from all Councils in which he holds membership.
(Amended 2001.)
- Section 6.** A Constituent Council may request Emeritus Membership for a member of not less than seven years membership in that Council. Provided however, that such status may be requested for only two members between Annual Meetings of the Grand Council, and that not more than seven Emeritus Members may be on the rolls of a Constituent Council at any time. In event a member becomes permanently disabled and/or unable to participate, the Council may request Emeritus Membership for him regardless of the period of membership. (Amended 2002.)
- Section 7.** A request for Emeritus Membership must:
- A. Detail the reasons for which it is made.
 - B. Be approved by unanimous consent of all members of the Constituent Council present at the meeting authorizing it.
 - C. Be signed by the Sovereign Master and the Secretary of the Constituent Council
 - D. Be addressed to the Grand Secretary.
 - E. The Grand Secretary shall review the request ensuring items A thru D of Section 7 have been complied with; notify the Council submitting

the request that "Emeritus Status": is granted and that the "Emeritus Member" is entitled to an emeritus member dues card; report transfers to Grand Council.

Section 8. Emeritus Members are subject to per capita dues and assessments of Grand Council and shall be included in the Annual Report of the Constituent Council.

Section 9. Should a member of a Constituent Council remove his residence to such a distance as might interfere with participation in its activities, the following actions are permitted:

- A. The member may request a transfer to Grand Master's Council.
- B. The member may request a transfer to a Constituent Council having jurisdiction in his new location, provided he has been invited.
- C. His Constituent Council may apply for his transfer to Grand Master's Council, after written notification of the request for transfer has been made to the member and his written consent obtained.

In any case, the transfer shall be processed as follows:

- A. The request shall detail the reasons for which it is made.
- B. The request shall be approved by unanimous consent of all members of the Constituent Council present at the meeting authorizing it.
- C. The request shall be signed by the Sovereign Master and the Secretary of the Constituent Council.
- D. The request shall be addressed to the Grand Council and contain the complete name and address of the Brother being transferred.
- E. The request shall be presented at the following Annual Meeting of Grand Council.
- F. The Grand Secretary shall review the request ensuring items A. thru F of Section 9 have been completed. Notify the Council submitting the request that the transfers is authorized; report transfers to Grand Council.
- G. Submit the name and address of the Brother being transferred to the Secretary of Grand masters Council if the member is transferring to said Council.

Section 10. Membership in good standing in a Lodge of Master Masons and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is necessary to maintain membership in a Constituent Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees. (Adopted February 19, 1994.)

Section 11. A member ceases to be such by resignation, suspension or expulsion. Any member who ceases to be a member of a pre-requisite body, by voluntary non-affiliation for a period greater than six months, or by suspension or expulsion, shall automatically forfeit his membership in his Constituent Council. If, within a period of six months from such action, the member shall be restored to good standing in all pre-requisite bodies, he shall be automatically restored to membership in a Council of the Allied Masonic

Degrees. After the six-month period, he may be restored to membership by a unanimous vote of the members present at a regular meeting, if a vacancy exists. (Adopted February 19, 1994.)

ARTICLE XIV: MEETING OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

Section 1. Three members of a Constituent Council, one of whom must have authority to open Council, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 2. A Constituent Council which fails to hold a meeting for a period of two years or fails to work in conformity with the Constitution of the Grand Council shall be notified that, unless a meeting is held or the non-conformity is corrected within thirty (30) days, its Charter will be suspended until such time as the requirements, in the opinion of the Sovereign Grand Master, have been met.

ARTICLE XV: OFFICERS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

Section 1. The Officers of a Constituent Council shall be styled and designated:

- A. Sovereign Master
- B. Senior Warden
- C. Junior Warden
- D. Treasurer
- E. Secretary
- F. Senior Deacon
- G. Junior Deacon
- H. Chaplain
- I. Tyler

Section 2. At the discretion of the Council, the Office of Treasurer and Secretary may be combined.

Section 3. The duties of the various Officers of a Constituent Council shall be such as usually appertain to similar Officers.

