The Creed of
The Order Sons of Italy in America

We Believe in the Government of the United States of America as the Government of the people, by the people, and for the people and promise to obey and uphold its Constitution and Laws.

We Believe in Government by orderly process and reject any doctrine that tends to subvert constituted government and authority.

We Believe in filial affection and respect for the Land of our Forefathers whose heritage is our highest contribution to America's progress.

We Believe in the brotherhood of man and promise to assist our fellow members, to care for the orphans, to extend our helping hand to widows and to comfort those in distress.

We Believe in equal rights and duties for all; in equality of opportunity in the enjoyment of the benefits of human association extended to all without discrimination.

We Believe in freedom of thought, conscience and education and stand for individual liberty in the performance of duties and in the exercise of rights under the Constitution and Laws of our Country and State.

We Believe in the future progress and expansion of the Order Sons of Italy in America as the beneficial agent of all Americans of Italian birth or descent for their recognition and welfare, and promise to contribute to the moral, intellectual and material progress of our fellow members, and to support the program of the Order and all its activities for the welfare of our Country, our Order and the Community in which we live.

CONSTITUTION

SUPREME LODGE PREAMBLE

We, the members of the ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, a fraternal organization, being a part of the United States of America, which we serve at all times with undivided devotion, and to whose progress we dedicate ourselves; united in the belief in God; conscious of being a representative element of an old civilization which has contributed to the enlightenment of the human spirit, and which through our activities, institutions and customs may enrich and broaden the pattern of the AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE; realizing that through an intelligent and constant exercise of civic duties and rights, and obedience to the CONSTITUTION of the United States, we uphold and strengthen this Republic, in order to make known our objectives and insure their attainment through the harmonious functioning of all the parts of our organization, the said ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA does hereby ORDAIN and ESTABLISH the following as our CONSTITUTION:

PURPOSES

ART. I. The purposes of this organization shall be:
(a) to enroll in its membership all persons of Italian birth or descent and all others as prescribed in Article 1 of the General Laws;
(b) to promote national education and secure adequate laws for the benefit of its members by active participation in the political, social and civic life of our communities.
(c) to encourage the dissemination of Italian culture in the United States and uphold the prestige of the people of Italian heritage in America.
(d) to initiate and organize movements for patriotic and humanitarian purposes, thereby establishing a motto of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity."

EMBLEM, MOTTO, COLOR, LANGUAGE, AND OFFICES

ART. II. The emblem of the Order shall be a Golden Lion in a field of white. The motto shall be "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." The official color of the Order shall be purple. The official language of the Order shall be both English and Italian and each may be used in the course of meetings. (See Art. 114). The Home Office of the Supreme Lodge shall be in the City of New York, State of New York. The Executive Offices of the Supreme Lodge may be designated by the Supreme Council in plenary session.
Wherever in this Constitution or in the General Laws or in the Judicial Code of the Order there appears language denoting the masculine gender, it shall include the feminine gender.

GOVERNANCE

ART. III. The laws of the Order include:
(a) The Constitution, General Laws and Judicial Code of the Order established by the Supreme Lodge,
(b) Any articles of governance adopted by a Grand Lodge which have been approved by the Supreme Lodge,
(c) Any articles of governance adopted by a Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge and

which have been approved by the said Grand Lodge or which have been approved by the Supreme Lodge in the case of Local Lodges under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

GOVERNMENT

ART. IV. The governing powers of the Order shall be vested in three separate and distinct branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

ORGANIC STRUCTURE

ART. V. The organic structure of the Order is based upon a lodge system. The basic unit is the Local Lodge. The Local Lodge is composed of members. The members have rights and obligations which the Local Lodge, by virtue of the powers conferred to it by these laws, administers and controls.

The lodges of the Order shall be known as:

(a) The Local Lodge.
(b) The Grand Lodge.
(c) The Supreme Lodge.

The Local Lodge functions and operates within the limits of its locality. The Local Lodge is chartered by the Supreme Council and is given a name chosen by its members with the approval of the Supreme Council. A number is assigned to each Local Lodge by the Supreme Council in numerical order. The Local Lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge of the State wherein it is located and is subordinate to such Grand Lodge. The Local Lodge participates in the administration of the affairs of the Grand Lodge, to which it is subordinate, through its State Delegates. But the Local Lodge, unless restricted by these laws and by the laws of the Grand Lodge, is autonomous and may administer its affairs under such rules and regulations adopted by it which do not conflict with any of the laws applicable to it.

Whenever a Local Lodge is chartered in a State where no Grand Lodge exists, such Local Lodge shall be under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, or to such Grand Lodge assigned thereto by the Supreme Lodge.

GRAND LODGE

ART. VI. The Grand Lodge is the intermediate unit between the Supreme Lodge and the Local Lodge. The jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge extends within the limits of the State for which it is chartered, unless otherwise authorized by the Supreme Council. The Grand Lodge exercises sole jurisdiction over the Local Lodges within the State for which it is chartered. No Grand Lodge shall be instituted and chartered in any State unless five Local Lodges have been organized in that State, with a total membership of not less than 500; provided, however, that the Supreme Council shall have power to institute and charter a Grand Lodge in a State where the number of Local Lodges is less than five but totaling at least 500 members.

The Grand Lodge is constituted by the State Officers, all past State Presidents, State Delegates elected by the Local Lodges and such other officers as are designated in the laws of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge participates in the administration of the affairs of the Supreme Lodge through its duly elected National Delegates, and those delegates who attend the Supreme Convention as National Delegates ex-officio pursuant to the laws of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge, during the interval between Grand Conventions, functions pursuant to the laws of the Grand Lodge.

SUPREME LODGE

ART. VII. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge extends over all Grand Lodges and Local Lodges. The Supreme Lodge is constituted of:

(a) The National Officers
(b) The State Presidents
(c) The Past National Presidents
(d) The National Delegates
(e) The elected at large trustees of the Sons of Italy Foundation
(f) The other delegates created by operation of the General Laws

The Supreme Lodge, during the intervals between Supreme Conventions, functions through its Supreme Council duly elected at its Supreme Convention.

EXECUTIVE POWER

ART. VIII. The executive power, within its respective jurisdiction, shall be exercised by the Supreme Lodge, the Grand Lodge, and the Local Lodge. Between conventions, the executive power of the Supreme Lodge shall be exercised by the Supreme Council, and the executive power of the Grand Lodge shall be exercised by the Grand Council. The executive power of the Local Lodge, when the assembly is not in session, shall be exercised by its Council.

LEGISLATIVE POWER

ART. IX. The legislative power, i.e., the power to make and promulgate laws and to adopt amendments thereto, shall be exercised by:

(a) The Supreme Lodge, while in session, in matters of general character which are within the scope of its jurisdiction.
(b) The Grand Lodge, while in session, in all matters affecting the discipline, the control of its institutions, and the government of Local Lodges under its jurisdiction; provided the laws made and promulgated, together with all amendments thereto, are not in conflict with the laws of the Supreme Lodge.
(c) The Local Lodge, while in session, in all matters concerning the rights and obligations of its members; provided the laws made and promulgated, together with all amendments thereto, are not in conflict with the laws of the Supreme Lodge nor with the laws of the Grand Lodge.
(d) The legislative power of the Supreme Lodge, of the Grand Lodge, and of the Local Lodge shall not be delegated to any council, nor to any commission or committee.

JUDICIARY POWER

ART. X. The judiciary power, in the application of corrective and disciplinary measures when violations occur, shall be governed by and pursuant to the provisions of the Judicial Code.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

ART. XI. The Constitution of the Supreme Lodge may be amended whenever a proposal is made and notice is given to the National Delegates in advance, the same as is provided for changes of the General Laws herein, and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Supreme Convention duly assembled.

The General Laws, Judicial Code and the Ritual of the Supreme Lodge may be amended whenever a majority of the National Delegates and National Officers, in convention assembled, cast their vote in favor of such amendment, provided due notice has been given as hereafter specified.

LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE AND LOCAL LODGE

ART. XII. The laws of the Grand Lodge and of the Local Lodge consist of rules and regulations adopted by them, in conformity with the laws of the Supreme Lodge, to govern, administer, and control the affairs and institutions under their jurisdiction.

To be valid, the laws adopted by the Grand Lodge must be submitted for approval to the Supreme Council; the laws adopted by the Local Lodge must be submitted for approval to the Grand Council of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over such Local Lodge.

To be valid, the laws adopted by the Local Lodge under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge must be submitted for approval to the Supreme Council.

GENERAL LAWS

CHAPTER ONE - MEMBERS

REQUISITES AND QUALIFICATIONS

ART. 1. Admission to membership in the Order shall be restricted to all those of Italian birth or descent; also the spouses of those of Italian lineage or those who have been adopted by persons of Italian lineage, and the spouses of such adopted persons; widows, widowers and divorced spouses of current or former members who by their efforts, works and actions contribute to and promote the culture of the Italian American and the Order Sons of Italy in America.

Applicants for membership shall be at such minimum and maximum ages as the Grand Lodges or the Supreme Lodge may from time to time establish for Local Lodges under their respective jurisdictions. Applications for memberships shall be made upon an official application, signed by the applicant; and this application shall bear the signature of a sponsor, who vouches that the applicant has all of the required qualifications for membership, as provided for in the Constitution and these laws. The membership becomes official upon acceptance by the Local Lodge. The applicant shall be required to pay an application fee and/or initiation fee and dues and/or assessments as the Supreme Lodge or Grand Lodge may from time to time establish for Local Lodges under their respective jurisdiction.

The application must be submitted for a majority vote of the assembly of the Local Lodge and, unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge, subsequently approved by the Grand Council. If an application concerns a Local Lodge under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, then it requires the approval of the Supreme Council. Preliminary approval of the application may be made by the Executive Committee of the Grand Council or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for the Local Lodges under the direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge.

The ceremony of initiation into a Local Lodge shall be in conformity with the Ritual as adopted by the Supreme Lodge, or approved by the Supreme Council.

An applicant cannot be eligible for membership if the applicant's application has failed to receive approval from the Grand Lodge, or the Supreme Lodge, if it concerns a Local Lodge under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

A rejected applicant shall not be eligible to reapply for admission to a Local Lodge unless three months have elapsed from the date of such rejection and then only after these General Laws or the laws of the Grand Lodge are fully complied with. The applicant who has been twice rejected by the assembly is ineligible for membership.

CLASSIFICATION

ART. 2. All members of the Order shall be known as "Brothers" or "Sisters." The members shall be divided into the following classes:

(a) Regular members
(b) Associate members
(c) Meritorious members
(d) Honorary members
(e) Social members
(f) At-Large members

"Regular Members" are those members who are of Italian birth or descent; also, the spouses of those of Italian lineage, or those who have been adopted by a person or persons of Italian lineage, and the spouses of such adopted persons; widows, widowers and divorced spouses of current or former members.

The Grand Lodge in its laws may establish rules regulating the benefits payable to regular members.

Applicants who do not qualify for regular membership due to insurance program requirements may be admitted as "Associate Members." Such associate members shall not participate in the benefits afforded by the Mortuary Fund or Insurance Fund or Life Insurance Program nor share in the economic and material benefits afforded by the Order except those special benefits which may be afforded by the Grand Lodge or Local Lodge.

Applicants for associate membership shall not be admissible as associate members unless the application contains a waiver signed by the applicant, by means of which the applicant waives participation in the benefit afforded by the Mortuary Fund and waives participation in the economic and material benefits afforded by the Order. Such application and waiver must be signed by the applicant and by two witnesses in the presence of whom the signature is affixed. Applicants for associate membership are not required to undergo a medical examination. Upon admission, associate members are to pay such dues as may be fixed by the Grand Lodge or by the Supreme Lodge. Associate members shall otherwise enjoy the rights of regular members and are subject to the same duties of regular members. With respect to associate members, each Grand Lodge may adopt such rules and regulations as it may deem advisable.

The Grand Lodge, by its Grand Council, on its own initiative or at the request of a Local Lodge may nominate deserving persons to be "Meritorious Members." Nomination to meritorious membership is to be followed by an appropriate ceremony at which time the certificate of meritorious membership is to be presented to the nominated person.

The qualifications for nomination to meritorious membership are:

(a) Distinguished service and exemplary conduct.
(b) Outstanding service rendered to the Order.
(c) Conspicuous achievements in cultural, moral, social, economic and scientific fields.

"Honorary Members" are nominated by the National Officers and National Delegates in convention assembled or by the Supreme Council, on its own initiative or at the request of the Grand Council of a Grand Lodge. The names of honorary members are to be inscribed in the Roll of Honor, which consists of a permanent record kept by the Supreme Lodge. To the Roll of Honor, shall likewise be inscribed the names of the Past National Presidents.

Nomination to honorary membership shall be restricted to men and women, distinguished in learning, outstanding in achievement, or conspicuous in cultural attainments, who have given proof of their sympathy and good will toward the Order, its principles and ideals. The nomination to honorary membership shall be evidenced by an appropriate certificate to be presented to the honorary member at the initiation ceremony. The initiation ceremony is to be marked by appropriate solemnity. The presentation of the certificate is to be made by the Supreme Council or by the Grand Council of the Grand Lodge of the State wherein the honorary member resides.

Unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge, "Social Members" are those who because of their national origin are not admitted either as regular or associate members. Social members may participate in social, athletic and cultural activities. Social members shall have the right to vote, but they shall not under any circumstances have the right to hold office in the Order Sons of Italy in America. In addition, per capita taxes must be paid on all social members. Social members shall be entitled to attend and partake in regular or special meetings of the Local Lodge. Social members may be admitted to such benefits as may be provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge.

An "At-Large Member" is a person who is qualified to be a regular member but who, for whatever reason, does not want to attend meetings, hold any kind of office, or belong to a Local Lodge. The At-Large member believes in the ideals and purposes of the Order, is desirous of fostering and promoting those ideals, agrees to abide by the laws of the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Lodge, and agrees to perform the duties of a regular member as set forth in Article 3 of the General Laws.

One who is desirous of becoming an At-Large member must become so in the Grand Lodge where he or she resides. If there is no established Grand Lodge at the residence, then and in that event, the prospective At-Large member will be under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

Admission to At-Large membership shall be governed by the same rules applicable to regular members except that:

(a) The membership becomes official upon acceptance by the Grand Council, or by the Supreme Council for At-Large members under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge; provided however, that preliminary approval may be given by the Executive Committee of the Grand Council or the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for At-Large members under the direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge.

(b) At-Large members shall be required to pay an application fee and dues and/or assessments as the Supreme Lodge or Grand Lodge may from time to time establish; provided however, that nothing herein shall preclude a Grand Lodge or the Supreme Lodge for At-Large members under its jurisdiction, from imposing an application fee, dues or assessments in amounts different than the amounts imposed on regular members.

(c) In lieu of the ceremony of initiation, the At-Large member shall execute and have witnessed the oath taken by a regular member, which oath shall be part of the membership application.

(Art. 2 revised 8/14/2013) –cc

DUTIES OF REGULAR MEMBERS

ART. 3. Regular members are required to perform the following duties:

(a) to obey and respect the authorities of the Order.

(b) to pay dues and assessments.

(c) to obey all the laws of the Order.

(d) to assist in the work of the Order.

(e) to settle any grievances that may arise by submitting this grievance to the proper authorities of the Order, or to the assembly of the Local Lodge while in session.

No member of the Order shall resort to any civil court to enforce any claim, demand, right or cause of action which the member may have against any Local Lodge, Grand Lodge, or the Supreme Lodge or against any of their respective institutions, or against any of the officers as such, unless and until the member shall have pursued and exhausted all remedies provided by the laws of the Order.

It shall be the duty of each member of the Order to give testimony in cases to be determined by the judiciary authorities of the Order. Whenever such member is called upon to give testimony, the member may not claim exemption therefrom. If such member refuses to appear when summoned or to testify when requested, the member's actions shall be referred to the Orator of the ranking unit to be dealt with in conformity to the laws of the Order.

RIGHTS OF REGULAR MEMBERS

ART. 4. The regular members may participate in discussions; make proposals; vote on matters discussed; be elected to office; receive any benefits the individual Local Lodges may adopt; and any other rights or privileges accorded by the Local Lodge, Grand Lodge or Supreme Lodge.

LIMITATIONS ON RIGHTS

ART. 5. The necessary qualifications for election to any office in the Grand Lodge, including State Delegates and members of elected Commissions of the Grand Lodge, and the necessary qualifications for election to any office in a Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge, shall be prescribed by the laws of the Grand Lodge. Any salaried employee of the Order may not hold any elected or appointed office, whether in the Supreme Lodge, the Grand Lodge or a Local Lodge of the Order.

Any duly certified State Delegate present in session at the Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge shall be eligible to be elected a National Delegate and/or Alternate National Delegate; and, to be elected a National Officer, it is necessary that the member serve one full term as a State Officer or National Delegate.

None of the above limitations shall apply to Charter Members of a Local Lodge or Grand Lodge, and no member who is indebted to the Local, Grand or Supreme Lodge, can hold office. If so indebted, while an officer, the member shall be removed and precluded from running for or holding office until the debt is paid.

