

**GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTHWEST
ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA**



BY-LAWS

- AMENDED** MAY 30, 31 and JUNE 1, 1985 – BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON
- AMENDED** JUNE 11, 12 and 13, 1987 – TACOMA, WASHINGTON
- AMENDED** JUNE 9, 10 and 11, 1989 – SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
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- AMENDED** MAY 21, 22 and 23, 1993 – BREMERTON, WASHINGTON
- AMENDED** MAY 17, 18 and 19, 1995 – LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON
- AMENDED** MAY 29, 30 and 31, 1997 – OCEAN SHORES, WASHINGTON
- AMENDED** MAY 20, 21 and 22, 1999 – SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
- AMENDED** MAY 16,17,18,19 and 20, 2001 – TACOMA, WASHINGTON
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- AMENDED** MAY 16, 17 and 18, 2019 – LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON

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BY-LAWS FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTHWEST

Art. 1 The Grand Lodge of the Northwest of the Order Sons of Italy in America is a Fraternal organization instituted November, 1930. The Grand Lodge is the intermediate unit between the Supreme Lodge and the Local Lodges. The jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, as granted by the Supreme Lodge, extends to the states of Washington, Oregon, (part), Idaho, Montana, and Alaska, unless otherwise authorized by the Supreme Lodge or the Supreme Council. The Grand Lodge is comprised of the State Officers, the Local Lodges, the State Delegates elected by the Local Lodges and National Delegates. The Grand Lodge, during the interval between Grand Conventions, functions through the Grand Council.

POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

Art. 2 The Grand Lodge has all those powers which it expressly or implicitly derives from the constitution and the Laws of the Supreme Lodge. The legislative power belongs exclusively to the Grand Lodge in session, and in the exercise of this power, it can make laws to regulate the conduct, administration, and the functions of itself and those of any subordinate organizations within its jurisdiction; provided that no exercise of this power is in contravention of the Supreme Laws. The Grand Lodge, when in session has, in addition, the following express powers.

- a. To impose a per capita tax against membership and the amount of said tax, and the manner, method and terms for collection.
- b. To establish the administrative machinery for the functioning of its offices.
- c. To control, ratify, or annul the deliberations of the Grand Council, and of its other subordinate bodies, excepting the Grand Committee of Arbitration.
- d. To establish the place and days of its sessions.
- e. To elect the Grand Council, the Grand Committee of Arbitration, the Supreme Delegates and Authorized Commissions.
- f. To allow for payment of salaries, indemnities and per diem expenses within the allowed budget.

- g. To purchase, hold and manage property.
- h. To establish and maintain funds for the benefit of its members.
- i. To establish and maintain a publication as its official internal organ.
- j. To revise and to amend its by-laws.

CONVENTIONS AND SESSIONS

Art. 3 The Grand Lodge meets in ordinary and special sessions.

Art. 4 The Grand Lodge shall hold its regular Grand Convention not less than once every two (2) years at a time and place previously selected by the last Grand Convention; provided that two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Grand Council may change the time or place of the convention, upon due and proper notice to all Local Lodges. The Convention should be held in convention years before the end of June.

Art. 5 Not less than forty (40) days before each Grand Convention, the State Recording Secretary shall send to each Local Lodge the credentials for its delegates. These credentials must be validated, prior to issuance, by the Financial Secretary of each Local Lodge by attesting that the State Delegates are current in their financial obligation to the Local Lodge.

Art. 6 The legal number of members authorized to be present as voting members of the Grand Convention shall be the number of State Delegates elected and certified by the Local Lodges to the office of the State Recording Secretary.

The order of business for each convention shall be established by the State President.

The election committee on the first day of the convention shall report the names of all announced candidates and complete their report on the second day of convention. Regardless of announced candidates by the election committee, nominations must still come from the floor. Unannounced candidates may still be nominated from the floor just prior to the election time.