ARTICLE XVI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

Section 1. Every Constituent Council shall annually, on the day of meeting named in its By-Laws for that purpose, elect its Sovereign Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

Section 2. Any Officer, other than the Sovereign Master shall be eligible to hold, in addition to his line office, the Office of Treasurer, or Secretary or both.

Section 3. Except by special Dispensation, no Brother may be elected Sovereign Master unless he shall have served as a Warden.

Section 4. A majority vote of the members present shall be necessary for election.

Section 5. The Sovereign Master-Elect shall appoint the remaining Officers.

Section 6. All Officers shall be installed as soon as practical after election; provided however, that the Sovereign Master-Elect shall not be eligible for installation until after he has been invested with the grade of "Installed Sovereign Master" by a qualified Brother. In the absence of a qualified Brother, the Sovereign Master-Elect may be installed with the understanding he will present himself for investiture of the grade of "Installed Sovereign Master" at the first opportunity when a qualified Brother is present.

ARTICLE XVII: REPORTS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

Section 1. The Secretary of each Constituent Council shall send to the Grand Secretary on or before the fifteenth day of January an Annual Report as of Low Twelve on the 31st of December of each year.

Section 2. The Annual Report shall contain:

- A. A complete list of officers
- B. Dates of Election and Installation of Officers
- C. Annotation of changes in membership during the year
- D. Dates of Investiture of new members
- E. Any other information required or deemed expedient

Section 3. A Constituent Council which fails to submit an Annual Report on or before the fifteenth day of January of the year it is due, shall be declared delinquent. If said Constituent Council fails to submit an Annual Return on or before the Fifteenth day of March of the year it is due, may be assessed a fine of \$100.00 payable to the Grand Council of the AMD of the USA. A Constituent Council which fails to submit an Annual Return as required by this Article or Article XI, shall be placed on probation by the Sovereign Grand Master; and if not submitted for two consecutive years its Charter shall be Revoked.

Section 4. "deleted" (2005)

Section 5. "deleted" (2005)

ARTICLE XVIII: DESIGNATED COUNCILS

Section 1. There shall be a Constituent Council known by the name and style of "Grand Master's Council", operating under the following regulations:

- A. Its membership shall consist of the Permanent members, those who have been invested with the Allied Masonic Degrees at Sight by the Sovereign Grand Master, and such other members as may be elected to membership by Grand Master's Council.
- B. The Founders of Grand Council, Past Sovereign Grand Masters, the reigning Sovereign Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall be Permanent members of Grand Master's Council.

- C. With the exception of the Permanent members listed in Section 1 B above, and those who have been invested with the Allied Masonic Degrees at Sight by the Sovereign Grand Master, meet the following qualifications.
 - a. Those who live in a state or territory where no regularly Chartered Constituent Council exists.
 - b. Those who live in a state or territory where regularly Chartered Constituent Councils exists, provided that a written waiver of jurisdiction has been obtained from the Constituent Council. (Adopted February 19, 1994.)
- D. In the event that vacancy occurs in an existing Constituent Council or a new Constituent Council is formed, a member of Grand Master's Council may seek and invitation from such Constituent Council for membership. Should he be accepted by such Constituent Council, his membership may be transferred from Grand Master's Council to the accepting Constituent Council.
- E. With the exception of the Permanent members listed in Section 1 B above, membership in Grand Master's Council shall automatically terminate upon becoming a member of any other Council.
- F. The funds of Grand Master's Council shall be limited to the greater of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per member, or Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00). All funds in excess of this limit at the end of the fiscal year shall revert to the Grand Council. (Adopted February 19, 1994.)

Section 2. There shall be a Constituent Council known by the name and style of the "Council of the Nine Muses" operating under the following regulations:

- A. Its membership shall consist of nine (9) members-elected for life.
- B. The purpose of this Council is to honor those Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Masonic Literature or Research.
- C. The Sovereign Master-Elect of this Council shall, immediately after his installation, present a paper representing original research on some subject of interest to the Masonic Fraternity.
- D. The Council of the Nine Muses shall make no annual contribution to Grand Council on those members who hold dual or plural membership in other Councils.

