

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED 4 MARCH 2017
AND NOW FORM PART OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Amendment 1: -ALLOCATION OF OFFICES - Rule 6.1 DELETE Rule 6.1 (a) to 6.1(d) inclusive and REPLACE with the following:
Commencing with the calendar year 2017:

(a) (i) The First Grand Principal shall be elected at two yearly intervals from applicants on a nationwide basis as hereunder provided for.

(ii) If at any time Grand Chapter resolves to elect the Governor-General of New Zealand as First Grand Principal, the Office of Pro First Grand Principal, for the corresponding period, shall be allocated nationally.

(iii) The Offices of Depute, Second and Third Grand Principal shall be allocated to the Northern, Central and Southern Divisions respectively. The allocation will then rotate every 2 years.

(iv) A Grand Principal may serve a second or subsequent term, subject to the selection process in Rule 7.2.

(b) A Grand Superintendent, resident in each District, shall exercise supervision over the Chapters and Cryptic Councils in that District, for a term of three years. He shall be assisted by a Grand Director of Ceremonies.

(c) (i) The Office of Grand Chapter shall be at the Office of the Grand Scribe Ezra.

(ii) The Grand Scribe Ezra who is the Chief Executive Officer of Grand Chapter shall be appointed by the First Grand Principal on the recommendation of the Management Council from any Division, for a term of up to five years. A second or subsequent term is permitted provided that the Companion is duly re-appointed,

(iii) The Grand Scribe Nehemiah shall be appointed by the First Grand Principal on the recommendation of the Management Council from any Division for a term of up to five years, to assist Grand Scribe Ezra. Possession of the requisite computer and communication skills is required. A second or subsequent term is permitted provided that the Companion is duly re-appointed,

(d) As the duties of Grand Treasurer and Grand Registrar require a relevant professional qualification, suitable Companions shall be appointed by the First Grand Principal on the recommendation of the Management Council, from any Division, for a term of up to five years and may be reappointed for a further term.

Amendment 2: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Rule 7.1 GENERAL

INSERT NEW Rule 7.1(a): Soliciting for nomination for Grand Chapter Office is prohibited.

DELETE and REPLACE Rule 7.1.(a) with:7.1 (b) Nominations may be made by a Chapter, by resolution, or by any Officer of Grand Chapter, Active or Past Rank

RENUMBER existing Rule 7.1(b) as new Rule 7.1 (c)

RENUMBER existing Rule 7.1(c) as new Rule 7.1(d)

DELETE existing Rules 7.1 (d) (i) and (ii) and REPLACE with new

7.1 (e) (i) No Companion shall be eligible for any Office in Grand Chapter other than that of Grand Treasurer, Grand Registrar or Grand Organist unless he is a present or past First Principal,

(ii) The First Grand Principal may by Dispensation authorise the appointment of Companions who are not present or past First Principals to the Offices of Grand Treasurer, Grand Registrar or Grand Organist but they shall not be entitled to assume Past Grand Rank, until the Companion has been installed as a First Principal.

Amendment 3: DELETE Rule 7.2 and REPLACE with: 7.2 GRAND PRINCIPALS

(a) (i) Applications for the Office of Grand Principal will be called nationally, by the Grand Scribe Ezra, on the 1st day of July 2017, and then at 2 yearly intervals. Such applications are to be submitted to the Chairman of Management Council, through the Grand Scribe Ezra and will close on the 31st day of August.

(ii) Applications are to be accompanied by a full Curriculum Vitae. A proposed plan for the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry during the term of Office must also be supplied for consideration for the office of First Grand Principal.

(b) (i) The applications will be referred to a selection panel comprising the Chairman of Management Council as Chairman, the First Grand Principal and the most recent Past First Grand Principal, other than the Chairman, available to participate.

(ii) The panel shall co-opt an external member to provide appropriate professional recruitment expertise, but such a member will not have a vote.