Art. 7 The Grand Lodge may hold special sessions on dates and at places previously selected by the Grand Council upon the request of an absolute majority of the Grand Council made and approved during the course of a duly called regular or special meeting of the Grand Council or upon the written request of an absolute majority of the State Delegates of the Local Lodges who are in good standing. The date and place of the session must be fixed by the Grand Council no later than fifteen (15) days and no more than thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for the convention, the order of business to be transacted and a copy of all the amendments to the laws of the Grand Lodge proposed by the Grand Council.

ORGANIC STRUCTURE OF THE GRAND LODGE

Art. 8 The components through which the Grand Lodge functions when not in convention are:

- a. The Grand Council
- b. The Executive Committee of the Grand Council
- c. The Grand Committee of Arbitration
- d. The Commissions, Committees, or boards for the various institutions and activities of the Grand Lodge.

STATE OFFICERS

Art. 9 (a) Powers of the Grand Council. The Grand Council is the executive body of the Grand Lodge and it exercises the powers of the Grand Lodge when the Grand Lodge is not assembled in convention, these powers and prerogatives include, but are not limited to, all those reserved to it in the General Laws of the Order.

Art. 9 (b) Membership of the Grand Council. The Grand Council shall consist of:

- a. the State Officers, as defined below, and
- b. the Presidents of the Local Lodges, and
- c. the Past State Presidents.

Art. 9 (c) The State Officers. The State Officers are;

1. State President
2. State First (1st) Vice President
3. State Second (2nd) Vice President
4. State Third (3rd) Vice President
5. State Fourth (4th) Vice President
6. Immediate Past State President
7. State Orator
8. State Recording Secretary
9. State Financial Secretary
10. State Treasurer
11. Five (5) State Trustees
12. Director of Publications

Art. 9 (d) State Vice Presidents. The Grand Lodge of the Northwest will elect four (4) Vice Presidents; no matter what lodge or where they are in the Grand Lodge of the Northwest. The person receiving the highest number of votes will be First State Vice President; the person with the second highest votes will be Second State Vice President; and in this manner all State Vice Presidents will be placed by the number of votes they receive.

Art. 9 (e) Election of the Grand Council. Except as otherwise required in these by-laws, all members of the Grand Council must be elected by a majority vote taken at the duly assembled biennial Grand Convention.

Art. 9 (f) Financial Responsibility. The Grand Lodge shall have financial responsibility in such matters as the Grand Council deems proper for the attendance of the Grand Convention for all Grand Council members; provided, however, in any event, that the Grand Council shall not obligate the Grand Lodge to financial responsibility for the Convention attendance of the Local Lodge Presidents' or any of the Past State Presidents, except the Immediate Past State President, and two (2) other Past State Presidents having most recently served in the Office of the State President.

Art. 9 (g) Grand Council Meetings. The Grand Lodge shall meet in regular session at least two times each calendar year. It may meet in spe-

cial session whenever such a meeting is called by the State President or at the written request of not less than five (5) members of the Grand Council.

The Grand Council has the power to issue orders and decrees in case of necessity in matters not otherwise provided for under the laws of the Order; provided that no order or decree shall impose dues or assessments and further provided that no order or decree shall annul any law imposing dues or assessments.

The orders and decrees of the Grand Council shall go into effect immediately upon adoption. All such orders and decrees adopted by the Grand Council in the interval between Grand Conventions shall be submitted to the next Grand Convention for ratification. The failure of the Grand Lodge to ratify such orders and decrees shall not nullify their effect retroactively, but such action will terminate their effectiveness as of the date of the failure of ratification. However, any act of the Grand Council, in excess of its powers, may be nullified retroactively.

Art. 9 (h) Executive Committee of the Grand Council. The Executive Committee of the Grand Council shall be composed of the State President, State Vice President(s), Immediate Past State President, State Orator, State Recording Secretary, State Financial Secretary, State Treasurer, State Trustees, and Director of Publications.

Art. 9 (i) Any assessments, levies or increases in per capita taxes that may be imposed by the Supreme Lodge, after consent and approval by the Grand Council, may be passed on to the Local Lodges at a regular session of a Grand Council meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Northwest, Order Sons of Italy in America.