ARTICLE XIX: ROYAL ARK MARINER LODGES

Section 1. No new Royal Ark Mariner Lodges will be separately warranted. Except as hereinafter provided, and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, each AMD Council may freely exemplify the Royal Ark Mariner Degree at its discretion in a Royal Ark mariner Lodge declared, established, and ordained moored to a constituent council of this Grand Council and

which shall bear the name and number of the said constituent council. The Officers of a constituent Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees shall be the Officers of a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge moored to the said constituent Council, with corresponding rank therein as follows:

AMD COUNCIL

Sovereign Master
 Senior Warden
 Junior Warden
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Senior Deacon
 Junior Deacon
 Chaplain
 Tyler

ROYAL ARK MARINER LODGE

Worship Commander (N)
 Senior Warden (J)
 Junior Warden (S)
 Treasurer
 Scribe
 Senior Deacon
 Junior Deacon
 Chaplain
 Warden

Past Sovereign Masters of a constituent council shall be and are declared Past Commanders (N) of a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners moored to the said constituent council.

Past Commanders (N) of Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners of other Grand Jurisdictions who may be "Brothers" of a constituent council of this Grand Council shall be Past Commanders (N) in the Lodge of Royal Ark mariners moored to the constituent council of this Grand Council in which they hold membership. (Amended 2000.)

Section 2. All current Royal Ark Mariner Lodges duly Chartered originally by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland on March 21, 1932: (St. Andrew's in America No. 1-A, Monroe, North Carolina) (Cassillis No. 2-A, Raleigh North Carolina) (Howell No. 3-A, Charlotte, North Carolina). Those warranted by the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees: (Oxford Lodge no. 1, Norway, Maine, December 12, 1896) (Half moon Lodge No. 1, New York, New York, February 2, 1908), and those lodges subsequently warranted by this Grand Council, may continue functioning, if they comply with this Constitution.

Section 3. Membership in a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge warranted pursuant to Section 2 herein may be conferred upon a Royal Ark Mason in good standing in his Constituent Capitular Chapter. The only exceptions are Oxford Lodge No. 1, moored to Josiah H. Drummond Council No. 1, AMD, and Half Moon Lodge No. 1, moored to Hal Moon Council No. 2, AMD. These two lodges may confer the Degree upon Master Masons in good standing in their Symbolic Lodges, in accordance with the Articles of Union of the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees and the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the U.S.A. signed in 1933. (1st Sentence Amended 1995, 1998, 2000.)

- Section 4.** There shall be no limit on the number of members in Royal Ark Mariner Lodges warranted pursuant to Section 2 herein. (Amended 2000.)
- Section 5.** Each Constituent Council having a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge moored to it that is warranted pursuant to Section 2 herein, shall make an Annual Report to the Grand Council at the same time the Annual Report for the Council is made. This Report shall contain the following information:
- A. The date of the Annual Communication
 - B. The elected and Appointed Officers
 - C. The Date the Officers were installed and by whom
 - D. A list of the Current membership, as well as any changes such as elevations and losses.

Failure to submit an Annual Report to the Grand Council Shall result in revocation of the charter of a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge warranted pursuant to Section 2 herein. (Amended 1998, 2000.)

- Section 6.** All members of the Allied Masonic Degrees are in possession of the Royal Ark Mariner's Degree by virtue of membership in a constituent council of the Allied Masonic Degrees and may visit a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge. (Amended 1998.)

ARTICLE XX: ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

- Section 1.** Exercising the authority of its antecedent Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees of the United States of America is hereby declared, established, and a Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor ordained to be existent within the bosom of the Grand Council and is a chamber thereof, and may be convened by the Sovereign Grand Master acting in his capacity as Grand Supreme Ruler during the annual meeting of the Grand Council and at such other times as may suit his pleasure. The Grand Conclave however possess no powers of legislation, neither shall it exercise and authority over the brethren of this Grand Council, all such power being reserved unto the Grand Council.