ART. 6. A member may be deprived of the right to speak by the presiding officer at a meeting whenever such member is:

(a) Not in good standing with the payment of dues and assessments.
(b) Suspended by order of a Trial Commissioner or Arbitration Commission.
(c) Requested to be orderly by the presiding officer and fails to comply with such request.
(d) Persistent in taking the floor without first obtaining permission from the presiding officer.

EXPULSION FROM A MEETING

ART. 7. The presiding officer may order the Masters of Ceremonies to expel a member from the hall when:

(a) Such member persists in wanting to speak after the floor has been denied to the member.
(b) Such member is under the influence of a mind altering substance.
(c) Such member provokes disorder during the course of the meeting.

SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL

ART. 8. A Trial Commissioner or an Arbitration Commission may impose suspension of rights and privileges or removal or suspension from office in accordance with the judicial procedures of the Judicial Code of the Order upon a member or officer who:

(a) Fails to obey an order duly given.
(b) Is insolently self demeaning and incites violent discussions or aggressive behavior.
(c) Uses profane, foul or opprobrious language in addressing officers or members during the course of meetings.
(d) Attends meetings while under the influence of mind altering substances and creates a disturbance while the meeting is in progress.
(e) Fails to confine remarks to subjects of an impersonal nature which reflect the life, activities and progress of the Order when visiting other Local Lodges.
(f) Fails to abide by the deliberations of the higher ranking units of the Order.
(g) Habitually neglects the performance of the duties of the officer's office.
(h) Misuses or abuses the power or prerogatives of the officer's office to the injury and damage of the Local Lodge, an officer or a member.
(i) Has been twice fined before.
(j) Provokes disorder during the course of meetings, festivals and celebrations.
(k) Insults or slanders officers or members at meetings or elsewhere.
(l) Falsely defames members in their character, reputation or profession.
(m) Publishes and diffuses calumnies and falsehoods against the Order, its ranking units, its institutions, its officers or its members.
(n) Refuses to testify, when summoned, in the judiciary proceedings of the Order.
(o) Incites hatred, contempt and ridicule for the Order, its ranking units, its institutions, its officers or its members.
(p) Incites and provokes resistance to and non-observance of the deliberations of the assembly of any of the ranking units of the Order.
(q) Reveals or publishes documents, reports, deliberations, motions and other information of a confidential nature, the revelation or publication of which has been previously censored by a ranking unit of the Order.
(r) Misuses or causes to be misused funds of any of the ranking units of the Order through neglect of duty or want of surveillance.
(s) Refuses to supply documents and information requested by higher ranking units of the Order which are to be used in judicial proceedings, in the administration of the affairs of the Order or in the course of investigations.
(t) Has willfully and maliciously misapplied or abused the laws of the Order to the injury and damage of any ranking unit of the Order, its institutions, its officers or its members.
(u) Calls, organizes or attends a meeting of members and/or officers of other Local Lodges without prior authorization of the Grand Council for discussing matters concerning the Order, its policies and stated programs.

EXPULSION FROM THE ORDER

ART. 9. Expulsion from the Order may be imposed upon a member or officer, in accordance with the Judicial Code of the Order, following a verdict against them in the following classes of cases:
(a) Two previous suspensions from office under the Judicial Code of the Order.
(b) Conviction in a Court of Record for any crime of violence, felony, or crime involving moral turpitude or conviction for any offense reflecting upon the member or officer's honesty or loyalty to the United States Government.

(c) Commits fraud in gaining admittance to membership into the Order.
(d) Makes false statements or willful misrepresentation in the application for membership into the Order.
(e) Fails to disclose facts which disqualified the member at the time of the member's admittance to membership, particularly if such member had been convicted for any crime of violence by any Court of Record.
(f) Libels, defames or slanders the Order, its ranking units, its institutions, its officers or its members.
(g) Commits fraud, misappropriation of funds, theft, obtains money or other things of value under false pretense, or other crime, which act or acts are committed to the injury or damage of any of the ranking units of the Order, or of their institutions, or is an accessory to any of the foregoing acts, to the injury or damage of any of the ranking units of the Order, or of their institutions, or of the officers or of the members of the Order.
(h) Refuses to submit to the laws of the Order or comply with the provisions thereof; or incites any member or officer not to comply with the laws of the Order.
(i) Refuses to abide by the deliberations or to comply with the orders of the ranking units of the Order; or refuses to abide by the deliberations of the Local Lodge of which they are a member or to comply with lawful orders duly given to them by any officer of such Local Lodge; or incites any officer or member in any such refusal.
(j) Destroys, falsifies, alters, secretes, gives away or absconds with any record, book of account, minute book and document of whatsoever nature, which may be the property of any of the ranking units of the Order; or incites any officer or member in the perpetration of any such act.
(k) Fosters, promotes, organizes, or takes part in fostering, promotion or organization of any association, corporation or society whose purposes are antagonistic to those of the Order.
(l) Publishes or reveals, verbally or in writing, the contents of any documents, communications or other confidential information, the publication or revelation of which was previously censored or proscribed by the ranking units of the Order.
(m) Refuses to carry into effect executory sentences, orders or decrees issued under the provisions of the laws of the Order.
(n) Professes any doctrine which advocates the unlawful overthrow of the social order or the Government by force or violence.
(o) Professes hostility to the Government of the United States of America and to the Constitution thereof.
(p) Incites, induces or encourages members or officers, by any means or any place whatsoever, to secede from the Order or to bring about the dissolution of the Order or become a member of any association, corporation or society whose object is to undermine and destroy the Order either in whole or in part.

DEFAULTS, CANCELLATIONS AND RESIGNATIONS

ART. 10. Except as otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge, or in the laws of the Local Lodge under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, a member is in arrears when such member 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 consecutive months.
The consequences of being in arrears are: loss of sick or disability benefits, loss of the privilege of the

floor and of the right to vote, and loss of the right to run for office or to hold office, if an officer.
The consequences 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 no law of the Grand Lodge exists to the contrary.
Whenever the member in default is a National Officer or a State Officer, the member does not forfeit the 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 to the Grand Council, at least thirty 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.
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 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 the 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 of such member.

REINSTATEMENT

ART. 11. Any application for reinstatement accompanied by prepayment of one year's dues, may be approved, without payment of an admission fee. The member, when reinstated, need not be initiated and will acquire all rights and privileges extended other members after readmission, provided said member meets all of the requirements governing reinstatement as set forth by the Grand Lodge.

TRANSFER

ART. 12. Unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge, any member in good standing may transfer from one Local Lodge to another Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge or from one Local Lodge to another under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge. Members who change their residence outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of which their Local Lodge is an affiliate unit may, but in no event shall they be required to, apply for transfer to a Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge in the State of their new residence.

CHAPTER TWO - LOCAL LODGES

NATURE AND CHARACTER

ART. 13. The Local Lodge is the basic unit of the Order. Local Lodges may be organized throughout the United States of America and any other countries, whether directly by the Supreme Council in States where there is not a Grand Lodge or by the Grand Council. The Local Lodge derives its support from dues and assessments fixed by the laws of the Order and paid by its members.

FORMATION

ART. 14. To form a Local Lodge it is required that a Charter be granted by the Supreme Council upon proper request therefrom and all paraphernalia and equipment must be purchased from the Supreme Lodge.

ART. 15. The signatures of all the Charter members of the proposed Local Lodge shall be not fewer than twenty-five (25) but may be in such greater number as may be prescribed by the laws of the Grand Lodge.

EQUIPMENT

ART. 16. The regalia of the Local Lodges shall include:

(a) A regalia for each officer of the Council.
(b) One regalia for the Herald.
(c) One regalia for the State Deputy.
(d) The banner with the emblem of the Order.
(e) One gavel.

INSTITUTION

ART. 17. Whenever a new Local Lodge is formed, its founder members must meet all of the requirements which govern admission to membership in the Order.

When a new Local Lodge is formed, it shall be instituted at a meeting called for such purpose. The institution ceremony is to be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Ritual, as adopted by the Supreme Lodge or approved by the Supreme Council. The Charter is to be presented to the Local Lodge, with due ritualistic formality, during the institution ceremony by a State or National Officer or other persons to whom power has been delegated.

If a Charter member of the Local Lodge is absent during the institution ceremony, the charter member may be initiated in the course of any of the three successive meetings of the assembly. If the Charter member fails to appear for initiation during such three successive meetings, then the charter member's name shall be stricken from the roll.

When a member whose name appears in the Charter has been expelled from the Order, the member's name shall be stricken from the Charter. The name so stricken shall be replaced by the name of a member chosen by the assembly of the Local Lodge.

ADMISSION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

ART. 18. Fraternal societies and other associations may be admitted into the Order only with the consent and approval of the Supreme Council. The Supreme Council shall encourage admission of fraternal societies and other associations into the Order, except in those situations wherein admission would be contrary to the best interests and welfare of the Order.

Notwithstanding these provisions, no Local Lodge or Grand Lodge, or any agency, commission or other entity of the Local Lodge or Grand Lodge, may become an active member or affiliate member of or join any other fraternal society or federation, whether it is local, civic, religious, humanitarian or patriotic in nature, unless it first obtains the approval of the Supreme Council; provided, however, that a Local Lodge or Grand Lodge may cooperate with other associations to plan, program or participate in a specific endeavor, e.g., Columbus Day, Italian Day, etc.

JUNIOR DIVISION

ART. 19. The Grand Lodge shall have the power to organize Juvenile Local Lodges, together with such rules and regulations as are necessary to govern, the requirements for admission to junior membership, the dues to be paid, the benefits to be received, the activities to be promoted, mortuary and insurance benefits payable, if any, and the mode of organization management and control of the Juvenile Local Lodge.

ORGANIC STRUCTURE

ART. 20. The organic structure of the Local Lodge shall be composed of the Council, Chairmen of appointed Committees, and Delegates which shall govern the affairs of the Local Lodge.

The Council is the administrative and controlling body of the Local Lodge when the assembly is not in session. The Council has the power to administer and control the affairs of the Local Lodge, but not the power to impose new assessments. The Council shall not incur expenses other than those necessary for the administration of the regular affairs of the Local Lodge. In case of emergency, the Council, by a majority vote thereof, may appropriate a sum of money, not to exceed $300.00 with which to meet expenses incidental to such emergency; and the appropriation so made shall be reported to the assembly at its next meeting. The Council shall neither have the power to change or modify the deliberations of the assembly nor the power to change or modify the laws of the Local Lodge.

ART. 21. Unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge, the Local Lodge shall hold its election during the month of February of each year. At such election, the assembly is to elect:

(a) The President
(b) The Vice President
(c) The Orator
(d) The Recording Secretary
(e) The Financial Secretary
(f) The Treasurer
(g) Five Trustees
(h) Two Masters or Mistresses of Ceremony
(i) The Guard

(j) The Arbitration Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners

The Council is constituted of the President, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Orator, the Recording Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Treasurer, the five Trustees, the two Master or Mistresses of Ceremony and the Guard. The Council meets in ordinary session once each month and in special session whenever the meeting is called by the President or at the written request of five of its members.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Council, it shall be filled by holding a special election to fill such vacancy at the next regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Within fifteen days from the installation of officers, the Local Lodge shall require that the Financial Secretary and Treasurer be placed under bond in such amount as the assembly may determine, and the Local Lodge shall pay the premium for such bond. In case the Financial Secretary and Treasurer are required to receive funds in behalf of the Grand Lodge on account of mortuary or insurance benefits afforded by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge may adopt such requirements with regard to the posting of bond by such Financial Secretary and Treasurer as it may determine.

PRESIDENT

ART. 22. The President is the highest ranking officer and the leader of the Local Lodge and as such:

(a) Calls and presides over all the meetings of the Council and of the assembly.

(b) Sees that the laws of the Local Lodge are observed and the deliberations of the Council and of the assembly are carried out.

(c) Sees that the laws of the Order are respected and observed, and the orders of the Supreme Lodge and of the Grand Lodge are obeyed.

(d) Controls the affairs of the Local Lodge and supervises the performance of duties by the other officers of the Council.

(e) Signs the minutes of the meetings of the assembly and all orders of payment, checks, correspondence and all documents which invest the responsibility of the Local Lodge.

(f) Unless the laws of the Local Lodge provide otherwise, the President appoints all committees of the Local Lodge, of which the President is an ex-officio member.

(g) Refrains from making proposals at the meetings of the assembly; participates in discussions only to clarify the issues presented, and votes only in case of a tie.

(h) After hearing the opinion of the Orator, the President rules upon controversies involving the application of the laws. The member who disagrees with the ruling and the interpretation of the President shall appeal within 10 days to the State President, in case the Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and to the National President, in case the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

(i) When disorder arises in the meeting of the assembly or of the Council, the President may silence or censure the member or members causing such disorder. If such member or members persist in causing disorder, the President may fine, silence or expel the member or members from the hall or suspend the meeting.

(j) May appoint a Chaplain whose primary duties shall be to conduct, whenever practicable, all religious exercises of the Local Lodge. The Chaplain shall also perform such other duties relating to the office, as shall be assigned to the office from time to time by the President.

VICE PRESIDENT

ART. 23. The Vice President is the second ranking officer of the Local Lodge. As such, the Vice President assists the President and takes the President's place when the President is absent or nable to act. In the absence of the President, the Vice President performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with like power which the President would have, if present.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

ART. 24. The office of Immediate Past President shall be given to the member who has served one complete term as President of the Local Lodge immediately preceding the incumbent. If, on account of death, disqualification, resignation or removal, the office of Immediate Past President becomes vacant, the office shall be filled from the preceding former Presidents in the inverted order of their tenure of office. In case there is no preceding former Presidents, the office of the Immediate Past President shall be filled by electing such officer from among the members of the Local Lodge who have served a full term as officers of such Local Lodge. The Immediate Past President assumes the office of President whenever the President and the Vice President are unable to act or are absent from the meeting of the Council or of the assembly, and performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with like powers as the President, if present.

ORATOR

ART. 25. The Orator gives opinions concerning the application and interpretation of the laws of the Order and sees that the laws of the Order are observed and properly applied. In matters which relate to the administration of the affairs of the Local Lodge, the Orator is subordinate to the President. In matters relating to the exercise of Judicial Power, the Orator is subordinate to the State or National Orator. The Orator, either on the Orator's own initiative or upon complaint being made to the Orator, shall have power to prefer written charges against a member who has violated the laws of the Order.

RECORDING SECRETARY

ART. 26. The Recording Secretary is the custodian of the archives and the keeper of the seal of the Local Lodge. The Recording Secretary's duties are:

(a) To take and record the minutes of the meetings of the Council and of the assembly, which minutes are to be read at the successive meeting.

(b) To make up and keep up to date the membership roll of the Local Lodge.

(c) To care for correspondence and write letters which the Recording Secretary is directed to write by the President or other higher officer in the ranking units of the Order.

(d) To be the sole officer through whom a member may communicate with the Grand Council.

(e) To write and send notices for meetings.

(f) To act as the clerk of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission when such Commission is in session, except in case the Recording Secretary is an interested party.

(g) Within ten days after receipt, to forward to the State Recording Secretary all appeals referred or presented to the Recording Secretary by members because of administrative irregularities. The appeals

when forwarded shall be accompanied by a report of the views expressed by the Council.
(h) To carry out all orders which the Recording Secretary may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher ranking officers of the Order.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ART. 27. The Financial Secretary is the collector and accountant of the Local Lodge. The Financial Secretary's duties are:
(a) To collect dues and assessments, giving proper receipt therefor.
(b) To write orders of payment, affixing the Financial Secretary's signature thereon, together with that of the President.
(c) To present orders of payment to the Treasurer, who issues checks thereon, which checks the Financial Secretary presents to the parties to whom they are payable, exacting at the same time money due from such parties to the Local Lodge.
(d) To make up and keep up to date financial records, particularly those entrusted to the Financial Secretary by the Grand Lodge or Supreme Lodge. Those financial records are: The ledger, the journal book, the financial statements, and the orders of payments.
(e) To notify by mail those members who are in default with the payment of dues and assessments.
(f) To announce members in default with the payment of dues and assessments to the assembly.
(g) To communicate, at the end of each meeting of the assembly, the total collections and disbursements made on the day of the meeting.
(h) To make a quarterly financial report, which report is to be audited and signed by no less than three trustees, a copy of which is to be sent to the State Financial Secretary.
(i) To make payment of the Capita Tax, computed on the basis of the number of members listed on the membership roll at the end of each quarter, which payment shall be made, without the necessity of deliberation on the part of the assembly of the Local Lodge, not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th of each year.
(j) To carry out all orders which the Financial Secretary may receive, in matters affecting the office, from the President and from higher ranking officers of the Order.