(iii) The panel's brief is to select the best team of leaders, adopting such procedure as it shall determine, with the proviso that there must be a Grand Principal, other than the First Grand Principal, in each Division.

(iv) The panel shall meet to complete the selection process by December 31.

(v) If the selection process fails to recommend a suitable Companion for any of the Grand Principal positions, the Office will be readvertised and the selection process repeated.

(vi) The First Grand Principal will nominate the selected applicants to the Convocation of Grand Chapter in the year prior to their Installation. Grand Chapter will then vote on the nominations by secret ballot.

(c) If a Grand Principal-Elect shall die, withdraw, or become incapacitated prior to his Installation, the panel shall consult in such manner as the Chairman determines in order to make another recommendation. This nomination will be advised to members of Grand Chapter by Grand Scribe Ezra and voted on at the next Convocation.

Amendment 4: DELETE existing Rule 7.3 and REPLACE with: Rule 7.3 OTHER OFFICES

(a) (i) Every three years the Divisional Grand Principal, together with the Grand Superintendents within that Division, shall decide on the distribution of the Offices allocated to the Division for the next cycle and advise the Grand Scribe Ezra at least 12 months prior to their investiture,

(ii) Grand Scribe Ezra will call for nomination for the allocation of Offices approved by the Management Council, in April in the applicable year.

(iii) Grand Superintendents shall then, in writing, request each Chapter in their District to make nomination of suitably qualified Companions for the Offices allocated to the Division and the District respectively,

(iv) Nominations shall be forwarded to the Grand Superintendent before the 1st day of June of the applicable year,

(v) Suggestions for Appointment as Grand Lecturer shall be supported by evidence of Masonic Scholarship and ability to deliver appropriate lectures,

(vi) The Grand Superintendent shall select one of the Companions nominated as his recommendation for election to each Office and forward all nominations together with the names of the Companions recommended by him, through the Divisional Grand Principal, to reach the Grand Scribe Ezra not later than 1st day of July of the applicable year.

(b) Applications from all Companions for the Offices of Grand Scribe Ezra, Grand Treasurer, Grand Registrar, Grand Scribe Nehemiah and Grand Organist shall be called by the Grand Scribe Ezra, when required and are to be submitted to the Chairman of the Management Council, through the Grand Scribe Ezra.

(c) When determined by the Management Council, the list of Officers Designate shall be forwarded to each Chapter in the month of August and submitted to the next Annual Convocation for election of the Officers.

Amendment 5: Rule 7.5 VACANCIES IN OFFICE – DELETE the first paragraph and REPLACE with:

If any Office shall become vacant by reason of appointment or election to a higher office in Grand Chapter, death, resignation or in the opinion of the Management Council the holder of the Office shall become unable to perform the duties thereof, then until the next Annual Convocation at which a successor would normally be invested:

Amendment 7: Rule 3.1 DEGREES RECOGNISED – ADD the words “and Order of the Silver Trowel” after Thrice Illustrious Master.

Amendment 8: Rule 4.2 OFFICE AND RANK – INSERT new Rule 4.2 (b) (i) to read:

On completion of the term of Office all Officers will assume the respective Past Grand Rank except those promoted to Special Grand Rank (H.C.), and those appointed under Rule 7.1 (e)(ii).

Amendment 9: Rule 4.5 FORFEITURE OF RANK – DELETE existing and REPLACE with:

If a Companion ceases to be a member of Grand Chapter, he shall thereupon forfeit his Rank in Grand Chapter PROVIDED THAT if he shall later be reinstated as a member of Grand Chapter he shall also be reinstated to his former Rank.

Amendment 10: Rule 5.2 TRUSTEES OF GRAND CHAPTER – DELETE existing and REPLACE with:

(a) (i) Three Members of Grand Chapter resident in New Zealand shall be elected as Trustees in terms of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of New Zealand Trustees Act 1903 and shall hold office for up to six years.