Section 2. The officers of this Grand Council shall be the Officers of the Grand Conclave of Secret Monitor with corresponding ranks therein as follows:

GRAND COUNCIL

Sovereign Grand Master
 Deputy Grand Master
 Senior Grand Warden
 Junior Grand Warden
 Grand Treasurer
 Grand Secretary
 Senior Grand Deacon
 Junior Grand Deacon
 Grand Chaplain
 Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Grand Marshall
 Grand Tyler

GRAND CONCLAVE

Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler
 Right Worthy Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler
 Right Worthy Grand Chancellor
 Right Worthy Grand Counselor
 Very Worthy Grand Treasurer
 Very Worthy Grand Recorder
 Right Worthy Grand Guide
 Worthy Grand Guarder
 Very Worthy Grand Chaplain
 Very Worthy Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Very Worthy Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Worthy Grand Sentinel

Section 3. Past Sovereign Grand Masters of this Grand Council shall be and are declared Most Worthy. Past Grand Supreme Rulers of the Grand Conclave Order of Secret Monitor.

Section 4. The prefixes to be accorded to and used by Past and Present Grand Officers of the Grand Conclave of Secret Monitor shall be as set forth herein. Supreme rulers and Past Supreme Rulers of Conclaves appurtenant to constituent councils and a chamber thereof shall be entitled to use the prefix Worthy.

Section 5. The Degrees in Article II, Section 1, B (1), (2) and (3), herein shall be exemplified in a conclave of these degrees appurtenant to each constituent council of this Grand Council, which Conclave shall bear the name and number of the said constituent Council, and shall be a chamber thereof, and which shall not be separately chartered, no separate dues paid by its members.

Section 6. The officers of a Constituent Council shall be officers of a Secret Monitor Conclave appurtenant to an AMD council and a chamber thereof, with corresponding rank as follows:

AMD COUNCIL

Sovereign Master
 Senior Warden
 Junior Warden
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Senior Deacon
 Junior Deacon
 Chaplain
 Tyler

SECRET MONITOR CONCLAVE

Worthy Supreme Ruler
 Counselor
 Guide
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Director of Ceremonies
 Guarder
 Chaplain
 Sentinel

Section 7. Past Sovereign Master's of a constituent council shall be and are declared Past Supreme Rulers of a Conclave of Secret Monitor, appurtenant to an AMD Council and a chamber thereof. (Amended 2000.)

ARTICLE XXI: PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. The "Annals" shall be published under the direction of the Grand Secretary and shall contain a record of the activities of Grand Council and the Minutes of Grand Master's Council.

Section 2. The "Miscellanea" shall be published annually under the direction of the Committee on Publications and shall consist of papers and other items of interest presented at meetings of Constituent Councils or Grand Council.

Section 3. The Annals and Miscellanea shall be sent to the Secretary of each Constituent Council, who shall distribute them free to each member in good standing in that Council.

ARTICLE XXII: HONORS

Section 1. Upon unanimous approval, a member of one Constituent Council may be elected an Honorary Member of another Constituent Council. Such Honorary Members shall be provided with a membership card, but shall not be eligible to hold office or vote in the Council in which he holds Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership shall not be included in the membership limitation of Constituent Councils, nor shall such Councils be required to pay the annual per capita contribution on Honorary Members.

Section 2. The Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri is here by declared, established and ordained to be existent within the bosom of the Grand Council and is a Chamber thereof pursuant to the authority of the original manuscript rituals in the possession of John Yarker, copied and delivered to this Grand Council by John Raymond Shute II on October 10, 1933, and is governed by the Regulation set forth in Appendix A of this Constitution.

Section 3. The rank of title of Knight Grand Cross, the highest award of Grand Council may be conferred under the following regulations:

- A. The Sovereign Grand Master shall be entitled to the rank and title of Knight Grand Cross and shall be invested with said rank and title immediately following his installation as Sovereign Grand Master.
- B. It may be conferred upon such other distinguished Brethren as the Board of General Purposes recommends and the Grand Council elects.
- C. The number of Active Knight Grand Cross shall be limited to ninety and nine (99).
- D. The rank and title of Knight Grand Cross, Honoris Causa, may be conferred upon such distinguished Brethren of other Jurisdictions and

the Board of General Purposes recommends and the Grand Council elects.