TREASURER

ART. 28. The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Local Lodge. The Treasurer's duties are:
(a) To receive at the end of each meeting all money collected by the Financial Secretary and to issue proper receipt therefor.
(b) To record in and keep up to date the Cash Book of the Local Lodge, in which record the Treasurer shall register monthly income and disbursements of the Local Lodge.
(c) Not later than three days after each meeting, to deposit in previously designated banks the funds received by the Treasurer in accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge.
(d) To issue and sign checks upon the receipt of proper order of payment and consign them to the Financial Secretary for delivery to the payee thereof.
(e) To withdraw funds from savings accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge; provided the withdrawal slip bears the signature of the President, of the Financial Secretary, and of at least one Trustee, in addition to the Treasurer's; and provided further that the assembly of the Local Lodge may dispense with the signature of the Trustee when deemed advisable.

(f) To carry out such orders which the Treasurer may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher ranking officers of the Order.

TRUSTEES

ART. 29. The Trustees supervise the affairs of the Local Lodge and are members of the Council. Their duties are:
(a) To examine and audit the books kept by the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the Local Lodge.
(b) To examine and audit the quarterly report of the Financial Secretary, certifying as to its correctness by affixing their signatures thereon; provided, however, that such report shall not be valid unless it bears the signature of no less than three Trustees in addition to that of the Financial Secretary.
(c) To perform such additional duties, in matters pertaining to their office, imposed upon them by the laws of the Order or by the deliberations of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

MASTERS AND/OR MISTRESSES OF CEREMONIES

ART. 30. The Masters and/or Mistresses of Ceremonies are officers of the Local Lodge who participate in ceremonial activities prescribed by the laws of the Order during the course of the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

GUARD

ART. 31. The Guard is the doorkeeper of the Local Lodge. The Guard's duty is to exclude strangers from the meetings of the assembly and to admit those members who have identified themselves by announcing their presence to the President, who, in turn, orders the Guard to either admit or exclude such members.

HERALD

ART. 32. The Herald is a ceremonial officer of the Local Lodge appointed for the occasion by the presiding officer during the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge. The duties of the Herald are to assist the presiding officer, in conformity to the laws of the Order and in due ritualistic form, on the occasion of the institution of the Local Lodge, the installation of officers and the initiation of new members in the Local Lodge.

LOCAL LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

ART. 33. The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is the judicial tribunal of the Local Lodge. The rules and regulations which prescribe the mode of procedure, the jurisdiction, the powers and the revenue incident to the functioning of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission are set forth in the Judicial Code of the Order.
The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) regular members, known as Commissioners, and five alternate members, known as Alternate Commissioners. The Local Lodge

Commissioners and the Local Lodge Alternate Commissioners are elected at the annual meeting for electing officers of the Local Lodge for a period of one (1) year and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Local Lodges holding biennial elections shall elect their Arbitration Commission members for a period of two (2) years and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be filled by the Alternate Commissioner who received the highest number of votes during the election of the Alternate Commissioners.

STATE DELEGATES

ART. 34. The State Delegates are the representatives of te Local Lodge who represent it at the Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge. The State Delegates and their alternates are to be elected by the assembly of the Local Lodge once every two years and their number shall be that which is fixed by the laws of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge may permit the President of the Local Lodge to be an ex-officio member of its State Delegation.

MEETINGS

ART. 35. The meetings of the Local Lodge are to be regular or special. The regular meetings are to be held no less than once each month, and shall be conducted in accordance with the minimum requirements called for in the Ritual. The special meetings are held when called either by the President or by written request of no less than one-third of the members in good standing of the Local Lodge. The business of a special meeting shall be limited to the order of the day. The Recording Secretary, upon order of the President, shall give notice of the meeting, and the order of the day by mail sent to each member of the Local Lodge no less than 5 days prior to such special meeting.

In the absence of the President, Vice President and Immediate Past President, the meeting of the assembly is to be presided over by the officer or member called upon to preside by the assembly. Such presiding officer shall have all the powers and shall exercise all of the prerogatives of the President in the course of the meeting over which the officer or member presides.

No regular or special meeting of the assembly of the Local Lodge shall be declared open unless a quorum be present. The presence of not less than ten members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

Whenever proposals for the imposition of new assessments or for the expenditure of sums of money other than for ordinary purposes of the Local Lodge are contemplated, the proposal is to be inserted in the notice for the meeting and such notice shall be sent to each member of the Local Lodge at the last known address of such member. Unless the proposal for the purposes mentioned is inserted in the notice, it cannot be discussed and acted upon at the meeting.

All of the deliberations of the assembly of the Local Lodge which do not conform with the laws of the Order are to be considered null and void.

RECEIPTS

ART. 36. The Local Lodge derives its revenue from the following sources:

(a) Application fee of applicant.
(b) Initiation fee of applicant.
(c) Monthly dues and assessments fixed by the laws of the Local Lodge or by the laws of the Grand

Lodge, or of the Supreme Lodge.
(d) Special assessments imposed by the deliberations of the assembly of the Local Lodge.
(e) Dues and assessments collected for and on behalf of the Grand Lodge on account of the participation of the members in the institutions established by the Grand Lodge, or by the Supreme Lodge.
(f) The filing fee specified in Article 48 of the Judicial Code of the Order, which is to accompany a complaint filed with the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission.

DISBURSEMENTS

ART. 37. The disbursements of the Local Lodge will be the following:
(a) The payment of the Capita Tax, which is to be paid quarterly to the Grand Lodge or to the Supreme Lodge not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th of each year. The Capita Tax shall be forwarded to the State Financial Secretary or the National Financial Secretary by those Local Lodges which are under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge.
(b) The payment of sick or disability benefits afforded by the laws of the Local Lodge.
(c) The payment of mortuary benefits afforded by the laws of the Local Lodge.
(d) The payment of ordinary administrative expenses.
(e) The payment of expenses other than for ordinary administrative purposes, provided such expenses have been authorized in conformity with the laws of the Order.
(f) In no case, shall the funds of the Local Lodge be disbursed and distributed among the members of the Local Lodge.
(g) The payment to the Grand Lodge or to the Supreme Lodge of money collected for and on behalf or either of them.

LOANS

ART. 38. The Grand Lodge and Local Lodge are prohibited from making loans to members and to any person whatsoever out of funds possessed by either of them, which are incidental to their purposes. This prohibition shall not preclude the investment of funds constituting the reserve of the Grand Lodge whenever such investments are consistent with the laws of the State. Neither shall this prohibition preclude the Local Lodge from investing its surplus funds in property for its own use; provided that the Grand Council has given approval for the investment of such surplus funds.

ART. 39. The Grand Lodge, without the prior approval of the Supreme Council, and the Local Lodge, without the prior approval of the Grand Council, or where the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, without the prior approval of the Supreme Council, are prohibited from obtaining loans from members and other persons for the purpose of meeting the expenses incident to the administration of their affairs in conformity to the laws of the Order. For the purpose of this Article, the word “persons” is meant to include banks, savings and loan associations, building and loan associations, mortgage companies, and other incorporated or unincorporated businesses authorized under their charters to make loans.

DEFAULT

ART. 40. The Local Lodge shall be in default when it has failed to remit the Per Capita Tax to the

Grand Lodge at the end of two consecutive quarters of the year. To clarify this Article, the quarter shall commence, as the case may be, January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, or October 1st, and the default shall be effective, as the case may be, six months after any such dates.

The members of the Local Lodge in default with the payment of the Per Capita Tax to the Grand Lodge, shall not suffer the loss of the sick or disability benefits and of the mortuary benefits afforded to them by the Local Lodge; but such members, to the same extent as the Local Lodge, shall be considered as being in default toward the Grand Lodge and suffer the consequences, like the Local Lodge, prescribed by the laws of the Order. Same applies to members of the Local Lodge under direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

The notices of default shall be served upon the Local Lodge by the State Financial Secretary by registered mail sent to the last known address of the Local Lodge or such default shall be verbally communicated to the Local Lodge by a representative of the Grand Lodge specially designated for such purpose and present at the meeting of the assembly of the Local Lodge. Same applies to Local Lodges under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

SUSPENSION

ART. 41. The Supreme Lodge, when it concerns Local Lodges under its direct and immediate dependence, and the Grand Lodge, when it involves a Local Lodge within its jurisdiction, through the Supreme Council or Grand Council, respectively, may order the Local Lodge suspended when:

(a) The Local Lodge has failed, within ninety days after notice of such default, to pay the arrearage which induced its default.

(b) The Local Lodge has knowingly violated the laws of the Order.

(c) The Local Lodge has tacitly and passively permitted its members, individually or collectively, to defame the Order, its institutions, and it ranking units, or has permitted its members to become indifferent and insubordinate to the laws of the Order.

(d) The Local Lodge has tacitly and passively permitted its members, individually or collectively, to become affiliated with any publication—newspaper, magazine or periodical—the purpose of which is to defame or to destructively criticize the Order, its ranking units, its institutions or its members.

(e) The Local Lodge has tacitly and passively permitted its members, individually or collectively, to divulge confidential documents of its assembly or to disclose to the public the possession of confidential documents by the ranking units of the Order.

(f) The Local Lodge has tacitly and passively permitted its members, individually or collectively, to send letters or circulars to other Local Lodges tending to create factional groups with the Order, or seeking to undermine the prestige and good will of the Order, it ranking units, its institutions, or its members.

ART. 42. When under suspension because of default, the Local Lodge and its members are subject to the consequences prescribed in Article 40, if such Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

When under suspension because of default, the Local Lodge and its members are subject to the consequences prescribed in Article 40, if such Local Lodge is under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge.

The suspension, except as otherwise provided by the laws of the Order, determines and suspends the rights of the Local Lodge and of its members even though such members are otherwise in good standing,

except in cases provided by Articles 51 and 82 of these laws.
When requested, the suspended Local Lodge must surrender the Charter, the paraphernalia, and such funds in its possession which it has collected for and on behalf of the Supreme Lodge or the Grand Lodge and of which funds the Supreme or Grand Council, as the case may be, shall be the custodian and administrator. The suspended Local Lodge retains title to all real and personal property acquired by it with funds other than those belonging to the Supreme Lodge or Grand Lodge, and such property shall be held in trust by the Local Lodge or by a Trustee designated by it for the benefit of the members thereof.
Any officer or member of the Local Lodge who refuses to surrender the Charter, paraphernalia, and the funds belonging to the Supreme Lodge or to the Grand Lodge upon request of a duly designated representative of the Supreme Council or of the Grand Council, shall be expelled from the Order by order of the Supreme Council or of the Grand Council as the case may be. Such expelled officer or member shall be precluded from re-admission to membership in the Order.

ART. 43. When the Local Lodge rectifies its default by paying all arrearage within ninety days from the date of the order of suspension, it shall automatically be restored to all of its rights and prerogatives. The restoration of the Local Lodge immediately restores its members to good standing.
If the Local Lodge is suspended for failure to observe and comply with disciplinary measures imposed upon it, it shall be restored to all of its rights and prerogatives upon removal of the cause of suspension, provided the Supreme Council or the Grand Council ordering the suspension gives its written approval thereto.
The suspended Local Lodge, in removing the cause of suspension, is to be assisted by a duly designated representative of the Supreme Lodge or of the Grand Lodge.

DISSOLUTION

ART. 44. The Local Lodge which has failed to remove the cause of suspension in the manner provided by Article 43 shall be ordered dissolved provided nothing to the contrary is provided by public law or by the rules and regulations of the supervisory public authorities governing the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the Local Lodge concerned.
In case a Local Lodge attempts to secede or withdraw from the Order, the secession or withdrawal shall be ineffectual so long as no less than three members of the Local Lodge remain loyal to the Order and oppose such secession or withdrawal, and the Local Lodge remains a part of the Order for all purposes. The property, funds, and paraphernalia shall be and remain the property of the Local Lodge, and all of the members who attempted to have the Local Lodge secede or withdraw from the Order shall forfeit and lose all right, title and interest in and to the property, funds and paraphernalia belonging to such Local Lodge; provided nothing to the contrary is provided by public law or by the rules and regulations of the supervisory public authorities governing the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction of the Local Lodge concerned.
The order of dissolution of a Local Lodge shall be issued by the Supreme Council on its own initiative when it concerns a Local Lodge under its direct and immediate dependence, or by the Grand Council, on its own initiative, when it concerns a Local Lodge under its jurisdiction.
When the membership of a Local Lodge decreases to less than the number fixed by the Grand Lodge or, where the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, the membership decreases to less than the number fixed by the Supreme Lodge, it may be ordered dissolved, unless within six months from the date of such decrease, it shall enroll new members which will raise the membership of

such Local Lodge above the minimum number required. While the membership remains below the minimum figures, the Local Lodge loses its representation to the Grand Convention.

All the property of the dissolved Local Lodge, namely: The Charter, paraphernalia, and funds in its possession, including real and personal property, except for funds due the Supreme Lodge or the Grand Lodge, shall be taken into custody and administered by the Supreme Council or by the Grand Council, as the case may be. In case the dissolved Local Lodge is reorganized, then the Charter, paraphernalia, funds and property taken into custody, less expenses of administration, shall be returned to the reorganized Local Lodge. In the event the dissolved Local Lodge is not reorganized within six months from the date of the order of dissolution, but at the expiration of such period a substantial group of its members, in good standing at the time the cause of dissolution arose, become members of another Local Lodge, the Supreme Council or the Grand Council shall turn over to such other Local Lodge all the property and funds, less expenses of administration. In all other cases, the Grand or Supreme Lodge will dispose of the property and funds in question for the best interests of the Order. At no time may a Grand or Supreme Council appropriate for the Grand or Supreme Lodge, property or funds of a Local Lodge — except as provided in these laws.

The members of the Local Lodge, dissolved by reason of default or by reason of having failed to increase its membership above the required minimum, shall be considered as though they had resigned from membership in the dissolved Local Lodge; but such members, if members in good standing of another Local Lodge, shall not lose any of their rights and privileges as members of such other Local Lodge.

The members of the Local Lodge, dissolved for reasons of discipline or for failure to rectify the cause of suspension, if implicated in the violation causing such dissolution, shall be considered as expelled from the Order and their names stricken from the roll of the Local Lodge. The members of the dissolved Local Lodge, not implicated in the violation causing such dissolution, may join a Local Lodge of their own choice or join a Local Lodge designated by the Supreme Lodge or by the Grand Lodge; provided that, in such instance, a Transfer Card be first obtained in conformity to the laws of the Order.

REINSTATEMENT

ART. 45. The Supreme Council or Grand Council may reorganize a dissolved Local Lodge by conforming with the requirements for formation of a new Local Lodge.

MERGER

ART. 46. The merger of two or more Local Lodges may be effected through the consent and under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, where the Local Lodges concerned are under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge, or through the consent and under the direction of the Grand Council, if the Local Lodges concerned are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

In case of merger, the Supreme Council or the Grand Council shall designate a representative of the Supreme Lodge or of the Grand Lodge to supervise the merger of the Local Lodges. It shall be the duty of the representative, designated by virtue of this Article, to see that a proper merger agreement is entered into between the Local Lodges concerned, and that the respective properties and funds are pooled together and proper instruments of conveyance are executed and delivered. After this, the representative will proceed to the election and installation of the officers of the Council. Following the installation, the representative shall present the new Charter to the merged Local Lodge, which Charter will bear the

name chosen and the number of the oldest Local Lodge included in the merger. The merged Local Lodge shall assume and be responsible for the obligations of the merging Local Lodges. Merger of Local Lodges may be decreed by the Grand or Supreme Council in cases where it is deemed necessary for the good of the Order.

The Grand Council, for Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, or the Supreme Council, for Local Lodges under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, may order and direct the merger of any Local Lodge when the membership falls below the minimum numbers as described in Article 44.

CHAPTER THREE - GRAND LODGE

REQUISITES AND FORMATION

ART. 47. The Grand Lodge may be organized within a State where less than five Local Lodges exist and the combined membership thereof exceeds 500 members (See Constitution Article VI).
The Grand Lodge which permits its membership to decrease to less than 500 members, shall, if within two years after the date of notice it does not restore its membership above the required minimum, be dissolved. Upon the order of dissolution being issued by the Supreme Council, the Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the dissolved Grand Lodge shall immediately pass and be under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge, unless the Supreme Council, in its discretion, may otherwise determine.
To institute the Grand Lodge, it shall be necessary:
(a) To make an application for a Charter to the Supreme Council. This application shall be approved by each Local Lodge existing within the proposed territorial limits of the Grand Lodge and be signed by the President of each Local Lodge. The application should be accompanied by a remittance of one hundred ($100) dollars, plus costs of the necessary papers and insignias.
(b) To have the application accepted by the Supreme Council.
(c) To secure the necessary equipment including:
    1. One standard bearing the emblem of the Order and the name of the Grand Lodge.
    2. Regalia for State Officers and a Special National Deputy.
    3. One seal.
(d) To elect State Delegates by the Local Lodges on the basis of one for every fifty members, or on such other basis as approved by each Grand Lodge.
(e) To convene the State Delegates by Grand Convention, which shall be held under the presidency of a Special National Deputy. This convention shall elect the Grand Council, whose members shall hold office until the next biennial Grand Convention and until their successors are duly elected. In addition, the Grand Convention may transact such other business as may be deemed necessary to the proper formation of the Grand Lodge.

COMPONENTS

ART. 48. The Components through which the Grand Lodge functions, when not in Convention assembled are:
(a) The Grand Council.
(b) The Executive Committee of the Grand Council.
(c) The Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission.
(d) The Commissions, Committees, or Boards for the various institutions of the Grand Lodge, prescribed in its laws.