Art. 10 Only State Delegates who have served a complete term as a National Officer, National Delegate, State Officer or Local Lodge President may be elected to the Offices of State President or State Vice President. Any Certified State Delegate may be elected to any other office on the Grand Council. Officers of the Grand Lodge may be elected for more than one (1) term, provided that such officers receive a majority of the votes cast for a second term and two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast for a third or more term.

Art. 11 Candidates for election to the Grand Council must come from the qualified delegates present at the convention; except those persons deemed absent for justifiable reasons, by the delegates assembled, may be nominated, and elected to an office, so long as the person nominated has stated in writing that person will accept election to the office for which that person is nominated.

Art. 12 The State Officers are obliged to attend the meetings of the Grand Council and the sessions of the Grand Lodge. If any elected Grand Council member is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Grand Council, they automatically lose their membership on the Council, unless the Council designates any of the absences as excused.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEFECTS

Art. 13 An “Administrative Defect” is an erroneous application of the laws of the Order. A member has a right to appeal an administrative defect committed by a Local Lodge to the council, if they are damaged or suffer injury to their rights by reason of said defect and provided that they send notice of their appeal to the State Orator within ten (10) days of the occurrence of the alleged defect.

A member may appeal to the Supreme Council from an adverse ruling of the Grand Council regarding an alleged administrative defect by a Local Lodge and may further appeal to the Supreme Council against an administrative defect committed by the Grand Lodge, if they are damaged or suffer injury to their rights thereby and provided that they send notice of their appeal to the National Orator within ten (10) days after they are notified of the decision of the Grand Council or the commission on the alleged administrative defect by the Grand Lodge.

The General Laws of the Order will be followed and applied in all cases of alleged administrative defects.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Art. 14 Proposals to amend these by-laws may be made by a Local Lodge, Grand Council or by a regular member of a Local Lodge, provided the following procedure is observed:

- a. The proposal shall be forwarded to the State Recording Secretary not less than sixty (60) days prior to the opening date fixed for the next convention.
- b. The State Recording Secretary shall refer the proposal to the By-laws and Resolution Committee, which shall make a recommendation to the Convention. The Delegates shall have the final decision if the proposal is to be considered by the Delegates.
- c. If the proposal is to be considered by the Delegates, it shall be inserted in the Order of the Day of the Grand Convention.
- d. All proposals to amend these By-Laws shall be published in the official organ of the Grand Lodge or shall be sent, by the State Recording secretary to all the State Delegates and State Officers at least (40) days before the opening date of the Convention.
- e. Proposals to amend these By-Laws shall be deemed adopted by the Delegation upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the State Delegates duly assembled and present during the vote.

Art. 15 The By-Laws of the Grand Lodge and amendments thereto are to be promulgated by the Grand Council immediately after adoption. The By-Laws of the Grand Lodge and amendments thereto become effective upon approval of the Supreme Convention provided they are not in conflict with the General Laws of the Order.

INCOMPATIBILITY OF OFFICE

Art. 16 All regulations regarding incompatibility of office will follow the General Laws of the Order.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Art. 17 The fiscal year of the Grand Lodge opens on the 1st day of July and closes on the 30th day of June the following year.

At Convention, the Grand Lodge shall review expenditures for the preceding term and establish a budget for the ensuing term.

When the Grand Lodge is not in session, the Grand Council may authorize necessary expenditures, all of which shall appear in a financial report, to be submitted for approval by the Grand Lodge.

The State Trustees shall keep a comprehensive annual inventory of the assets of Grand Lodge. An accounting of this inventory shall be made at each regular session of the Grand Convention .

The State Trustees shall audit all books and accounts of the Grand Lodge and Grand Council at least semi-annually. After each audit, the Trustees shall submit a written report of the same to the Grand Council and each Local Lodge.

All vouchers for payment shall be signed by any two (2) of the following: the State President, State Financial Secretary and one of the State Vice Presidents chosen by the Grand Council.

Art. 18 The State Treasurer shall pay each approved voucher by check within the limits of funds established by the budget. All checks shall be signed by any two of the following: the State President, the State Treasurer and one State Vice President chosen by the Grand Council.