- E. The number of Knights Grand Cross, Honoris Causa, shall be limited to Twenty and seven (27).
- F. No contribution shall be required from those who are dubbed Knights Grand Cross, or Knights Grand Cross, Honoris Causa.

Section 4. Past Grand Rank may be conferred by Grand Council on Brethren deemed worthy of distinction.

ARTICLE XXIII: TITLES

Section 1. The Sovereign Grand Master and Past Sovereign Grand Masters are entitled to the appellation "Most Venerable".

Section 2. Grand Council Officers, except Most Venerable Past Sovereign Grand Masters serving as officers, shall be entitled to the appellation "Right Venerable".

Section 3. Sovereign Master and Past Sovereign Masters of Constituent Councils are entitled to the appellation "Venerable".

Section 4. All members of the Order shall be styled and designated as "Brothers."

ARTICLE XXIV: GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Section 1. In event that any Section of this Constitution pertaining to Constituent Councils is in conflict with the Statutes of the Grand Lodge in which Grand Jurisdiction the Constituent Council is located, the Grand Lodge Statutes shall prevail, Article III, Section I not withstanding.

Section 2. Any subject not provided for in this Constitution, and not governed by the Sovereign Grand Master as specified in Article VIII, Section 7, shall be governed in accordance with Statutes of the Grand Lodge in which Grand Jurisdiction the Constituent Council is located.

ARTICLE XXV: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. No motion to alter, add to, or annul any provision of this Constitution shall be received unless notice thereof shall have been announced; and such alterations, in writing, placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary at a previous Annual Assembly of the Grand Council; the Grand Secretary certifying that each Constituent Council has been forwarded a copy of such proposed alterations at least (90) days prior to the vote; and no such motion shall be considered carried unless affirmed by a majority of those members present and voting at the Annual Assembly.

Section 2. However, the Constitution may be amended at any Annual Assembly by the unanimous consent of the members present.

ADOPTED: February 18, 1989
AMENDED: February 20, 1993
AMENDED: February 19, 1994
AMENDED: February 19, 2000
AMENDED: February 18, 2001
AMENDED: February 16, 2002
AMENDED: February 15, 2003
AMENDED: February 14, 2004
AMENDED: February 12, 2005

Appendix A

Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri and Appendant Orders

1. Constituent AMD Councils

Constituent Councils may confer upon any member who has not held or is not presently holding an elected office, "For exceptional service to the Council", the rank of: "Man-at-Arms" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri. (RBE)

- 1.1 The Brethren of this rank shall be designated as "Associate Members" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri
- 1.2 A Constituent Council may recommend to the Grand Council each year, two Brethren currently holding office in a Subordinate Council for the rank of "Esquire" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 1.3 The Brethren of this rank shall be formally be designated as "Members" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 1.4 A Constituent Council may recommend to the Grand Council each year, one brother for the award of "Knight" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri. This Brother must have been a member of the Allied Masonic Degrees for a minimum of seven years.
- 1.5 Only those members holding the rank of "Knight" or above may vote on and/or submit names of Brethren for approval by Grand Council for elevation to the rank and title of "Knight" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 1.6 A Constituent Council may recommend to the Grand Council each year, one Venerable Brother, (the present presiding Sovereign Master) for the Award of "Knight Commander" of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 1.7 Only those Knights holding the rank of "Knight Commander" may preside as head of a Faslairt, and/or serve as a governing official of the Knights of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri attached to a subordinate Council.
- 1.8 The presiding official of the Knights of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri attached to a Constituent Council shall be the most senior Knight Commander present at the meetings of the Knights of the Red Branch of Eri.

2. Grand Council AMD

- 2.1 All Grand Officers including those presently holding the rank of Past Sovereign Grand Master shall, with the approval of the Grand Council, be eligible hold the rank and title of: "Knight Grand Cross, Red Branch of Eri".