GRAND COUNCIL

ART. 49. The Grand Council is the executive body of the Grand Lodge and it exercises the executive powers of the Grand Lodge when the Grand Lodge is not in convention assembled. 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 no order or decree shall impose new dues or assessments; and provided further that it shall not annul any law of the Order imposing such dues or assessments.

The orders or decrees of the Grand Council go into effect immediately upon adoption. All such orders or decrees adopted by the Grand Council during the interval between Grand Conventions shall be submitted to the next Grand Convention for ratification by the Grand Lodge. The failure to so ratify these orders or decrees shall not nullify their effect retroactively, but such action will put an end to the orders or decrees as of that date.

The Grand Council shall be elected at the biennial Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge and its term of office is two years and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Only duly elected State Delegates, State Officers, and Presidents of Grand Lodge Commissions, who have indicated their availability, may be elected or re-elected to the Grand Council.

The Grand Council shall meet in regular session at such intervals as the laws of the Grand Lodge require. It may meet in special session whenever the meeting is called by the State President or called at the written request of five State Officers. In the event that the Special Session is called at the written request of five (5) State Officers, they shall sign their names to the notice and set forth with specificity the reason for the Special Session and that the State President refused to either call a Special or Regular meeting of the Grand Council.

(Art. 49 revised 8/12/2009) -cc

GRAND COUNCIL POWERS AND PREROGATIVES

ART. 50. The Grand Council has the power and prerogative:

(a) To be the sole representative of the Grand Lodge.

(b) To enforce the laws of the Order and the deliberations and orders of the Supreme Council.

(c) To administer the funds of the Grand Lodge in conformity to the laws of the Order.

(d) To supervise Local Lodges within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge in conformity to the laws of the Order.

(e) To approve or disapprove laws adopted by the Local Lodge.

(f) To assume the custody and administration of the affairs of the Local Lodges when required by the laws of the Order.

(g) To order the suspension of a Local Lodge when necessary to enforce the laws of the Order.

(h) To propose to the Supreme Council that a Local Lodge be ordered dissolved when proper cause for dissolution exists.

(i) To order, following investigation and report by the State Orator or by the State Officer duly appointed for such purpose, the suspension of:

1. The Council of the Local Lodge.
2. The officer from office.
3. The members from their rights, except sick or disability benefits and Benefit Insurance benefits, if such members are involved in the violation of the laws of the Order.

(j) To prefer charges against the Council, the officer, and the members to the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission, if involved in the violation of the laws of the Order.

(k) To determine, upon report of the State Orator, controversies of an administrative nature involving the Local Lodge.

(l) To appoint State Deputies, and District State Deputies upon recommendation of the State President

and to rescind such appointment when justifiable reasons exist.

(m) To fix salaries for the State Recording Secretary, the State Financial Secretary, the State Treasurer and to establish an honorarium to be assigned to the State President, to the State Orator, and to the members of commissions or of boards and the salaries of all other employees of the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge.

(n) To hire and discharge employees of the Grand Lodge or of its institutions and to fix their wages and conditions of employment.

(o) To supervise and control commissions and boards of the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge.

(p) To supervise, and control the Mortuary Fund and/or such Benefit Insurance System as it may be authorized to establish under the public laws of the territory wherein it is located.

(q) The Grand Council shall have the power to call before it any member and/or officer for the purpose of examining such member and/or officer with respect to any activity prejudicial to the Order. The refusal to appear may be sufficient cause for disciplinary measures under the Judicial Code of the Order.

(r) When less than five vacancies occur among the constituent members of the Grand Council, the vacancies shall be filled in the following manner or order:

1. That of the State President will be filled by the State Vice President.
2. That of the State Immediate Past President will be filled from among the Past State Presidents in the inverse order of their tenure of the office of State President.
3. Those of the other State Officers will be filled by designation of temporary State Officers by the Grand Council from its members or by appointing duly elected State Delegates, to fill such vacancies.

(s) When the vacancies in the Grand Council exceed five, the remaining State Officers of the Grand Council shall call a special Grand Convention to elect the necessary State Officers to fill such vacancies; provided more than one year has to elapse before the next convention. But if the next Grand Convention is to be held in less than one year from the occurrence of such vacancies, the remaining State Officers of the Grand Council may submit a list of candidates, selected from the duly elected State Delegates having the right to vote, to the State Delegates for referendum vote to elect State Officers to fill such vacancies provided that the list submitted contains no less than two candidates for each office to be filled. The majority of the votes cast, within the time appointed by the Grand Council, shall be sufficient for election.

(t) When vacancies occur among the elected commissions or boards of the institutions of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Council shall fill them from among the State Delegates of the Grand Lodge.

(u) The Grand Council has power to annul or modify the deliberations of the Local Lodge when such deliberations are in conflict with the laws of the Order.

(v) The Grand Council may perform such other duties and exercise such other prerogatives for the betterment and the development of the Grand Lodge which it may deem necessary and advisable; provided such duties and prerogatives are within the scope of the Grand Lodge and not in contravention of the laws of the Order; and provided further that such duties and prerogatives do not extend beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, unless such extension is specially authorized by the Supreme Council.

(w) When deemed necessary and advisable, the Grand Council may change the place and the date of the Grand Convention.

PREROGATIVES OF STATE OFFICERS

ART. 51. The State Officers are a constituent part of the Grand Lodge and, as such, they are no longer obligated to perform duties imposed upon them by the Local Lodge of which they are members, except to pay dues and assessments imposed upon them by the laws of the Order. In case the Local Lodge of which the State Officer is a member becomes suspended or is ordered dissolved, the suspension or dissolution shall not reflect upon such State Officer nor deprive the State Officer of the rights and prerogatives inherent to the State Officer's office.

STATE PRESIDENT

ART. 52. The State President is the highest ranking officer of the Grand Lodge, upon whom the State Officers depend for leadership and direction. The State President is the presiding officer of the Grand Council and the representative of the Grand Lodge. Moreover, the State President presides while the Grand Convention is in session and is the moderator thereof. The State President is vested with the power:

(a) To appoint committees and commissions of the Grand Lodge, not otherwise provided for by the laws of the Order, of which committees and commissions the State President is an ex-officio member.

(b) To sign orders of payment, checks, correspondence, minutes, and documents which invest the responsibility of the Grand Lodge.

(c) To give rulings and interpretations of the laws of the Order after hearing the opinion of the State Orator; provided the member affected may appeal to the Supreme Council within ten days of the rendition of such ruling or interpretation.

(d) To appoint Masters of Ceremony and Sergeant-at-Arms upon the opening of the Grand Convention.

(e) To appoint the Herald to conduct the ceremony of installation of the State Officers following their election by the Grand Convention.

(f) To give a report to the Grand Convention emphasizing the moral aspect of the activities of the Grand Lodge during the preceding biennium, giving the State President's views and recommendations for the future betterment and development of the Order within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

(g) To be an ex-officio member of the Supreme Council.

(h) To appoint a State Chaplain, with the approval of the Grand Council, whose primary duty shall be to conduct, whenever practicable, all religious exercises of the Grand Lodge. The State Chaplain shall also perform such other duties relating to the office, as shall be assigned to the office from time to time by the State President. The State Chaplain shall be selected from among the members but the State Chaplain shall not be considered an officer of the Grand Council.

STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

ART. 53. The State Vice Presidents are the equal second ranking officers of the Grand Council. In case the State President is absent or unable to act during the sessions of the Grand Council or of the Grand Convention, the State First Vice President assumes the office of State President and acts in the State President's stead, with like powers and prerogatives. The number of State Vice Presidents on each Grand Council shall be stated in the bylaws of each Grand Lodge, as approved by the Supreme Council.

STATE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

ART. 54. The State Immediate Past President is the third ranking officer of the Grand Council. In the absence of the State President and State Vice President, the State Immediate Past President assumes the office of State President and acts in the State President's stead, with like powers and prerogatives. The office of State Immediate Past President shall be given to the member who has served one complete term as State President of the Grand Lodge immediately preceding the incumbent. If due to death, disqualification, resignation or removal from office, the office of State Immediate Past President becomes vacant, the office shall be filled from the preceding former State Presidents in the inverted order of their tenure of office.

STATE ORATOR

ART. 55. The State Orator is the fourth ranking officer of the Grand Council. Whenever requested by the State President, the State Orator gives opinions on the interpretation of the laws of the Order. The State Orator is also charged with the duty of enforcing the judiciary laws of the Order. The State Orator's special duties are:

(a) To prefer charges against members or officers who violate the laws of the Order. In preferring charges the State Orator acts under the direction of the State President, of the Grand Council, or on the State Orator's own initiative.

(b) To prosecute members or officers before the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission.

(c) To accept, prosecute or reject complaints forwarded to the State Orator for appropriate action or to transmit such complaints to the proper authorities in the ranking units of the Order; provided there is reasonable cause for the State Orator to accept, prosecute or reject such complaints and the State Orator's act, relating thereto, conforms to the laws of the Order.

(d) To give an opinion on the legality of all controversies or complaints of an administrative nature submitted to the Grand Council for determination. In respect to these things, the State Orator acts as relator.

(e) To give a report to the Grand Convention of the State Orator's acts and doings relative to the judiciary activities of the Grand Lodge during the term of office served.

STATE RECORDING SECRETARY

ART. 56. The State Recording Secretary is the custodian of the archives of the Grand Lodge and is the keeper of its seal. The State Recording Secretary's duties are:

(a) To take the minutes of the meetings of the Grand Council and of the Grand Lodge and to extend such minutes into the record following their approval.

(b) To care for the official correspondence of the Grand Lodge relating to matters of ordinary administration and to submit all correspondence which involves special matters and requires special attention to the State President.

(c) To carry out orders and directions given to the State Recording Secretary by the State President in all matters relating to the office.

(d) To transmit to the National Recording Secretary, within ten days following receipt, complaints involving administrative defects. In forwarding such complaints to the National Recording Secretary, the State Recording Secretary shall accompany them with comments made regarding them by the Grand

Council. In addition, the written decision of the Grand Council is to be included with such complaints when sent to the Supreme Council for review.
(e) To act as the sole intermediary through whom the Local Lodges, their officers, and their members may correspond with the Supreme Council or with the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council or any member thereof; provided, however, that such Local Lodges, officers, and members, shall not be precluded from corresponding with the Supreme Council, or with the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, or any member thereof, through the State President.
(f) To maintain and keep up to date the roll of the members of the Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. In addition, the State Recording Secretary shall maintain and keep up to date the roll of the Local Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.
(g) To act as the Clerk of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission when such commission is in session, except in case the State Recording Secretary is an interested party.
(h) To maintain efficiency and dispatch in the handling of the affairs of the office, including the adoption of methods and systems conducive to such efficiency and dispatch.
(i) To perform such other duties as the Grand Council or the State President may impose upon the office concerning matters pertaining to the office, particularly to initiate movements and activities conducive to the greater progress and expansion of the Order.
(j) To give a report to the Grand Convention in the nature of a statistical account of the activities of the Grand Lodge, with particular emphasis upon membership drives and the numerical strength of the Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.
(k) To perform such other duties as may be imposed upon the office by the laws of the Order.
(l) To certify in writing, under oath, to the National Recording Secretary, the number of members in each class, as it appears on the records of the Grand Lodge within 15 days after the close of each quarter. This duty to be incumbent upon the Recording Secretary of Local Lodges under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

STATE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ART. 57. The State Financial Secretary is the custodian of the records of account for the Grand Lodge. The State Financial Secretary's duties are:
(a) To collect dues and assessments payable to the Grand Lodge and to turn over all money collected by the State Financial Secretary to the State Treasurer at such intervals as the Grand Council may determine.
(b) To collect assessments or premiums payable on account of Mortuary Benefits afforded by the Grand Lodge; provided the Grand Council, if the administration of the Mortuary Fund is placed under the management and control of an autonomous commission, shall have the power to prescribe the manner in which such assessments or premiums shall be paid and the manner in which they are to be collected and kept.
(c) To collect and receive the per capita tax for and on behalf of the Supreme Lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and to keep the money derived therefrom separate and apart from other money which comes into the State Financial Secretary's hands. Moreover, the State Financial Secretary shall be required to vouch that the money collected for the Supreme Lodge will not be used for any other purpose, but it will be kept by the State Financial Secretary until the end of each quarter, at which time it is to be remitted to the National Financial Secretary in the manner prescribed by the laws of the Order.
(d) To draw vouchers for the ordinary administrative disbursements to be made by the Grand Lodge

and for all other expenses approved by the Grand Council whenever proper bills or statements have been presented to the State Financial Secretary. After the voucher has been drawn, it must be signed by the State Financial Secretary and by at least one State Trustee before it is detached from the voucher book and transmitted to the State Treasurer.

(e) To consign to proper persons checks delivered to the State Financial Secretary by the State Treasurer issued pursuant to proper vouchers therefore.

(f) To keep and maintain proper records of account, showing all income and disbursements made by the Grand Lodge. Such records shall be kept and maintained in the manner prescribed by the Grand Council. The State Financial Secretary shall keep all records up to date. In addition, the State Financial Secretary shall give a statement of the income and disbursement at each regular meeting of the Grand Council and at such other times that the Grand Council may direct.

(g) To prepare a list of the Local Lodges in arrears or in default with their payments of dues and assessments and present such list at the regular meeting of the Grand Council. Moreover, whenever any Local Lodge is either in arrears or in default with its payments to the Grand Lodge, the State Financial Secretary shall notify the Local Lodge in arrears or in default by registered mail, calling its attention to such fact. If the Local Lodge fails to make payment following such notice, then the State Financial Secretary shall announce such Local Lodge to the Grand Council for such action as is prescribed by the laws of the Order.

(h) To give a financial report to the Grand Convention, showing a detailed summary of all the income and disbursements made during the State Financial Secretary's term of office.

(i) To make a financial statement at the end of each fiscal year showing the receipts and disbursements made during such year, a copy of which statement is to be sent to the Supreme Council and to each Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

(j) To make such other and additional financial reports as may be required by publc law or by the supervisory public authorities concerned within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

(k) To perform such other and additional duties, in matters concerning the office, which the Grand Council or the State President may from time to time impose upon the office.

(l) To post such bond as may be required by the Grand Council.

STATE TREASURER

ART. 58. The State Treasurer is the depository of all the funds of the Grand Lodge and the custodian of all instruments evidencing title or claim to real and personal property owned by the Grand Lodge and of all securities, including other incidental instruments, which constitute the investments or reserves of the Grand Lodge or of its institutions; provided the laws of the Grand Lodge do not provide otherwise. The State Treasurer shall deposit all funds, except that portion which the State Treasurer may be directed to retain in his possession, in a bank or banks previously designated by the Grand Council, which deposit shall be made in checking or savings accounts opened in the name of the Grand Lodge. The duties of the State Treasurer are:

(a) To keep and maintain up to date a cash book, showing the receipts and disbursements of the Grand Lodge.

(b) To issue, sign, and deliver checks to the State Financial Secretary when proper vouchers therefor are presented to the State Treasurer; provided the checks bear the necessary signatures prescribed by the Grand Council.

(c) To withdraw or transfer funds from one account to another whenever requested by the Grand

Council; provided such transfer is permissible by the public law or by the supervisory public authorities concerned.
(d) To give a report of the financial standing of the Grand Lodge at the Grand Convention, giving a detailed statement of the assets and the liabilities which reflect the condition of the Grand Lodge during the State Treasurer's term of office.
(e) To perform such other and additional duties, in matters concerning the office which the Grand Council or the State President may from time to time impose upon the office.
(f) To post such Bond as requested by the Grand Council.

STATE TRUSTEES

ART. 59. The State Trustees audit the books of the State Financial Secretary and of the State Treasurer. In addition, they may inspect and audit all books and documents of the Grand Lodge which relate to financial matters. If the State Trustees, upon inspection and audit, find the books and documents to be correct, they shall certify the correctness of such books and documents by affixing their signature thereto.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

ART. 60. The Executive Committee of the Grand Council shall be composed of the State President, the State Vice President(s), the State Recording Secretary, the State Financial Secretary and such other State Officers, as may be designated in the laws of the Grand Lodge. The Executive Committee shall act in lieu of the Grand Council when the latter is not in session and it may exercise all the powers and prerogatives of the Grand Council, except the authority to issue decrees. To issue decrees it shall be necessary that the Grand Council act in plenary session. The Executive Committee will meet when called together by the State President or in such other manner as the laws of the Grand Lodge provide.

GRAND LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

ART. 61. The Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission is the judicial tribunal of the Grand Lodge. The rules and regulations which prescribe the mode of procedure, the jurisdiction, the powers and the revenue incident to the functioning of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission are set forth in the Judicial Code of the Order.
The Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) regular members, known as Commissioners, and five (5) alternate members, known as Alternate Commissioners. The Grand Lodge Commissioners and the Grand Lodge Alternate Commissioners are elected at the biennial convention of the Grand Lodge for a period of two (2) years and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Grand Lodges holding annual conventions may elect their Arbitration Commission members for a period of one (1) year and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be filled by the Alternate Commissioner who received the highest number of votes during the election of the Alternate Commissioners.

NATIONAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

ART. 62. The National Delegates are the representatives of the Grand Lodge in the Supreme Lodge. The National Delegates are elected in the manner prescribed by the laws of the Grand Lodge. The State

President of each Grand Lodge attends the Supreme Convention by virtue of incumbency in office and not by election as a National Delegate [Const. Art. VII; Gen. Laws Art. 52 (g)]. The number of National Delegates to be elected by each Grand Lodge shall be determined by the number of members of the Grand Lodge in good standing at the end of the quarter preceding the election for whom the Grand Lodge paid the Capita Tax to the Supreme Lodge at the end of such quarter. The number of National Delegates to be elected shall be in the ratio of one (1) to each one thousand (1000) members or fraction thereof above five hundred (500) as follows:

Number of Members of Grand Lodge			Number of Elected National Delegates
0	to	500	0
501	to	1500	1
1501	to	2500	2
2501	to	3500	3
3501	to	4500	4
etc.	to	etc.	.....etc.

Additionally, each Grand Lodge shall elect two (2) National Delegates for each National Trustee to which it is entitled at the immediate preceding Supreme Convention.

The election of National Delegates and of their alternates shall take place at the same Grand Convention at which the Grand Council and Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission are elected. The National Delegates are elected for the full term and they are to be substituted by the alternates in the order of their election, in case any National Delegate is unable to act.

In addition to the National Delegates as authorized by this Article, there shall be other National Delegates representing Local Lodges under the direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge in any state, territory, federal district or province which shall constitute a geographical area for the purpose of this Article.

Each Local Lodge in any such geographical area shall elect a candidate for National Delegate. The National Delegates under this Article shall be chosen by a drawing held at a meeting of the candidates elected by the respective Local Lodges. If the candidates cannot agree on a date and location of the meeting, the same shall be fixed by the National President. The number of National Delegates to be chosen under this Article shall be at the ratio of one (1) for each one thousand (1000) members or fraction thereof above five hundred (500) as illustrated in the chart described herein.

If there should be but one Local Lodge in such geographical area, the National Delegate or Delegates shall be elected from the members of such Local Lodge; provided the ratio established herein is maintained.

STATE DEPUTY

ART. 63. The State Deputy is the representative of the State President to the Local Lodges. The State Deputy's duties are:

(a) To see that the laws of the Order are complied with by the Local Lodges and by their officers and members.

(b) To exercise administrative control in conformity to the laws of the Order.

(c) To assume the function of presiding officer in the Local Lodge whenever the officer presiding fails to maintain order in the assembly and to exact respect from those present for ranking units and prerogatives of the Order.
(d) To install the officers of the Council, unless otherwise provided by the Grand Council.
(e) To give a report to the Grand Council of conditions which the State Deputy finds in the Local Lodges whenever the State Deputy is sent to investigate the affairs of the Local Lodge; provided that, in emergency cases, the State Deputy shall communicate with the Grand Council at once, pointing out those matters which require immediate attention.
(f) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to the office by the Grand Council or which the office may be required to perform by the laws of the Order; except that the State Deputy shall not be qualified to act as State Deputy in the Local Lodge of which the State Deputy is a member.

MORTUARY FUND

ART. 64. The Grand Lodge may institute its own Mortuary Fund and/or Benefit Insurance System affording to its members mortuary benefits and/or sick and disability benefits in such measure and under such terms as it may be authorized to establish by public law or by the supervisory public authorities concerned.
The Mortuary Fund and/or Benefit Insurance System may be administered by a commission or board of directors elected by the Grand Convention or appointed by the Grand Council, if the laws of the Grand Lodge so provide. The commission or board of directors shall be under the supervision and control of the Grand Council.
The Mortuary Fund and/or Benefit Insurance System established by the Grand Lodge may be administered directly by the Grand Council, if the laws of the Grand Lodge so provide.
Nothing in these laws shall preclude the Grand Lodge from establishing and instituting orphanages, homes for the aged, mutual aid funds, and other similar institutions. If any such institutions are established and instituted, commissions or boards of directors therefor are to be selected by the Grand Lodge at its biennial Grand Convention or are to be appointed by the Grand Council whenever the laws of the Grand Lodge so provide. The commissioners or board of directors elected or appointed for the institution contemplated by this Article are to be under the supervision and control of the officers of the Grand Council.

MEETINGS

ART. 65. The Grand Lodge shall hold its Grand Convention once every two years in odd numbered years during the month of May or June at the place previously designated by the last Grand Convention or chosen by the Grand Council whenever found impracticable to hold it at such place; provided that the Grand Convention may be held once each year, if the laws of the Grand Lodge so provide.
The Grand Lodge may hold a special Grand Convention, on a date and at a place previously selected by the Grand Council, upon the request of an absolute majority of the members of the Grand Council made and approved during the course of a duly called regular or special meeting, or upon the written request of an absolute majority of the State Delegates of Local Lodges which are in good standing.
When a regular or special session of the Grand Lodge is called, the notice calling the Grand Convention into session shall be sent no less than fifteen days prior to the date fixed for the first convocation. The notice must specify the hour of the first and second convocation. Moreover, the notice must be

accompanied by the Order of Business to be transacted during the session, and it shall include also the copy of all the amendments to the laws of the Grand Lodge proposed by the Grand Council.

If a majority of the State Officers and State Delegates having the right to vote are present at the first convocation of the Grand Convention, the session may be legally opened. When the second convocation is made, the session shall be legal for all purposes regardless of the number of the State Officers and State Delegates present. For purposes of this Article 65, 'having the right to vote' shall mean those State Officers and State Delegates who have registered to attend the Grand Convention (including the payment of the required registration fee, if any) and who have been credentialed in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Grand Lodge for the registration and credentialing of delegates to its convention.

The business of the Grand Convention is to be transacted in conformity with the laws of the Order, the Ritual and under the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure as described in Robert's Rules of Order (revised). In case of conflict, the laws of the Order shall prevail.

(Art. 65 'having the right to vote' Definition Added at End of Paragraph 4 on 8/19/2015) –cc

(Art. 65 "May or June" Wording Added in Paragraph 1 on 8/19/2015) –cc

RECEIPTS

ART. 66. The revenue of the Grand Lodge is derived from:

(a) The Capita Tax paid by the Local Lodges. The Capita Tax is divided into two parts; the first part is fixed by the Grand Lodge and it is to be paid to the Grand Council; the second part is fixed by the Supreme Lodge and it is to be paid to the Grand Council as collecting agent of the Supreme Council for the use of the Supreme Lodge.

(b) The dues and assessments fixed by the laws of the Order for participation in the benefits afforded by institutions, if any, established by the Grand Lodge. The institutions contemplated by this section may be: Orphanage, Mortuary Fund or Benefit Insurance System, Sick and/or Disability Fund, etc.

(c) The proceeds from the sale of paraphernalia and equipment to Local Lodges.

(d) The filing fees specified in the Judicial Code of the Order, Articles 48 and 49, which are to accompany a complaint or appeal filed with the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission.

(e) The special assessments or impositions which the Grand Lodge may impose because of unforeseen occurrences or to promote the objectives of the Order.

All other lawful means of raising funds common to fraternal organizations such as OSIA, as may from time to time be authorized by the Executive Committee of the Grand Council with the concurrence of the Grand Council.

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by institutions, if any, established by the Grand Lodge. The institutions contemplated by this section may be: Orphanage, Mortuary Fund or Benefit Insurance System, Sick and/or Disability Fund, etc.
(c) The proceeds from the sale of paraphernalia and equipment to Local Lodges.
(d) The filing fees specified in the Judicial Code of the Order, Articles 48 and 49, which are to accompany a complaint or appeal filed with the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission.
(e) The special assessments or impositions which the Grand Lodge may impose because of unforeseen occurrences or to promote the objectives of the Order.
All other lawful means of raising funds common to fraternal organizations such as OSIA, as may from time to time be authorized by the Executive Committee of the Grand Council with the concurrence of the Grand Council.
All payments due to the Grand Lodge shall be remitted to the State Financial Secretary within fifteen (15) days of the date due. Late payments may be subject to interest charges up to the rate of one (1) percent simple interest per month or a portion of a month during which the payment is overdue. It is the responsibility of the Local Lodge to ensure that its payments are made timely.

DISBURSEMENTS

ART. 67. The Grand Lodge may make disbursements for the following purposes:
(a) To pay the Capita Tax due to the Supreme Council, which Capita Tax is to be paid within thirty days from the end of each quarter.
(b) To pay the ordinary expenses of administration.
(c) To pay extraordinary expenses which are authorized by the Grand Convention, or which are authorized by the Grand Council, within the limits permitted by the laws of the Order. In no case shll the General and Special Funds of the Grand Lodge and/or any of its institutions and commissions be disbursed and distributed among the members of the Grand Lodge and/or the members of its Local Lodges.

DEFAULT

ART. 68. The Grand Lodge shall be in default if it has failed to pay the Capita Tax and any other assessments or financial obligations due to the Supreme Lodge after the expiration of one-hundred-twenty (120) days from the last day of the quarter for which the Capita Tax is due.
The Local Lodges, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge declared to be in default, do not lose their good standing with the Grand Lodge under the laws thereof, but the Local Lodges and the Grand Lodge lose all of the rights and prerogatives granted to them by the laws of the Supreme Lodge, including the right to be represented in the Supreme Council and in the Supreme Convention; provided the representation lost in the Supreme Council shall be limited to that of the State President only.
Whenever a Grand Lodge has been declared to be in default, notice of the declaration of default shall be given to the Grand Lodge concerned by the Supreme Council by registered mail sent to the State President of such Grand Lodge. The notice sent by the Supreme Council shall contain a statement of the amount due and the time within which payment is to be made before the Grand Lodge may be declared suspended.

ART. 69. The Grand Council of the Grand Lodge, which has failed to adjust its state of default within ninety days from the date borne by the communication of default, may be declared to be suspended by

the Supreme Council; provided the declaration of suspension be approved at a regular or special meeting of the Supreme Council while in plenary session. The suspended Grand Council, however, shall continue in office solely for the purpose of administering the ordinary affairs of the Grand Lodge until further action may be taken by the Supreme Council or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

If the suspended Grand Council fails to make adjustment of the default which determined its suspension within six months from the date of the communication of suspension, it may be ordered dissolved by the Supreme Council or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council; provided the order of dissolution be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Supreme Council or at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

The dissolved Grand Council, which has failed to make the adjustment of the default which determined its dissolution by the Supreme Council or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, ceases o exist and its functions, including its power and prerogatives are taken over by a Special National Deputy.

When a Special National Deputy takes over the functions of the Grand Council, it shall be the Special National Deputy's duty to call a Special Grand Convention for the purpose of electing a new Grand Council to transact such other business as may be pertinent to the adjustment of the default. Any member of the Grand Council who participated in the failure to make adjustment of the default, which determined its dissolution, shall be barred from election to the new Grand Council under this Article; provided such member has been found to be a participant in such failure by the Supreme Council at the time the order of dissolution was adopted.

The suspension and dissolution shall be limited to the members of the Grand Council and to the members of the Executive Committee of the Grand Council. The suspension and dissolution do not affect members of other organs and institutions of the Grand Lodge elected or appointed in conformity with the laws of the Order.

SUSPENSION AND DISSOLUTION OF A GRAND COUNCIL

ART. 70. In addition to the causes enumerated in these laws, the Grand Council may be declared suspended by the Supreme Council, provided the declaration of suspension be approved, at a regular or special meeting of the Supreme Council while in plenary session, and later ordered dissolved, providing the order of dissolution be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, following investigation made at the instance of the Supreme Council, for the following causes:

(a) Failure to furnish documents requested by the Supreme Council or by the National Officers in matters pertaining to the affairs of the Supreme Lodge.

(b) Failure to comply with orders issued and deliberations made in conformity with the laws of the Order.

(c) Failure to comply with and be subordinate to the laws of the Order.

(d) Participation in the collective defamation of the Order, of its institutions, and of its ranking units.

(e) Affiliation with any newspaper, magazine, periodical, publication, radio station, or other institution which has demonstrated its antagonism toward the Order or which is engaged in the publication and diffusion of adverse or defamatory information against the Order, its institutions, its ranking units, and its membership. The affiliation contemplated by this section may be direct, indirect, or material.

(f) Disclosure, revelation, and publication of confidential information obtained as an incident to

membership in the Order or the content and possession of confidential documents of Order, the disclosure, revelation, and publication of which have previously been censored by the higher ranking units of the Order.

(g) Sending of circulars, letters, publications, appeals or other types of messages to Grand Lodges and to Local Lodges, either under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge or under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge for which the Grand Council is functioning, tending to stir disorder or to create factional groups with the Order or to undermine it or to instigate hostility against its ranking units.

(h) Violation of the laws of the Order and of the public laws governing the Supreme Lodge and its institutions, and the Local Lodges and their institutions.

When the Grand Council is dissolved under the provisions of this Article, it ceases to exist and its functions, including its powers and prerogatives, are taken over by a Special National Deputy. When a Special National Deputy takes over the functions of the Grand Council, it shall be the Special National Deputy's duty to call a Special Grand Convention for the purpose of electing a new Grand Council and to transact such other business as may be pertinent to the correction of the cause which made the dissolution of the Grand Council necessary. Any member of the Grand Council who participated in the cause, which determined the dissolution of the Grand Council, shall be barred from election to the new Grand Council; provided such member has been found to be a participant in such cause by the Supreme Council at the time the order of dissolution was adopted.

The suspension and dissolution under this Article shall be limited to the members of the Grand Council. The suspension and dissolution contemplated in this Article do not affect the other organs and institutions of the Grand Lodge elected or appointed in conformity with the laws of the Order, unless the organ or institution is involved in the cause which made the suspension and dissolution necessary. In case the members of the organ or institution are involved in the cause which made the suspension and dissolution necessary, they shall be replaced, if their office is elective, by electing new members at the Grand Convention called under the provisions of this Article, or they shall be replaced, if their office is appointive, by the appointment of new members by the new Grand Council elected under provisions of this Article; the object of this Article being to bar any member, involved in the cause which made the suspension and dissolution necessary, from re-election or re-appointment as a member of such organ or institution.

SUSPENSION AND DISSOLUTION OF A GRAND LODGE

ART. 71. Whenever the Grand Lodge is in default with its payments to the Supreme Lodge as required by the laws of the Order or the Grand Lodge tacitly and passively permits any of the violations enumerated in Article 70 of these laws, the Supreme Council may suspend it provided the declaration or suspension be approved at a regular or special meeting of the Supreme Council while in plenary session. If the Grand Lodge fails to adjust the default or to correct and remove the cause of its suspension within six months after the adoption of the declaration of suspension by the Supreme Council, it may be ordered dissolved by the Supreme Council; provided the order of dissolution be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Supreme Council or at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

When the Grand Council is suspended under the provision of this Article, all of the organs and institutions enumerated in Article 48 of these laws are suspended also, provided, however, that all State Officers and members of the various organs and institutions continue in office solely for the purpose of administering the ordinary affairs of the Grand Lodge and of its institutions under the direct supervision

and control of the Supreme Council.

Within thirty days from the date of the declaration of suspension of the Grand Lodge, the Supreme Council shall call a meeting of all the State Delegates of the suspended Grand Lodge, within the territorial limits of such Grand Lodge, for the purpose of adjusting the default or for the purpose of correcting and removing the cause of the suspension. The meeting of the State Delegates called under the provision of this Article shall be presided over by a Special National Deputy, unless otherwise determined by the Supreme Council.

As soon as the default has been adjusted or the cause of suspension has been corrected and removed, the Supreme Council shall order the suspension lifted and the Grand Lodge and its institutions restored to good standing.

If the State Delegates called under the provisions of this Article fail to take appropriate action to adjust the default or to correct and remove the cause of suspension within six months from the date of the declaration of suspension by the Supreme Council, the Supreme Council may order the Grand Lodge dissolved and remove and repossess its Charter. Upon issuing the order of dissolution of the Grand Lodge, all of the Local Lodges under its jurisdiction automatically pass under the supervision and control of the Supreme Council; provided nothing to the contrary is provided by public law and by rules and regulations of the supervisory public authorities governing such institutions within the territorial limits of the dissolved Grand Lodge.

In the interim between the date of dissolution of the Grand Lodge and the date of its reconstruction, the Supreme Council shall assume control over all the assets of the dissolved Grand Lodge, which assets shall include money and real and personal property, and administer them as a trustee for the use and benefit of the members of the Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the dissolved Grand Lodge and for the use and benefit of the creditors of such Grand Lodge; provided the public law and the rules and regulations of the supervisory public authorities governing the dissolved Grand Lodge and its institutions, in whole or in part, do not provide otherwise. When the Grand Lodge is reconstituted in conformity with these laws, the Supreme Council shall give a true and correct account of its acts and doings and of its receipts and disbursements relative to the administration of the assets of the dissolved Grand Lodge at the session of the Grand Convention called for the purpose of reconstituting such Grand Lodge.