LOCAL LODGES

Art. 19 Regulations for the meetings of Local Lodges shall be determined by the by-laws of the Local Lodges, Grand Lodge, and the General Laws of the Order.

Art. 20 The notice of the call of a special meeting of the Local Lodge must be sent to every member in good standing at least five (5) days before the date set for the meeting. The notice must contain the time, date and place of the meeting and the order of the day for which the meeting is called.

Art. 21 The conduct of meetings of the Local Lodges shall conform to the General Laws of the Order. Ten (10) members in good standing or ten percent (10%) of the members in good standing, are necessary at all times, to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Art. 22 Any action taken by a Local Lodge which is in conflict with the General Laws of the Order or with these By-laws is null and void.

LIMITATIONS OF RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Art. 23 The rights of members are subject to the following limitations:

- a. Before exercising the right to vote, it is necessary that membership be held in the Order for at least three (3) months.
- b. To be elected a member of the Committee of Arbitration, it is necessary that membership be held in the order for at least two (2) years. In addition, the member must be able to read and write and not have been subject to disciplinary measures.
- c. To be elected to an administrative office (except President or State Delegate), it is necessary that membership be held in the Order for at least six (6) months.
- d. To be elected President, it is necessary that the member serve at least one (1) full term as a member of the Council of that Local Lodge. The candidate must have attended at least one (1) more than half of the regular meetings of their Local Lodge during the previous year. The term “previous year” in the foregoing sentence is hereby defined to mean that the time period extending from January 1 to December 31 of the calendar year prior to the election. To be elected State Delegate, it is necessary that the member serve at least one (1) term as a member of the Council of the Lodge, or any Local Lodge in the Grand Lodge of the Northwest jurisdiction.

The preceding paragraph does not apply to charter members Local Lodges which have been in existence for less than one (1) year at the time of election. All such charter members are eligible candidates for the office of Local Lodge President, and such charter members are eligible candidates for the office of State Delegate or alternate.

- e. Vacancies on the Lodge Council must be filled by additional elections at the meeting subsequent to which the vacancy occurs, as reflected by the minutes of the Local Lodge.

Art. 23.1 Social Members are allowed to attend regular and special meetings and may participate in social, athletic and cultural affairs. Social members shall have the right to vote and to hold any office except President, Vice-president or State Delegate in the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

Art. 24 Any officer of the Local Lodge, with the exception of the Immediate Past President who has three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of their Local Lodge automatically forfeits their office. Vacancy of the office shall be declared under the order of New Business of the third (3rd) consecutive absence, by the presiding officer.

Art. 25 Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall be then installed as President for the rest of the term and a new Vice President shall be elected.

Art. 26 At the close of each term of office, the Council must present to the Local Lodge for its approval, during the meeting at which new officers are elected and before such election;

- a. A complete financial accounting for the entire term of office.
- b. A record containing a complete inventory of all property and funds consigned by the outgoing officers to the new Council, signed by both Presidents and all the Trustees.

Art. 27 The election of the State Delegates and their alternates shall be held by each Local Lodge from among its members in good standing every two (2) years in the month of February, preceding the Grand Convention.

Art. 28 The number of State Delegates to be elected is to be at the ratio of one (1) to each twenty (20) members or a fraction thereof above ten (10) as determined by the number of members of the Local Lodge in good standing at the end of the quarter preceding the election; provided that the number of members shall be determined by those for whom the Local Lodge paid the per capita tax to the Grand Lodge at the end of such quarter. In addition, the President of the Local Lodge in office at the time of the Grand Convention shall be a State Delegate, ex-officio.

Art. 29 Any member who has completed a term of office of the Local Lodge is eligible to be elected a State Delegate or alternate, provided they have attended not less than fifty percent (50%) of the regular meetings of their Local Lodge during the previous year. The term “previous year” in the foregoing sentence is hereby defined to mean that time period extending from January 1 to December 31 of the calendar year prior to the election of Delegates. The burden of proving a member’s ineligibility for elec-

tion to be a State Delegate or alternate shall be on the member asserting the same, the resolution of which shall be by a majority of the members assembled.