(ii) One Trustee shall retire in rotation every two years and may be re-elected once only.

(iii) A Trustee may hold only one other position in Grand Chapter during the term of his election.

(b) (1) Applications for election as Trustee will be called for nationally by Grand Scribe Ezra and are to be submitted to the Chairman of Management Council, through the Grand Scribe Ezra.

(ii) At the next Annual Convocation, the Management Council shall recommend an applicant to Grand Chapter for election

(c) (i) If a Trustee resigns his Office by written notice to the Grand Scribe E, or becomes bankrupt, dies, ceases to be a member of Grand Chapter, ceases to reside permanently in New Zealand, or in the opinion of the Management Council becomes incapable of discharging the duties of his Office, his Office of Trustee shall thereupon become vacant.

(ii) The Management Council may fill such a vacancy by appointment, in which case the appointee shall hold Office until the next Annual Convocation.

(d) All property, real or personal including all investments, securities, cash, current bank accounts, bank savings accounts and bank term deposits now held or acquired by Grand Chapter, shall be vested in the Trustees to be dealt with in conformity of any directions for the time being of Grand Chapter and in conformity with any directions for the time being of the Management Council where those latter directions are not inconsistent with the directions for the time being of Grand Chapter. To avoid doubt, where the Management Council has authorised signatories of any bank accounts of Grand Chapter then any cheques and payment authorisations signed in accordance with any signing authorisation of the Management Council for the time being in force shall be deemed by the Trustees to conform to any directions for the time being of the

Management Council and of Grand Chapter and the Trustees shall not be liable or accountable for any cheques and payment authorities signed as aforesaid.

(e) The Trustees shall present a report to the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter on the performance of the Investments of Grand Chapter.

(f) The Trustees shall be entitled to be indemnified out of Grand Chapter funds and assets against all claims in respect of any property vested in them or other liability incurred by them as Trustees and against all costs and expenses arising therefrom, or arising out of their compliance with any direction or purported direction of Grand Chapter, whether competent or not, provided always no trustee shall be entitled to be so indemnified in respect of any liability or loss occasioned by either:

(i) the dishonesty of that trustee, or

(ii) any willful breach of trust of that Trustee known to him to be a breach of trust at the time of such breach of trust. Any officer of Grand Chapter, including without being limited to the Grand Treasurer, who might be liable or accountable as a constructive trustee of any funds or property of Grand Chapter shall be entitled to the same indemnity subject to the same exceptions as is hereinbefore provided for the Trustees.

Amendment 11. Rule 5.3 (c) (ii) - DELETE the word "Audit" and REPLACE with the word "Review".

Rule 8.4 (e) DELETE the word "Audit" and REPLACE with the word "Review".

Amendment 12: Rule 8.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS – DELETE Rules 8.1(b) to 8.1(e)(iv) inclusive and REPLACE with:

8.1 GRAND PRINCIPALS

(b) All Grand Principals must be members of a Cryptic Council and possess the Secrets of all Degrees recognised by Grand Chapter prior to their investiture.

(c) When the First Grand Principal is absent from New Zealand or incapacitated, his duties may be undertaken by another of the Grand Principals in the order of Rank.

(d) When a Pro First Grand Principal is elected he shall be competent to exercise all the powers of a First Grand Principal that may be delegated to him by the First Grand Principal.

(e) The First Grand Principal is expected to promote Royal Arch Masonry by:

(i) Communicating with and providing leadership to the Companions in New Zealand,

(ii) Visiting each District at least once each year during his term of office to meet with the Companions,

(iii) Authorising such Dispensations as he shall deem to be beneficial to the Order,

(iv) Maintaining Fraternal Relations with the Australian Grand Chapters and Grand Councils.