The members of the Grand Council, the members of institutions and the State Delegates implicated in the default or in the cause for which the Grand Lodge was ordered dissolved, shall be barred from election or from appointment to any office of the reconstituted Grand Lodge or its institutions for a period of no less than two years. The penalty imposed by this Article shall be without prejudice to the right of the Supreme Council to denounce or cause to be denounced those implicated in causing the dissolution of the Grand Lodge to the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission to be dealt with in accordance with the judiciary laws of the Order.

RECONSTITUTION

ART. 72. Once the Grand Lodge has been dissolved, it must be reconstituted in order to function. Before sixty days have elapsed from the date of the adoption of the order of dissolution, the Supreme Council shall request that State Delegates be elected by the Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the dissolved Grand Lodge. The number of State Delegates is to be determined in the manner provided by the laws of the dissolved Grand Lodge. After the State Delegates have been elected in compliance with the request of the Supreme Council, they shall be convened in a Special Grand Convention on the date

and place fixed by the Supreme Council or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, provided the place of meeting shall be within the territorial limits of the dissolved Grand Lodge. The purpose of the Special Grand Convention shall be the reconstitution of the Grand Lodge and a general election to replace the Grand Council and to replace the elective members of the organs and institutions of the Grand Lodge which may have been dissolved. The Special Grand Convention is to presided over by a Special National Deputy. The State Delegates, the State Officers, the members of the organs and institutions, the committees and commissions elected or appointed under the provision of this Article shall hold office until the next regular Grand Convention of the reconstituted Grand Lodge. The dissolved Grand Lodge is to be considered as being duly reconstituted upon the installation of its newly elected officers.

CHAPTER FOUR - SUPREME LODGE

JURISDICTION, COMPOSITION AND AUTHORITY

ART. 73. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge extends over all its constituent Grand Lodges and those Local Lodges under its direct dependence. The Supreme Lodge has the following specific powers:
(a) The Legislative Power when National Delegates are convened in regular or special Supreme Conventions.
(b) The Executive Power through the Supreme Council.
(c) The Judiciary Power through National Delegates when assembled in Supreme Conventions.

ART. 74. The Supreme Lodge is composed of:
(a) The National Officers
(b) The State Presidents
(c) The Past National Presidents
(d) The National Delegates
(e) The elected at large trustees of the Supreme Foundation
(f) The other delegates created by operation of these bylaws.

ART. 75. The Supreme Lodge exercises:
(a) Its legislative power when the National Delegates are convened in regular or special Supreme Convention.
(b) In addition to the powers enumerated in these laws, the Supreme Lodge shall have the power to revise, correct and approve articles of incorporation, charters and laws adopted by the Grand Lodge and by the Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge; to impose capita tax and other assessments upon the Grand Lodges and upon the Local Lodges under its direct and immediate dependence and to prescribe the type and design of insignias, regalia and paraphernalia to be used in the Order.
(c) The power to compile the National Ritual, prescribing the minimum ritualistic forms to be observed during meetings and ceremonies of the Order.
(d) The power to institute Grand Lodges and Local Lodges in a State or territory where no Grand Lodge exists.
(e) Its power of clemency to suspend sentences of expulsion from the Order; provided this power is exercised by the Supreme Council while in plenary session; and provided further that the exercise of the power is prohibited when any one or more of sections b, c, d, e, f, g, n and p of Article 9 of these General Laws have been violated by the expelled member. In all cases, the request for clemency must originate from the Local Lodge to which the expelled member belonged and submitted for approval to the Grand Council, if it concerns a Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. If the Grand Council approves the request for clemency, it shall be sent to the Supreme Council for final action thereon. In case the request for clemency is made by a Local Lodge under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, the request may be made directly to the Supreme Council. In either case, the Supreme Council may exercise its sound discretion either in granting the request for clemency or in refusing it.

COMPONENTS

ART. 76. The components through which the Supreme Lodge functions, when not in convention assembled, are:

(a) The Supreme Council
(b) The Executive Committee of the Supreme Council
(c) The Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission
(d) The Supreme Court of the Order
(e) The Special National Deputies

SUPREME COUNCIL

ART. 77. The Supreme Council is the executive body of the Supreme Lodge and it exercises the executive powers of the Supreme Lodge when the latter is not in convention assembled, except the poer to impose new dues and assessments. The Supreme Council shall have power to confer upon its executive committee all administrative powers.

ART. 78. The orders, decrees, revisions, corrections and approvals made by the Supreme Council of all laws consistent with the purposes of the Charter and Constitution must be submitted and approved by the National Delegates in convention assembled.

ART. 79. The Supreme Council shall be elected at the biennial Supreme Convention. Only duly certified members of the Supreme Lodge may be elected. The Supreme Council, whose members rank in the order named, is composed of:

(a) The National President
(b) The National First Vice President
(c) The National Second Vice President
(d) The National Third Vice President
(e) The National Fourth Vice President
(f) The National Fifth Vice President
(g) The National Immediate Past President
(h) The National Orator
(i) The National Recording Secretary
(j) The National Financial Secretary
(k) The National Treasurer
(l) The National Historian
(m) The National Trustees; in addition to those created as a result of International Pacts, the number shall be determined by the following formula:
    1. For 1,000 members or more in each Grand Lodge - one National Trustee.
    2. For 7,000 members or more over the base number of 1,000 members - an additional National Trustee.
    3. Determination of the number of National Trustees for each Grand Lodge shall be the average of the members reported in the December and the following March quarterly per capita tax reports next preceding the Supreme Convention.
(n) The State Presidents, ex officio, with the right to vote, who were elected at their Grand Conventions with payment to be made by each President's Grand Lodge
(o) All Past National Presidents, ex officio, with the right to vote

(p) The CSJ President, ex officio, with the right to vote and with payment by the CSJ
(q) The President of the Son's of Italy Foundation, ex officio, with the right to vote and with payment by the Son's of Italy Foundation

ART. 80. The Supreme Council shall meet in regular session at least once each year. The Supreme Council may meet in special session whenever the meeting is called by the National President or called at the written request of a majority of its members. Meetings of the Supreme Council may be held by telephone conference call, fax or other methods of modern communication to fulfill the requirements for meeting in regular session or special session.

ART. 81. In addition to other powers and prerogatives otherwise conferred by the laws of the Order, the Supreme Council has power:
(a) To act as the Grand Council for Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge provided however the Supreme Council may assign Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge to the nearest Grand Lodge.
(b) To examine and check into the financial status of the Grand Lodge which has failed to pay the Capita Tax to the Supreme Lodge.
(c) To estimate the biennial budget of the Supreme Lodge and submit it to the Supreme Convention.
(d) To postpone the meeting and change the place for the Supreme Convention whenever unforeseen circumstances arise which make it impossible to hold the meeting; provided such postponement does not delay the Supreme Convention in excess of two months from the date it was originally set to be called.
(e) To decide administrative disputes and disputes which arise in Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge after having heard the report of the National Orator.
(f) To review appeals taken to decisions rendered by the Grand Council after having heard the report of the National Orator.
(g) To dissolve suspended Local Lodges which have not adjusted their state of default or which have failed to remove or rectify the cause of suspension; provided the dissolution of the Local Lodge is recommended by the Grand Council of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the Local Lodge involved.
(h) To dissolve suspended Local Lodges which have not adjusted their state of default or which have failed to remove or rectify the cause of suspension; provided such Local Lodges are under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge.
(i) To dissolve the Grand Council and/or the Grand Lodge which has failed to adjust its state of default or which has failed to remove or correct the cause of suspension.
(j) To fill vacancies which occur among its constituent members in the following manner:
1. The vacancy of the office of the National President shall be filled by the National First Vice President and the vacancies in the offices of the remaining National Vice-Presidents, so created, shall be filled by the next National Vice-President, in the order of numerical succession.
2. The vacancy of the office of National Immediate Past President in accordance with Art. 86.
3. The other vacancies occurring in the Supreme Council or in the institutions of the Supreme Lodge shall be filled by appointing thereto duly elected National Delegates; provided such vacancies do not exceed seven.
4. When the vacancies in the Supreme Council or in the institutions of the Supreme Lodge exceed seven, the remaining National Officers of the Supreme Council shall submit a list of candidates selected from the duly elected National Delegates having the right to vote, to the

National Delegates for a referendum vote to elect National Officers or members of institutions to fill such vacancies; provided that the list submitted contains no less than two candidates for each office to be filled. The majority of the vote cast, within the time specified by the Supreme Council, shall be sufficient for election. In making up the list of candidates, the Supreme Council shall first ascertain whether the proposed candidates are willing to accept the office if elected. Also the Supreme Council shall select candidates from the various States rather than from any one state or territory.

(k) To foster and promote projects and programs which enable the Supreme Lodge, the Grand Lodges, and the Local Lodges to achieve the purpose of the Order.

(l) To approve Rituals or Manuals submitted by Grand Lodges for use in lieu of the National Ritual.

POWER AND PREROGATIVES OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

ART. 82. The National Officers are a constituent part of the Supreme Lodge, and, as such, they are no longer obligated to perform the duties imposed upon them by the Local Lodge of which they are members, except to pay dues and assessments imposed upon them by the laws of the Order. In case the Local Lodge of which the National Officer is a member becomes suspended or is ordered dissolved, the suspension or dissolution shall not reflect upon such National Officer nor deprive the National Officer of the power and prerogative inherent to the National Officer's office.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ART. 83. The National President is the highest ranking officer of the Supreme Lodge, upon whom the National Officers depend for leadership and direction. The National President is the representative and spokesman of the Order. The National President's duties and prerogatives are:

(a) To preside in the meetings of the Supreme Lodge, of the Supreme Council, and of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council; to appoint the Committees of the Convention, and to appoint the chairperson and members of the Finance and Budget Committee, the Bylaws Committee, the Education Committee and the Membership Commission.

(b) To call extraordinary meetings of the Grand Council and of the Grand Lodge in such State or Territory over which such Grand Lodge has jurisdiction whenever reasons of discipline or threatened disunity make such course necessary and advisable and to preside over such meetings.

(c) To appoint two Masters or Mistresses of Ceremony and one Sergeant-at-Arms to function at the Supreme Conventions of the Supreme Lodge.

(d) To act as the spokesman for the Order in its relations with public authorities and with diplomatic representatives to achieve the realization of the purposes and ideals prescribed by the laws of the Order.

(e) To decide questions which arise during the interval between meetings of the Supreme Council and the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council; provided no withdrawal of funds is involved and the question decided does not violate the laws of the Order.

(f) To supervise and control all correspondence of the Supreme Lodge and to prescribe and censor the publication or disclosure of such correspondence which the National President shall deem to be confidential in nature. The National President may direct the appropriate National Officers to answer correspondence and give them instructions as to the manner which such correspondence is to be treated and answered.

(g) To affix the National President's signature to Charters, minutes of meetings of the Supreme Lodge

and of the Supreme Council or of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, orders of payment of the Supreme Lodge, checks issued by the National Treasurer, and to all documents which invest the responsibility of the Supreme Lodge.

(h) To be an ex-officio member of all committees and commissions of the Supreme Lodge.

(i) To do all things which the National President may deem necessary and advisable to promote the welfare and interest of the Order and of the members thereof; provided the National President's acts and doings are within the scope of the laws of the Order and not in violation thereof.

(j) To submit the National President's detailed written report and to give an oral summary thereof to the biennial Supreme Convention.

(k) The National President shall have the power to appoint Special National Deputies, with the approval of the Supreme Council. These Special National Deputies shall be the personal representatives of the National President to carry out whatever functions the National President requests of them.

(l) The National President shall also have the power to appoint the chairman of the Supreme Cabinet.

(m) The National President may appoint a National Chaplain, with the approval of the Supreme Council, whose primary duty shall be to conduct, whenever practicable, all religious exercises of the Supreme Lodge. The National Chaplain shall also perform such other duties relating to the office as shall be assigned to the office from time to time by the National President. The National Chaplain shall be selected from among the members but the National Chaplain shall not be considered an officer of the Supreme Council.

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

ART. 84. The National First Vice President is the second ranking officer of the Supreme Council and assists the National President. In case the National President is absent or is unable to act, the National First Vice President assumes the duties and prerogatives of the National President.

The National Second Vice President is the third ranking officer of the Supreme Council. In the absence of the National President and of the National First Vice President, the National Second Vice President shall preside and act in their stead.

The National Third Vice President is the fourth ranking officer of the Supreme Council. In the absence of the National President and of the National First and Second Vice Presidents, the National Third Vice President shall preside and act in their stead.

The National Fourth Vice President is the fifth ranking officer of the Supreme Council. In the absence of the National President and of the National First, Second, and Third Vice Presidents, the National Fourth Vice President shall preside and act in their stead.

The National Fifth Vice President is the sixth ranking officer of the Supreme Council. In the absence of the National President and of the National First, Second, Third, and Fourth Vice Presidents, the National Fifth Vice President shall preside and act in their stead.

NATIONAL IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

ART. 85. The National Immediate Past President is the seventh ranking officer of the Supreme Council. In the absence of the National President and the National Vice Presidents, the National Immediate Past President assumes the office of National President and acts in the National President's stead, with like powers and prerogatives.

ART. 86. The office of National Immediate Past President shall be given to the member who has served one full term as National President immediately preceding the incumbent. If, due to death, disqualification, resignation, or removal from office, the office of National Immediate Past President becomes vacant, the office shall be filled from the preceding former National Presidents in the inverted order of their tenure of office.

NATIONAL ORATOR

ART. 87. The National Orator is the eighth ranking officer of the Supreme Lodge. Whenever requested by the National President, the National Orator gives opinions on the interpretation of the laws of the Order. The National Orator's special duties and prerogatives are:

(a) To supervise and control judiciary actions of the entire Order and particularly those in which the Supreme Lodge is directly involved.

(b) To give an opinion on the legality of all controversies or complaints of an administrative nature submitted to the Supreme Council for determination. In respect to these matters the National Orator acts as the investigator of the Supreme Council and the relator of the findings to the Supreme Council.

(c) In preferring charges against members or officers or in prosecuting those charges before the proper authorities of the ranking units of the Order, the National Orator acts under the direction of the National President, or the Supreme Council, or on the National Orator's own initiative.

(d) To accept, prosecute or reject complaints forwarded to the National Orator for appropriate action or to transmit such complaints to the proper authorities in the ranking units of the Order; provided there is reasonable cause for the National Orator to accept, prosecute or reject such complaints and the National Orator's act, relating thereto, conforms with the laws of the Order.

(e) To give an opinion on the legal merit of appeals and controversies of all types which reach the Supreme Lodge and to present the version of the Supreme Council or of the Supreme Lodge, within the purview of the laws of the Order, to the appropriate authorities in the ranking units of the Order before whom such appeals and controversies are to be determined.

(f) To appear either in person or by deputy before proper authorities in the ranking units of the Order in behalf of the Supreme Lodge to urge the enforcement of the laws of the Order and to prosecute those charged with violations, particularly before the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission.

(g) To appoint, by and with the consent of the Supreme Council or of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, deputies to assist the National Orator in the discharge of the National Orator's duties.

(h) To give a report to the Supreme Convention of his acts and doings relative to the judiciary activities of the Supreme Lodge during the National Orator's term of office.

NATIONAL RECORDING SECRETARY

ART. 88. The National Recording Secretary is the custodian of the archives of the Supreme Lodge and is the keeper of its seal. The National Recording Secretary's duties are:

(a) To keep the records of the Supreme Lodge and be the custodian of the Charter.

(b) To send notices of meetings of the Supreme Lodge, of the Supreme Council, and of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council, specifying the date of the meeting and the Order of the Day.

(c) To take the minutes of the meetings of the Supreme Lodge, of the Supreme Council, and of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council and spread them of record following their approval.

(d) To take the minutes of the Supreme Convention, Supreme Lodge of the Supreme Council Meetings, Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission, Supreme Council and the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council Meetings. A summary of the minutes of the Convention and Meetings addressed in this subdivision shall be made no more than sixty (60) days after the Supreme Convention as well as the Meetings described in the subdivision. A copy of all minutes shall be forwarded to National Officers, National Delegates, Supreme Council Members, National Arbitration Commission Members and National Executive Members.

(e) To avail the National Recording Secretary of the service of a competent stenographer to assist the National Recording Secretary in spreading the minutes of record and to compile the summary of such minutes.

(f) To care for and answer all correspondence relating to routine administrative affairs and to refer and submit to the National President such correspondence that may require special attention under the laws of the Order.

(g) To act as the clerk of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission when such Commission is in session, except in case the National Recording Secretary is an interested party.

(h) To keep up to date the following:

1. The roll of the Grand Lodges, including the names and addresses of the State Officers, and National Delegates thereof.
2. The roll of the Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge, including the names and addresses of the officers constituting the Council of such Local Lodges.
3. The list of all of the commissions and committees elected by the Supreme Convention or appointed by the National President and confirmed by the Supreme Council.

(i) To record and file all incoming and outgoing correspondence and institute a filing system by which such correspondence may be preserved and protected.

(j) To give a statistical report to the Supreme Convention relative to the activities of the Grand Lodges and the membership standing thereof.