The Preceding paragraph does not apply to charter members of Local Lodges which have been in existence for less than one (1) year at the time of election. All such charter members are eligible candidates for the office of State Delegate or alternate.

Art. 30 Each Local Lodge may advance to its State Delegates a reasonable sum for transportation and per diem allowance for each day of the Grand Convention.

Art. 31 Any State Delegate who has an unexcused absence for more than one scheduled and published session of the Grand Convention shall forfeit their accreditation as a delegate to the Grand Convention. The State Recording Secretary shall then notify the sponsoring Local Lodge of the Convention's action and the reason or reasons for revocation of the delegate's credentials.

Art. 32 Every Local Lodge is required to send all its delegates to the regular sessions of the Grand Convention.

ELECTION OF LOCAL LODGE OFFICERS

Art. 33 The Local Lodge will nominate members for the offices authorized by the General Laws of the Order in January of each year and shall hold elections in February of each year. The term of each office shall be one (1) year. The number of consecutive terms in the same office for elected officers shall be two (2) terms, except that officer who has served two (2) consecutive terms shall be eligible to succeed oneself if they receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the members present.

Art. 33 (a) The term of each officer, except for trustees, shall be for one (1) year. For those trustees elected in February 1982, the two (2) highest voted trustees will be for a term of two (2) years, the remaining trustees will be for one (1) year. In February 1983, and thereafter, all trustees will be elected for a period of two (2) years.

Art. 34 Voting in a contested election shall be by written or printed secret ballot. All elections, in the Local Lodges and the Grand Lodge, shall be held by voting for each office separately, starting with the office of President or State President. Candidates not elected for an office may run for any other office for which they are qualified. In case of ties, the member with the longest continuous membership shall be elected.

Art. 35 All elections shall be conducted under the supervision of an Electoral Board which shall be composed of one (1) President and not less than four (4) other all of whom shall be appointed by the presiding officer. The Electoral Board shall follow the rules of election procedures as set in the General Laws of the Order.

CONDUCT OF MEETING

Art. 36 All practices concerning regalia and equipment for a meeting, the arrangement of the meeting hall and the ritual to be followed in the meetings of the Local Lodges or the Grand Lodge and its components, shall conform to the Ritual, Constitution and General Laws of the Order.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Art. 37 Applicants for admission to a Local Lodge shall not be less than sixteen (16) years of age. The amount of initiation fees and dues requirements for membership shall be left to the discretion of the Local Lodge. Any vote on the application for admission may be secret, upon proper and timely motion made from the floor prior to the vote being taken. A majority vote of the members present and qualified to vote, excluding blanks and abstentions, in favor of the applicant is required for acceptance; provided that any membership accepted by the Local Lodge may be rejected by the Grand Lodge or Grand Council, for just cause or procedural deficiency.

OFFICIAL ORGAN

Art. 38 The Northwest Italian News is the official organ of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge, any of its components, or any of the Local Lodges may send official notices through this official organ, so long as this can be done within required time limits. The Northwest Italian News shall be sent to the household of each member of the Order Sons of Italy in

America, Grand Lodge of the Northwest and that \$5.00 of each member's dues which are paid at the Local Lodge level, as determined by that Local Lodge, shall be for a year's subscription to that publication.

SCHOLARSHIP

Art. 39 The Grand Lodge will maintain a Scholarship Fund for the funding of the Scholarship Program. The program will be funded, in part with an annual assessment to each Local Lodge each year, which amount shall be based upon each Local Lodge's number of members, in good standing, as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year. The Scholarship assessment amount per member shall be fixed by the State Delegates duly convened in State Convention. Each Local Lodge shall pay the monetary assessment no later than January 31 of each year.

The Scholarship Program shall provide for scholarships to individuals pursuing any post-secondary, professional or other higher education, which shall include vocational or trade schools and any other accredited institutions of post-secondary education or training.

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Art. 40 Each commission or committee is to be regarded as a dependent organ of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge will appropriate funds necessary for the program directed by the Grand Convention.

The Committee on Arbitration shall be an elected committee. All other committee positions shall be appointed by the State President and approved by the Grand Council.