- 2.2 All Sovereign Grand Masters, past and present, shall, with the approval of the Grand Council, be eligible hold the rank of: “Supreme Knight Grand Cross, Red Branch of Eri”.
- 2.3 The Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America shall retain the right, honor, custom, and privilege of conferring upon those brethren believed worthy, for services directly or indirectly related to our Fraternity, including diplomatic considerations of this Grand Jurisdiction, any level of Knighthood of the Red Branch of Eri.
3. Implementation & Regalia
- 3.1 All current Knights of the Red Branch of Eri who are not Presiding or Past Sovereign Master’s shall continue to hold the rank and title of “Knigh” of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 3.2 All Presiding Sovereign Master’s upon approval of the Grand Council be eligible to receive the rank and title of: “Knight Commander”, of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 3.3 All Past Presiding Sovereign Master’s shall be elevated to the rank and title of: “Knight Commander”, of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 3.4 All Present & Past Grand Officers of the AMD, including those currently holding the rank and title of “Past Sovereign Grand Master” shall be elevated to the rank and title of: “Knigh”, of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 3.5 All Present & Past Sovereign Grand Masters of the AMD shall be elevated to the rank and title of: “Knight Supreme Grand Cross” of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 3.6 The Grand Council shall not be financial burdened for the procurement, distribution etc., for Knighthood jewels, sashes, certificates, lapel pins, etc., except for those attaining the rank and title of: “Knigh”, Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri.
- 3.7 With the exception of the “Knight Supreme Grand Cross”, the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri, the purchase of all other awards of Knighthood; i.e. jewels, certificates, etc., shall be the responsibility of the recipient and shall be included as part of a “passing Fee” as shall be determined by the Grand Council of AMD.
- 3.7.1 Passing Fees will be required for the following Royal Order of the Red Brand of Eri Honors:
- 3.7.1.1 Man-at-Arms (AMRORBE) = Associate Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri
- 3.7.1.2 Esquire (MRORBE) = Member Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri

- 3.7.1.3 Knight (DRORBE) = Knight Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri
- 3.7.1.4 Knight Commander (DCRORBE) = Knight Commander Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri
- 3.7.1.5 Knight Grand Cross (KGCRORBE) = Knight Grand Cross Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri
- 3.7.1.6 Knight Supreme Grand Cross (KSGCRORBE) = Knight Supreme Grand Cross Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri

**4. Matriculation of designated items pertaining to the different levels of the Order of Red Branch of Eri.
(See AMD Ritual No. 2 for detailed information)**

- 4.1 Man-at-Arms, RBE
 - 4.1.1 Man-at Arms RBE Sash & Sash Jewel
 - 4.1.2 Certificate & Card
- 4.2 Esquire, RBE
 - 4.2.1 Esquire Sash & RBE Sash Jewel
 - 4.2.2 Certificate & Card
 - 4.2.3 Red Neck Ribbon Collar & Esquire Jewel
 - 4.2.4 Certificate & Card
 - 4.2.5 Lapel Pin
- 4.3 Knight, RBE
 - 4.3.1 Knight Sash & RBE Sash Jewel
 - 4.3.2 Green Neck Ribbon Collar & Knight Jewel
 - 4.3.3 Knight Brest Star
 - 4.3.4 Certificate & Card
 - 4.3.5 Lapel Pin
- 4.4 Knight Commander, RBE
 - 4.4.1 KC Sash & RBE Sash Jewel
 - 4.4.2 Gold Neck Ribbon Collar & KC Jewel
 - 4.4.3 Knight Breast Star
 - 4.4.4 Breast Cross
 - 4.4.5 Certificate & Card
 - 4.4.6 Lapel Pin
- 4.5 Knight Grand Cross, RBE
 - 4.5.1 KGC Sash & RBE Sash Jewel
 - 4.5.2 Simple Gold Chain & KGC Jewel
 - 4.5.3 *Special* KGC Breast Star
 - 4.5.4 Breast Cross
 - 4.5.5 Certificate & Card

- 4.5.6 Lapel Pin
- 4.6 Supreme Knight Grand Cross, RBE
 - 4.6.1 SKGC Sash & RBE Sash Jewel
 - 4.6.2 Distinctive Grand Collar & SKGC Jewel
 - 4.6.3 *Special* KGC Breast Star
 - 4.6.4 Breast Cross
 - 4.6.5 Certificate & Card
 - 4.6.6 Lapel Pin

ADOPTED: February 12, 2005