(k) To act as the sole intermediary through whom the Grand Lodges, and their State Officers, and the Local Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, and their officers, may communicate with the Supreme Council; provided, however, that such Grand Lodges and their State Officers, and such Local Lodges, and their officers shall not be precluded from corresponding with the Supreme Council or with the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council through the National President.

(l) To preform such other duties which the Supreme Council or the National President may impose upon the National Recording Secretary in matters pertaining to the office or which may be imposed upon the office by the laws of the Order.

(m) Any of these duties may be assigned to the National Executive Director by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

(Art. 88{d} revised 8/19/2015) –cc

NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ART. 89. The National Financial Secretary is the accountant of the Supreme Lodge, who is the custodian of the records of account and has charge of regalia and supplies to be sold to the Grand Lodges of the Order. The National Financial Secretary's duties are:

(a) To collect dues, Capita Tax, assessments, and money payable to the Supreme Lodge.
(b) To sign notices of payment and draw vouchers for the ordinary administrative disbursements to be made by the Supreme Lodge and for all other expenses approved either by the Supreme Lodge, by the Supreme Council, or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council whenever proper bills or statements have been presented to the National Financial Secretary. The vouchers, duly signed by the National Financial Secretary, are then to be transmitted to the National Treasurer.
(c) To keep books of account up to date, showing the income and disbursements made by the Supreme Lodge.
(d) To present a summarized statement of the funds on hand and of the disbursements to be made at each regular meeting of the Supreme Council.
(e) To consign, either in person or by mail, checks drawn by the National Treasurer and delivered to the National Financial Secretary for the payee thereof; provided such checks have been issued pursuant to proper vouchers therefor.
(f) To announce Grand Lodges and Local Lodges, under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, to the Supreme Council whenever they are in arrears with the payment of the Capita Tax, dues, and assessments due to the Supreme Lodge.
(g) To compute and present to the Supreme Council the estimated budget for the Supreme Lodge.
(h) To maintain a separate bank account in a bank previously designated by the Supreme Council where a sum of money, not to exceed $500.00, may be deposited in the name of the Supreme Lodge, from which account the National Financial Secretary may draw sums from time to time with which to meet the small expenses incident to the administration of the affairs of the office of the Supreme Lodge; provided, however, that the National Financial Secretary must keep a strict account of such expenses and furnish an itemized statement thereof to the Supreme Council and to the National President whenever requested to do so.
(i) To visit those Grand Lodges and Local Lodges in arrears with their payment of Capita Tax, dues, and assessments whenever directed by the Supreme Council or by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council. In the course of such visits, the National Financial Secretary shall investigate the status of the Grand Lodge or of the Local Lodge to ascertain the reason such payment has not been made and give a report of the findings to the Supreme Council or to the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council. Moreover, the National Financial Secretary shall assist and cooperate with the Grand Lodge or Local Lodge and strive to induce them to pay the arrearage.
(j) To make up an analytical and detailed statement of the income and expenditures at the end of each fiscal year and forward a copy of such statement to the Local Lodge under the direct and immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.
(k) To prepare a financial report which reflects the final account of the two-year term preceding the regular Supreme Convention. The correctness of the items included in such financial report and the report itself shall be verified and attested by a duly licensed Certified Public Accountant.
(l) To perform such and other additional duties, in matters pertaining to the office, which the Supreme Council or the National President, may from time to time impose upon the office.
(m) To post bond as required by the Supreme Council.
(n) Any of these duties may be assigned to the National Executive Director by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

NATIONAL TREASURER

ART. 90. The National Treasurer is the depository of all the funds of the Supreme Lodge and is the custodian of all instruments evidencing title or claim to real and personal property owned or possessed by the Supreme Lodge. In addition, the National Treasurer is the custodian of the securities and other incidental instruments which constitute the investment or reserve of the Supreme Lodge or of its institutions; provided the laws of the Order do not provide otherwise. Within five days from the date the National Treasurer receives funds from the National Financial Secretary, the National Treasurer shall deposit them in savings or checking accounts, in the name of the Supreme Lodge, Order Sons of Italy in America, Inc. in a bank or banks previously designated by the Supreme Council. The other duties of the National Treasurer are:

(a) To keep and maintain up to date a cash book, in which the National Treasurer records all of the money received and disbursed by him for the Supreme Lodge and in which the National Treasurer notes the number of the voucher and the number of the check issued therefor.

(b) To issue, sign, and deliver checks to the National Financial Secretary upon proper vouchers being presented to the National Treasurer; provided such checks bear the signatures of the National President and of the National Financial Secretary in addition to the National Treasurer's.

(c) To give a summarized financial statement, showing income and disbursements, at each meeting of the Supreme Council.

(d) To give a report of the financial standing of the Supreme Lodge at each biennial Supreme Convention, giving a detailed statement of the assets and liabilities of the Supreme Lodge during the National Treasurer's term of office.

(e) To perform such other and additional duties, in matters pertaining to the office, which the Supreme Council or the National President may from time to time impose upon the office.

(f) To post bond as required by the Supreme Council.

(g) Any of these duties may be assigned to the National Executive Director by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN

ART. 91. The National Historian is the custodian of the archival records of the Order. The duties of the National Historian are:

(a) To organize and maintain the historical records of the Order.

(b) To establish and control a permanent repository for the records of the Order.

(c) To receive and preserve historical records forwarded by the Supreme Lodge, Grand Lodges, and Local Lodges under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

(d) To advise Grand Lodges and Local Lodges under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge on retrieval, organizing and maintaining historical records of the Order.

(e) To perform such other duties pertaining to and imposed upon the office by the Supreme Council, the National President or the laws of the Order.

(f) To give a report to the Supreme Convention of the activities occurring relative to the office during the preceding biennium.

NATIONAL TRUSTEES

ART. 92. The National Trustees audit the books of the National Financial Secretary and of the National Treasurer. In addition, they shall inspect and audit all other books, reports, statements, and other

documents, which relate to the financial and economic resources of the Supreme Lodge.
They shall also perform such other duties, within the jurisdiction of their respective Grand Lodges, as may be assigned to them by the National President, at the request of the Grand Council of their State.
If the National Trustees, upon inspection and audit, find such books, reports, statements, and other documents to be correct, they shall certify as to the correctness of them by affixing their signature thereto. The certification must bear the signatures of at least five National Trustees. The certification must bear the signature of at least three National Trustees who shall not be members of the same Grand Lodge.

STATE PRESIDENTS

ART. 93. The State Presidents of the Grand Lodges in good standing are members of the Supreme Council for the specific purposes of insuring unity of action and harmony between the Grand Lodges and the Supreme Lodge in the activities of the Order.
Whenever the Supreme Council has for determination a question which concerns or involves any particular Grand Lodge, the State President of that Grand Lodge shall be precluded from voting on such question.
Whenever a State President deems it advisable to be substituted in the attendance of a meeting of the Supreme Council, the State President may appoint a State Officer of the State President's Grand Lodge to attend the meeting in the State President's stead; provided such appointment is duly communicated to the National Recording Secretary prior to the opening of the meeting of the Supreme Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

ART. 94. The Executive Committee of the Supreme Council is composed of the National President, the National Vice Presidents, the National Immediate Past President, the National Orator, the National Recording Secretary, the National Financial Secretary, the National Treasurer, the National Historian, two National Trustees, who reside within the radius of three hundred (300) miles from the place fixed for the meeting of the Executive Committee and are to be chosen by rotation and with due regard to the distance from which they are to come, the State Presidents or their duly appointed designees, and all Past National Presidents.
The Executive Committee shall meet in regular session once every six months and in special session at such other times as the National President may deem it necessary and advisable. The Executive Committee acts during the interval between meetings of the Supreme Council, with like power and prerogatives except the power to issue orders and decrees which are reserved to the Supreme Council while in plenary session. Further, the Executive Committee is not authorized to make any expenditures of funds, not indicated as a line item in the budget adopted at the Supreme Convention, in excess of three thousand dollars ($3,000). All measures taken, activities engaged in, and resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the Supreme Council, while in plenary session, for ratification and approval.

SUPREME LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION AND SUPREME COURT OF THE ORDER

ART. 95. The Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission and the Supreme Court of the Order are the

judicial tribunals of the Supreme Lodge. The rules and regulations which prescribe the mode of procedure, the jurisdiction, the powers and the revenue incident to the functioning of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission and the Supreme Court of the Order are set forth in the Judicial Code of the Order.

The Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) regular members, known as Commissioners, and five (5) alternate members, known as Alternate Commissioners. The Supreme Lodge Commissioners and the Supreme Lodge Alternate Commissioners are elected at the biennial convention of the Supreme Lodge for a period of two (2) years and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be filled by the Alternate Commissioner who received the highest number of votes during the election of the Alternate Commissioners. There can be only one delegate serving from any one Grand Lodge as an Arbitration commissioner and only one delegate from any one Grand Lodge serving as an Alternate Arbitration Commissioner.

The Supreme Court of the Order is composed of all of the State Presidents of the Grand Lodges of the Order, except the State President(s) of the Grand Lodge(s) from which the cause for judicial determination arose.

(Art. 95 revised 8/12/2009) -cc

SUPREME CABINET

ART. 96. The Supreme Cabinet shall be composed of all the State Presidents. The purposes of the Supreme Cabinet are to consider, discuss and make recommendations to the Supreme Council on any programs wherein the need for fund raising is indicated, as well as any problems or programs which the National President, the Supreme Council, or the Supreme Cabinet, on its own motion, may present to said cabinet for consideration, discussion and recommendation.

MORTUARY FUND

ART. 97. The Supreme Lodge, through its Supreme Council, may, within the limits of any State and in compliance with the laws thereof, institute a Mortuary Fund for those Locl Lodges which are under its direct jurisdiction and such Mortuary Fund may be made available to those Grand Lodges which do not have a Mortuary Fund of their own and to which such Grand Lodges may elect to subscribe.

The Supreme Lodge through its Supreme Council may also authorize any Grand Lodge to institute and/or extend its Mortuary Fund to any other Grand Lodge which may elect to subscribe to it.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MEMBERSHIP AND EXPANSION

(Art. 98 – Deleted in Entirety 8/19/2015.) -cc

MEETINGS

ART. 99. The Supreme Lodge shall hold its Supreme Convention once every two years during the months of August or September at the place previously designated by the preceding regular Supreme

Convention. The duration of the Convention is to be fixed by the Supreme Council with due regard to the good of the Order and to the order of the day. The Grand Lodge President in the State where the National Convention is to be held shall be a member of the National Convention Committee.

If the Supreme Council fails to convene the Supreme Convention within two years and at the time required by the laws of the Order, the members of the Supreme Council at fault shall be considered as dismissed from office as of the last day of the month during which such convention was to have been convened. This Article shall not effect the dismissal of the officers of the Supreme Council who were not called at which the convocation of the Convention should have been determined. When the officers of the Supreme Council shall have been dismissed pursuant to this Article, the powers and prerogatives of the Supreme Council shall rest in the State Presidents of the Grand Lodges. Thereafter the State Presidents of those Grand Lodges in good standing shall be called to a meeting to determine upon the convocation of the Supreme Convention. If the convocation of the Convention is determined, the State Presidents shall order the convocation of the Supreme Convention in like manner as though it has been convoked by the Supreme Council.

The Supreme Lodge meets in Special Supreme Convention at the place and date previously fixed by the Supreme Council, when such meeting is called by the Supreme Council while in plenary session; provided an absolute majority of the votes are cast for such Special Supreme Convention, or by written request of a majority of the National Delegates duly qualified to vote; provided the majority of National Delegates requesting such meeting are members of Grand Lodges which are in good standing with the Supreme Lodge.

When a regular session of the Supreme Lodge is called, the notice calling the Supreme Convention into session shall be sent no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date fixed for the first convocation. The notice must specify the place and the hour of the first and second convocation and must be sent electronically or by regular mail to each delegate. In addition, the notice must be accompanied by a copy of all the proposed amendments to the laws of the Supreme Lodge whether such amendments are proposed by the Grand Lodges or by the Supreme Council together with reports of the National President and other National Officers, required to report by these General Laws, and the reports of the Committees and Commissions established by the Supreme Lodge. Moreover, there shall be an interval of at least three hours between the first convocation and the second convocation of the Supreme Convention.

When a special session of the Supreme Lodge is called, the notice calling the Special Supreme Convention into session shall be sent no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date fixed for the first convocation. The notice must be accompanied by the Orders of the Day, setting forth the purpose for which the session is convened.

If a majority of the National Officers and National Delegates having the right to vote be present at the first convocation of the Regular or Special Supreme Convention, the session may be legally opened. When the second convocation is made, the session shall be legal for all purposes regardless of the number of National Officers and National Delegates present.

After the Supreme Convention has been called to order, the session must be opened, conducted and closed in conformity with the provisions of the Ritual. To facilitate the dispatch of the business of the Supreme Lodge, the assembly may adopt such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to the proper consideration of the Orders of the Day; provided the following rules are observed:

(a) No motion shall be discussed and voted upon unless it has been duly seconded and such motion has been announced by the presiding officer.

(b) No other motion shall be made, while there is a motion pending before the assembly, except a motion to adjourn, a call for order, or a motion to determine the priority of discussions on pending

proposals.
(c) No motion to reconsider shall be entertained unless it is made by a person who voted in favor of the adopted motion and seconded by a person who voted in favor of such adopted motion.
(d) Whenever objection is made to the reading of any document, the objection must be stated in form of a motion to be voted on without discussion.
(e) Whenever a motion is made to limit discussion on any motion, or to adjourn, such motion shall be put to a vote, if seconded, without discussion.
(f) Whenever a motion on a point of law or a motion on a point of order is made, such motion, if seconded, must be put to an immediate vote by the assembly without discussion.
(g) The decision rendered by the presiding officer on all motions for order shall be final, except for the right to appeal to the assembly. If an appeal is taken, the presiding officer who rendered the ruling must leave the chair and the officer next in line be substituted in his place. Thereafter, the presiding officer who rendered the ruling and the appellant may take the floor and present reasons and explanations in favor or against the ruling rendered. Upon termination of the discussion, the assembly shall vote on the ruling and either affirm or reject it.
(h) The business of the Supreme Convention is to be transacted in conformity with the laws of the Order, the Ritual and under the forms of Parliamentary Procedure as prescribed in Roberts' Rules of Order. In case of conflict between the laws of the Order and Roberts' Rules, the laws of the Order shall prevail.
(i) Minutes of the Supreme Convention shall be made available to all members of the Supreme Council, members of the Sons of Italy Foundation and members of the Commission for Social Justice within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the convention.
(Art. 99 revised 8/14/2013) –cc (Art. 99 revised 8/19/2015) –cc

RECEIPTS

ART. 100. The revenue of the Supreme Lodge is derived from:
(a) The Capita Tax fixed by the Supreme Convention and paid directly by the Local Lodges through the Grand Lodge or by the Local Lodges under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge directly to the Supreme Lodge.
(b) The application or initiation fee of four dollars ($4.00) established by te Supreme Convention and paid by the Local Lodges through the Grand Lodge or by the Local Lodges directly to the Supreme Lodge. The Grand Lodge within fifteen (15) days after the close of each quarter shall certify the number of new members for the quarter pursuant to Article 56(l) and remit payment.
(c) The Charter charge of $100.00 to be paid by each newly formed Grand Lodge.
(d) The Charter charge of $35.00 to be paid by each newly formed Local Lodge under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge.
(e) The Charter charge of $35.00 to be paid by each newly formed Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge.
(f) The filing fees specified in the Judicial Code of the Order Articles 48 and 49, which are to accompany a complaint or appeal filed with the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission or the Supreme Court of the Order.
(g) The proceeds received from the sale of regalia and supplies to the Grand Lodge and to the Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge.

(h) Premiums and assessments which might be imposed for participation in the benefits afforded by institutions which may be established by the Supreme Lodge.

All other lawful means of raising funds common to fraternal organizations such as OSIA, as may from time to time be authorized by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council with the concurrent or subsequent approval of the Supreme Council.

All payments due the Supreme Lodge shall be remitted to the National Financial Secretary within fifteen (15) days of the date due. Late payments shall be subject to interest charges at the rate of one (1) percent simple interest per month or portion of a month during which the payment is overdue. It is the responsibility of the Grand Lodge to see that its payments are made timely.

DISBURSEMENTS

ART. 101. The Supreme Lodge may make disbursements for the following purposes:

(a) To pay the ordinary expenses of administration on the basis of the estimated budget compiled by the Supreme Council and approved by the preceding Supreme Convention.

(b) To pay the extraordinary expenses which have been approved by the plenary session of the Supreme Council.

(c) To pay such unforeseen expenses which may be incident to the purposes of the Order.

(d) To pay Mortuary and other benefits which may be established by the Supreme Lodge.