No member of a commission or committee is entitled to receive any compensation from the Grand Local Lodge without the prior express authority of the Grand Council.

DEFAULTS

Art. 41 A member is in arrears when he has not paid the current dues, fines and assessments to the Local Lodge, and a member is in default when in arrears with the payment of dues, fines and assessments to the Local Lodge for a period of three (3) consecutive months.

The consequences of being in arrears are: loss of sick or disability benefits; loss of the privilege of the floor and the right to vote; and loss of the right to run for office or hold office, if an officer.

The consequence of default are: loss of death benefits afforded by the Local Lodge and/or by the Grand Lodge, except as otherwise provided by public law or by the rules and regulations made by the public authorities concerned, applicable to such benefits.

A member in default who by the first day of the fourth month does not remove the cause of such default shall be stricken from the rolls of membership, provided, however, no laws of the Grand Lodge exists to the contrary.

Art. 42 Whenever a member in default is a Supreme Officer or a State Officer, the member does not forfeit their office unless declared to be in default by the Local Lodge in conformity to this article. Before such member may be declared to be in default, written notice thereof by mail shall be given to the Supreme Council, or Grand Council, at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such declaration of default. No provision of this article shall prevent the Local Lodge from declaring the member to be in default so far as it pertains to participation in the benefits or the privileges afforded by such Local Lodge.

Art. 43 Unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge or of the Local Lodge, the Financial Secretary shall notify the member who is in default, by mail at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting in which such defaulting member may be declared stricken from the roll of the Local Lodge.

If any member fails to receive the notice concerning their default, such failure shall not affect the action to have such member stricken from the roll; provided such notice was sent to the last known address.

Art. 44 Any application for reinstatement will be placed before the membership of the Local Lodge for approval. The member, if reinstated, will acquire all rights extended to other members. This person may become a member by making application and meeting all requirements which

caused the default and cancellation; and, further, by meeting all of the requirements governing reinstatement as set forth by the Grand Lodge.

TRANSFERS

Art. 45 The transfer of member(s) from one (1) Local Lodge to another Local Lodge within the Grand Lodge of the Northwest jurisdiction shall be effective as follows:

- a. A written “Application for Transfer” shall be submitted in triplicate by the member(s) seeking a transfer to the Local Lodge Recording Secretary of the originating Local Lodge.
- b. The “Application for Transfer” shall state the date, the applicant’s name(s), address and telephone number(s), the name of the applicant’s originating Local Lodge, the name of the applicant’s proposed destination Local Lodge, a brief explanation of the reason(s) for the transfer, the proposed effective date of the transfer and shall be signed by the applicant(s).
- c. The Recording Secretary of the originating Local Lodge shall then promptly determine the dues status of the applicant(s). No transfer shall be approved or processed unless the applicant is in good standing. The dues status of the applicant(s) shall be noted on the “Application for Transfer”. The applicant’s type of membership, length of membership and qualifications and eligibility to hold office shall also be certified on the application.
- d. The Recording Secretary of the originating Local Lodge shall then notify the Local Lodge Financial Secretary of the requested transfer and shall promptly forward the duplicate copies of the “application for Transfer” to the state Recording Secretary and the Recording Secretary of the destination Local Lodge.
- e. The destination Local Lodge shall process and determine the “Application for Transfer,” as any other application for membership.
- f. The “Application for Transfer” shall require approval of the Grand Council, or its Executive Committee, to be effective. Approval of the requested transfer shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed by the Grand Council or its Executive Committee. A member whose transfer has been approved, shall be considered a member of the originating Local Lodge until the effective date of the transfer, and a

member of the destination Local Lodge after that for all intents and purposes.

- g. Any member who has transferred from one (1) Local Lodge to another Local Lodge would forfeit all prepaid dues and the destination Local Lodge they are joining would be responsible for and pay that member's per capita tax.
- h. A member who has transferred from one (1) Local Lodge to another, shall carry over to the destination Local Lodge all qualifications and eligibility of membership and to hold office that may have been earned in the originating Local Lodge, but forfeits any membership or office in the former Local Lodge by so transferring.