(f) It will be the duty of the Divisional Principals to:

(i) Assist the First Grand Principal to promote Royal Arch Masonry by making Official Visits within their respective Divisions and to represent the First Grand Principal when requested,

(ii) Exercise supervision over their respective Divisions and report to the Management Council,

(iii) Meet at least once during the year with the Grand Superintendents of their Division so that they can report on the progress of their Division and competently represent their Grand Superintendents to the Management Council,

(iv) Advise the Management Council on the selection of suitable Companions for Office.

Amendment 13: Rule 8.2 GRAND SUPERINTENDENT – DELETE Rule 8.2(b) and REPLACE with

(b) A Grand Superintendent must be a member of a Cryptic Council and possess the Secrets of all Degrees recognised by Grand Chapter, except the Order of the Silver Trowel, before being invested.

Explanation: It is not a pre-requisite of the Office of Grand Superintendent for the candidate to have taken the Degree of the Order of the Silver Trowel.

Amendment 14. Rule 8.3 (b): DELETE (b) and ADD new (b)– The Grand Scribe Ezra shall act as the Superintendent of Ceremonies and shall be responsible to the Management Council for the standard of the protocols, Ritual and conduct of all ceremonies.

Amendment 15: New Rule 13.4 – INSERT the following and RENUMBER existing Rules 13.4 to 13.19 inclusive, accordingly.
13.4 Chapter of Transition No 110

(a) There shall be a Chapter of Transition for Companions affected by Rule 15.1 (b), or whose Chapter has become dormant or relinquished its Charter, or whose special circumstances warrant, to enable them to retain their association with New Zealand Royal Arch Masonry.

(b) The Chapter shall be exempt from the requirements of Rules 13 and 14 where otherwise provided for and be governed by its By-laws.

(c) The Officers of Grand Chapter shall be dual members of the Chapter of Transition during their term of office and serve as the Principal Officers of the Chapter.

- d) They shall assume their respective Offices in the Chapter of Transition, when invested by Grand Chapter.
- (e) The Chapter shall meet at an appropriate time, in conjunction with the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter and as required.
- (f) It shall provide the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter with a report on its proceedings.
- (g) Members of the Chapter of Transition No 110 may attend and vote at Grand Chapter Convocations.

Amendment 16: Rule 20.1 - CRYPTIC COUNCILS – ADD the words “except the Council of the Silver Trowel” before the words “and their members, except:” in the introductory sentence.

Amendment 17: Rule 20.2 DEGREES WORKED – DELETE existing and REPLACE with:
The Degrees of Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master, Super Excellent Master and Installed Thrice Illustrious Master shall only be worked within Cryptic Councils.

Amendment 18: Rule 20.3 REQUIREMENTS OF A CRYPTIC COUNCIL – DELETE Rule 20.3 (d) and REPLACE with:
(d) A Council shall confer the Degree of Installed Thrice Illustrious Master on any of its members in Grand Council if that Rank is a prerequisite for Higher Office and the Companion will then hold the Rank of Past Installed Thrice Illustrious Master. This Rank shall apply retrospectively.

Amendment 19: INSERT NEW RULE: Rule 20.7 Council of the Silver Trowel
(a) There shall be a Cryptic Council known as the Council of the Silver Trowel No. 111, for the express purpose of conferring the Order of the Secret Trowel Degree upon Companions who are Installed Thrice Illustrious Masters, Past or Present.
(b) The Council shall meet in conjunction with the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter or otherwise as directed by the Grand Master of the Council.
(c) The Officers of Grand Council shall be the Officers of the Council of the Silver Trowel No.111.
(d) The Grand Master of the Council shall appoint such Officers of the Council of the Silver Trowel as are required by the ritual of that Degree.
(e) Membership of the Council of the Silver Trowel shall be by invitation only, at the sole discretion of the Grand Master of the Council. All members will then be dual members of this Council.

Amendment 20. Rule 22.2 (b) ADD the words “*provided the full annual payment is made within the current Financial Year ending 30 June*” after the word “thereafter”.

5 March 2017