Art. 45.1 Secession of Membership to Form New Local Lodge

- a. The formation of a new Local Lodge, comprised of members of existing Local Lodges are not transfers. It is the secession of membership to create a new entity. However, all of the foregoing rules of transfer (Art. 45) shall be complied with. In any event, the Local Lodge Recording Secretary shall promptly notify the State Recording Secretary of the application, and all other rules governing the formation of a new Local Lodge, and the rules for application for membership in the newly formed Local Lodge shall apply.
- b. The effective date of the change of membership shall be made retroactively to the date of the first regular meeting convened after the new Local Lodge's charter has been received and officers elected.
- c. A member who has seceded from an existing Local Lodge to a newly formed Local Lodge, shall carry over to the new Local Lodge all qualifications and eligibility of membership and to hold office that may have been earned in the originating Local Lodge, but forfeits any membership or office in the former Local Lodge by so transferring.
- d. No member having seceded to a newly formed Local Lodge, may exercise the powers and prerogatives of membership or office in any Local Lodge other than the newly formed Local Lodge. A regular member of one (1) Local Lodge may assist in organization of a new Local Lodge and receive the informal honor of being a "charter member" of that new Local Lodge, but cannot exercise the powers and prerogatives of membership or hold office in the new Local Lodge without having formally seceded according to the foregoing procedures.

PRIORITY OF LAWS

Art. 46 Whenever the Constitution and the General Laws of the Supreme Lodge conflict with the by-laws of the Grand Lodge or the Local Lodge, the Constitution and the General Laws of the Supreme Lodge shall prevail over the others.

Whenever the by-laws of the Grand Lodge conflict with those of a Local Lodge within its jurisdiction, the by-laws of the Grand Lodge shall prevail. In cases of conflict between the Ritual of the Order and the by-laws of the Grand Lodge or of the Local Lodge, the Ritual shall prevail.

When general provisions of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge or of a Local Lodge conflict with a specific provision, the specific provision shall prevail. The business of the Grand Convention and of all Components of the Grand Lodge are to be transacted in conformity with the laws of the Order, the Ritual, and under Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, as described in Roberts' Rules of Order (revised). In case of conflict, the laws of the Order shall prevail.

Submitted and Ratified

These By-Laws were submitted to the Supreme Convention for approval August 16, 1981, and were approved, per Supreme Orator, Virgil Moraco, November, 1981 at Executive Committee Session in Washington, D. C.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention June, 1983, at Spokane, Washington and June, 1985 at Bellevue, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Orator, Charles Caputo, at the Supreme Convention in session at Long Beach, California, August, 1985.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention June, 1987, at Tacoma, Washington, and were approved by the National Orator, Nicholas Cipriani, June 21, 1988.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention June, 1989, at Seattle, Washington, and were approved by the National Orator, Nicholas Cipriani, August, 1989, in Supreme Convention At Parsippany, New Jersey.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention June, 1991, at Seattle, Washington, and were approved by the National Orator, Nicholas Cipriani August 29, 1991.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 1993, at Bremerton, Washington, and were approved by the National Orator, Michael Creedon, November 12, 1994.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 1995, at Lynnwood, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, Michael Creedon, August 15, 1995, in Denver, Colorado.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 1997, at Ocean Shores, Washington and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, Francis Recchuiti, September 25, 1997.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 1999, at Spokane, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, Francis Recchuiti, August 1999.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 2001, at Fife, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, August 2001.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 2003, at Wenatchee, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, August 2003.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 2005, at Vancouver, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, August 2005.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 2007, at Pasco, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, August 2007.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 2009, at Pasco, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of the National Orator, August 2009.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention June, 2011, at Lynnwood, Washington, and were approved by the Supreme Lodge upon recommendation of National Orator Raymond Dettore, Jr, August 2011.

Amendments ratified at Grand Convention May, 2019, at Lynnwood, Washington, and were approved by the National Bylaw Committee at the Plenary Session in Orlando, Florida, February 13-15, 2020.