CHAPTER FIVE - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

CHARTERS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ART. 102. The Grand Lodges and the Local Lodges may be incorporated under the laws of the State wherein they are located; provided the purposes for which they are incorporated do not conflict with the laws, ideals, and purposes of the Order; and provided further that the articles of incorporation, before they are filed with the public authorities concerned, are submitted for approval:

(a) To the Supreme Council when they concern a Grand Lodge or a Local Lodge under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

(b) To the Grand Council when they concern a Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE GENERAL LAWS

ART. 103. The proposals to amend the laws of the Order may be made by the Council of the Local Lodge, by the Grand Council of the Grand Lodge, by the Supreme Council of the Supreme Lodge, and by a regular member of the Local Lodge, provided the following procedure is observed:

(a) When it is made by the Council, the Recording Secretary shall forward the proposal to the National Recording Secretary, if the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, or to the State Recording Secretary, if the Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, no less than three months prior to the date fixed for the Convention. If the proposal affects the laws of the Supreme Lodge, the State Recording Secretary, upon receipt thereof, shall forward the proposal to the National Recording Secretary. If the proposal is received within the time prescribed by this section, the National Recording Secretary or theState Recording Secretary, as the case may be, shall refer the proposal to the law committee. The law committee shall determine whether the proposal is to be reported to the Convention. Any appeal from the decision of the law committee may be taken on the Convention floor.

(b) When the proposal is made by a Grand Lodge or Grand Council, the State Recording Secretary shall forward it to the National Recording Secretary no less than forty-five days prior to the day fixed for the Supreme Convention. The proposal is to be inserted in the Orders of the Day of the Supreme Convention.

(c) When the proposal is made by the Supreme Council, a copy of it shall be sent to each National Delegate and to each National Officer with the notice calling the Supreme Convention into session.

(d) When it is made by a regular member of the Local Lodge, the proposal must be presented to the Recording Secretary of the Local Lodge no less than three months prior to the date fixed for the convention. The Recording Secretary, upon receipt of the proposal, shall forward it to the National Recording Secretary if the Local Lodge is under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge, or the Recording Secretary shall forward it to the State Recording Secretary if the Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. If the proposal affects the laws of the Supreme Lodge, the State Recording Secretary shall forward it to the National Recording Secretary. If the proposal is received within the time prescribed by this section, the National Recording Secretary or the State Recording Secretary, as the case may be, shall refer the proposal to the law committee. The law committee may decide not to report a proposal to the Convention floor, but the Delegates by majority vote shall have the final decision if the proposal is to be considered by the Delegates.

(e) All proposals to amend the General Laws of the Order, to be considered at the Supreme Convention must have been sent to all National Delegates and officers at least 15 days before the

opening date of the convention.

PROMULGATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF LAWS

ART. 104. The laws of the Order, and amendments thereto, are to be promulgated by the legislative body which adopted them. The laws of the Order and amendments thereto become effective:
(a) Immediately upon adoption by the Supreme Convention.
(b) Immediately upon approval by the Supreme Council when laws and amendments thereto have been adopted by the Grand Convention of a Grand Lodge.
(c) Immediately upon approval by the Grand Council when laws and amendments thereto have been adopted by the assembly of a Local Lodge.
(d) Immediately upon approval by the Supreme Council when lws and amendments thereto have been adopted by the assembly of a Local Lodge under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge.
Whenever new laws or amendments are adopted, the unit of the Order adopting them shall have such laws or amendments printed and added to the laws of the Order within two months following their effective date; provided no reprinting of the laws is about to take place or is then taking place. The duty to have the laws and amendments printed devolves upon the Supreme Council, the Grand Council, and the Council for the respective unit of each of them.

INCOMPATIBILITY OF OFFICE

ART. 105. It is the policy of the Order to spread the offices in the Order among the greatest possible number of members. To effect this policy no member shall be allowed to occupy offices which are incompatible. However, a Grand Council may authorize Local Lodges under its jurisdiction to temporarily assign the duties of a vacant office to another officer of the Local Lodge Council, except for the combination of the duties of Financial Secretary and Treasurer. With the exception of the offices of the Immediate Past President of the ranking units of the Order, the following offices shall be considered incompatible:
(a) To be a member of the Arbitration Commission of the Local Lodge, of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission, and of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission, or of any two units, at one and the same time.
(b) To be an officer of the Council of the Local Lodge, of the Grand Lodge, and of the Supreme Lodge, or of any units herein, at one and the same time.
(c) To be an officer in more than one Local Lodge when the member belongs to more than one Local Lodge.
(d) To be a State Officer and a member of a commission, except the Benefit Insurance Commission, of the Grand Lodge at one and the same time.
(e) To entrust one salaried office of the Grand Council or of the Supreme Council, while a vacancy occurs, to another salaried officer, the object of this section being to prevent the ranking units of the Order from filling the vacancy of the office of Treasurer by the Financial Secretary and vice-versa.
(f) To permit the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the ranking units of the Order to occupy another office in the Grand or Supreme Council at one and the same time.
(g) To permit first and second degree blood relatives to be members of the same Arbitration Commission.

(h) To permit a member of the Arbitration Commission of a ranking unit of the Order to appear as a defending counsel in cases which arise within such ranking unit or in the lower ranking units under the jurisdiction of such ranking unit.
(i) To permit a member of the Arbitration Commission of a Local Lodge in the Order to appear as defense counsel in cases which arise in such Local Lodge.
(j) To permit a member of the Arbitration Commission to sit in cases where the accused or the accuser is a first or second degree blood relative of such member.
(k) To permit a member of the Arbitration Commission to sit in cases where the member is interested in the outcome of the matter to be adjudged.
(l) To permit the Recording Secretary of any unit in the Order to function as clerk of the Arbitration Commission when the accused or accuser are first or second degree blood relatives of such Recording Secretary or such Recording Secretary is interested in the outcome of the matter to be adjudged. Whenever the Recording Secretary shall be disqualified to function as clerk under this section the Recording Secretary is to be substituted by another member of the Council of such unit appointed by the highest ranking officer thereof.
(m) To permit the Orator of any ranking unit of the Order to serve as a member of any Arbitration Commission.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

ART. 106. The elected officers of the Order begin their term and assume their office upon installation. Immediately thereafter, they perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of their respective offices. The elected officers of the Grand Lodge and of the Supreme Lodge are installed into office before the close of the Convention. In case an elected officer is absent during the installation ceremony, such officer shall be installed by the Grand Council, if a State Officer, and by the Supreme Council, if a National Officer.
The elected State Officers are to be installed by a National Officer, if present, or by a Special National Deputy, if present, or by the former State President; the elected National Officers are to be installed by a former National President.

TERMS OF OFFICE

ART. 107. The number of consecutive terms in the same office for elected officers shall be:
(a) One term for officers of the Local Lodge, unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge;
(b) Two terms for officers of the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge;
(c) All National Officers shall be eligible to serve two consecutive terms in the same position.
The term of office of appointed members of institutions and commissions shall run for the same period as that of the Council of the unit which appointed them; provided that in no case shall such term last beyond the expiration date of the term of such Council, unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Order or by public law governing such commissions and institutions.
Whenever the President of any ranking unit of the Order, for just cause, resigns his office, the resignation shall be without prejudice to his right to assume the office of Immediate Past President; provided he has served at least one full term as President immediately before his resignation. The

purpose of this Article is to give the resigning President precedence in the occupancy of the office of Immediate Past President, though such office be occupied at the time of resignation.
(Art. 107 revised 8/11/2007, reversed 8/9/2011 due to admin defect) –cc

FORFEITURE OF OFFICE

ART. 108.
(a) The elected officers of the ranking units of the Order shall forfeit their office when, without justifiable cause as determined by the Council of the ranking unit, they failed to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Local Lodge or its Council, or of the Grand Council, or of the Supreme Council, if members thereof.
(b) The appointed officers of the ranking units of the Order shall forfeit their office when without justifiable cause as determined by their appointing authority they fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the institution or commission, if members thereof.
(c) The State and National Delegates who fail to tender a notice of resignation, or fail to submit such a notice within ample time to permit substitution by alternates, or are absent from participation in the Convention, provided such absence is not due to circumstances beyond their control shall forfeit their office. Absence due to usual occupation shall in no case be a sufficient excuse.

ELECTIONS

ART. 109. Voting in general and special elections shall be by written or printed ballot for all offices, and shall be held during the month specified in the laws of the Order; unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge or of the Local Lodge. By unanimous consent however, a speedier method of voting may be adopted.
General and special elections of any of the ranking units of the Order are to be included in the orders of the day of the meeting in which they are to be held. The notice of the meeting in which a general or special election is to be held must be sent out no less than five days prior to the date of such meeting.
The election, general or special, is to be conducted under the supervision of the Electoral Board. The Electoral Board is composed of one President and four members appointed by the presiding officer of the assembly. The Electoral Board has the following duties:
(a) To distribute ballots among those present and qualified to vote.
(b) To count those present and ascertain that the number of those present and voting corresponds to the number of ballots found in the ballot box.
(c) To count the votes, excluding those ballots which are unmarked and segregating those that, in the opinion of the Board, may be void or contestable.
(d) To detect and declare void ballots which bear special marks and reveal the identity of the voter.
(e) To evaluate the vote for each candidate voted for each office.
(f) To supervise the election to the end that the secrecy of the ballot may be preserved and no fraud takes place in the balloting.
(g) To decide controversial questions arising during the course of the election, which decisions may be appealed within 10 days to the higher ranking council.
After the ballots have been counted and the votes tabulated, the President of the Electoral Board shall announce:
(h) The election of one of two candidates who has received the absolute majority of the votes lawfully cast.

(i) The new balloting after the original vote is taken and no one of the candidates voted for received an absolute majority of the votes cast; provided the new balloting be confined to the two candidates who received the highest vote short of an absolute majority.
(j) The election of a candidate who was unopposed.
(k) The election, in case of a tie vote, of the candidate whose continuous membership in the Order is the longest.

Whenever the assembly so deliberates, the election of officers and of State and National Delegates may be effective if the candidates receive a elative majority of the votes cast for each office.
When more than one officer must be elected to a given office, the ballot which contains more votes than the number of officers which must be elected to that office, shall be null and void; provided, however, a ballot rendered void hereunder for a particular office shall be valid as to any other office listed thereon if it otherwise conforms to law.
The names of the candidates must be listed on the ballot in the order of their drawings, by the National Recording Secretary, under the supervision of the Electoral Board and the candidates, or the designee of the candidate.
All elections held or conducted in contravention of the laws of the Order shall be considered null and void and of no effect. When protest of violation of the laws of the Order or protest of irregularities noted in the conduct of the election is made to the Electoral Board, the Board shall render an immediate opinion, following investigation, on the merit of the protest. The ruling rendered by the Electoral Board shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting before the name of the candidate elected is announced by the President of the Electoral Board. If a person making the protest is dissatisfied with the ruling rendered by the Electoral Board, the protest shall be submitted for determination to the Council of the higher ranking unit of the Order. When the Grand or the Supreme Council, as the case may be, renders a decision upon the protest, such decision shall be conclusive and not subject to appeal or review. But if the person making the protest is dissatisfied with the ruling rendered by the Electoral Board in cases where the election of National Officers is involved, the merit of the protest shall be decided by the Supreme Convention in the course of the meeting during which the protest was made.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

ART. 110. An erroneous application of the Laws of the Order by a Local Lodge, its Council, or its officers, or by a Grand Lodge, its Council or its officers can be appealed to the Council of the next higher ranking unit for Administrative Review.
Within ten (10) days from the date of an alleged erroneous application of the Laws of the Order by the Local Lodge or its Council or its officers, a member or officer who suffers injury or damage therefrom may present a written imputation therefrom against such Local Lodge, Council or officer, to the Local Lodge Recording Secretary. Immediately thereafter, the Local Lodge Recording Secretary shall forward such imputation to the Recording Secretary of the higher unit having jurisdiction over the Local Lodge. The Council of the higher unit shall determine upon the merit of the imputation as soon as possible after receipt of the imputation but not later than the next regularly scheduled Council meeting of said unit which follows receipt of the imputation.
Within ten (10) days from the date of an alleged erroneous application of the laws of the Order by a Grand Lodge or its Council or its officers, the lower ranking unit or the member or the officer who

suffers injury or damage therefrom may present a written imputation against such a Grand Lodge or Grand Council or State Officer to the Local Lodge Recording Secretary to forward such imputation to the State Recording Secretary. When an individual files an imputation pursuant to Article 110, it shall be accompanied by a $150 filing fee. Upon receipt of the imputation, the State Recording Secretary shall immediately forward the same to the National Recording Secretary who shall present it to the Supreme Council. The Supreme Council shall determine upon the merit of the imputation and render a decision thereon. The decision of the Supreme Council shall be final.

The Grand and Supreme Council shall determine imputations of erroneous application of the laws of the Order following a regular hearing had thereon, at which hearing the report and advice of the State or National Orator must be read. Failure to appear before the Grand or Supreme Council by the parties in interest shall not invalidate the decision rendered.

If, upon inquiry caused to be made by the Grand or Supreme Council or from the result of the hearing, it develops that the erroneous application of the laws of the Order was the result of fraud, rather than of mistake or error, perpetrated by the officers or by the Council, then the officers implicated in the fraud shall be prosecuted by order of the Grand or Supreme Council by the State or National Orator before the Arbitration Commission of the ranking unit having jurisdiction in conformity with the Judicial Code of the Order.

(Art. 110 revised 8/14/2013) –cc

SALARIES, INDEMNITIES, PER DIEM ALLOWANCES AND TRAVELING EXPENSES

ART. 111. Before proceeding to the election of officers, the assembly of the Local Lodge shall fix the salaries for the ensuing term. In addition, the assembly shall determine the emoluments to be paid to other officers. All salaries and emoluments fixed pursuant to this Article shall remain in effect until the expiration of the ensuing term, except that the Council shall have the right to allow a bonus for special work done or for extra services rendered.

In addition to traveling expenses, the National Officers, the members of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission, and the Special National Deputies, while on missions for the Order, shall receive $100.00 for each day spent to attend meetings of the Supreme Council and of the Supreme Lodge or spent on missions for the Order.

The traveling expenses and per diem pay for the State Officers, the members of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission, and the State Deputies, while on missions for the Order, shall be fixed by the Grand Lodge in the manner prescribed by its laws.

No Honorary State or National President nor other Honorary State or National Officer shall receive traveling expenses and per diem if the office held is strictly honorary. Such honorary officers shall not participate in the deliberations of the Grand and Supreme Council and shall not be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred to attend meetings.

The per diem shall be paid to the National Officer at the rate of $100.00 only if such officer is compelled to stay away from home overnight on a mission for the Order.

The Council of each ranking unit of the Order shall determine the per diem to be paid to witnesses summoned to appear to give testimony before the Arbitration Commission of each respective unit in cases heard by such Commission.

The per diem in addition to traveling expenses shall be for the actual number of days necessarily spent in the fulfillment of the mission for the Order. Traveling expenses are to include expenses necessarily

incurred to travel from the usual abode to the locality in which the mission is to be performed and return home.

The State and Special National Deputies are to receive traveling expenses and per diem whenever they undertake a mission by direction of the State or National President. The State Chaplain and National Chaplain, but not the Chaplain are to receive traveling expenses and per diem whenever they undertake a mission by direction of the State President or National President. The per diem, traveling expenses, and reimbursements are to be paid:

(a) By the Local Lodge for its State Delegates.

(b) By the Grand Lodge for its State Officers, Members of its Institutions and Commissions, National Delegates, Members of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission, and State Deputies.

(c) By the Supreme Lodge for its National Officers, Members of its Institution and Commissions, National Delegates from Local Lodges under the direct and immediate dependence of the Supreme Lodge and Special National Deputies.

The State and National Delegates shall receive their per diem only for those days during which they actually participate on the work of the Grand or Supreme Convention. If without just cause or important reason the Delegates fail to attend and take part in any of the sessions of the Grand or Supreme Convention, they shall lose the per diem for each day they are absent and also the right to reimbursement for traveling expenses incurred to attend the Convention.

MANNER OF VOTING

ART. 112. Oral or written motions are to be made and seconded by members in good standing having the right to vote. The vote upon motions may be either by raising of hands, by roll call, or by division of the assembly; however, the vote by roll call shall be mandatory whenever no less than five members of the assembly request it, unless a different number is established by the laws of the Grand Lodge. Motions which affect a particular member of the assembly are to be voted on by secret vote. All motions shall be adopted by majority vote.

CREDENTIALS OF STATE AND NATIONAL DELEGATES

ART. 113. To be recognized and function as such, the State or National Delegates must present a proper identification card before they may be allowed to take part in the Grand or Supreme Convention. The identification card is to be furnished to each Delegate by the State or National Recording Secretary on the basis of credentials forwarded by the Local Lodge or by the Grand Lodge. Before the identification card is issued to the Delegate of a particular Local Lodge or Grand Lodge, the credential must show that such Delegate is in good standing with the Local Lodge of which the Delegate is a member.

The State Recording Secretary shall not send the identification card to any State Delegate whose Local Lodge is not in good standing with the Grand Lodge.

The National Recording Secretary shall not send the identification card to any National Delegate whose Grand Lodge is in arrears with two or more quarterly payments of the Capita Tax and/or other assessments.

The credentials of Delegates may be accepted and identification cards issued thereon upon payment by the Local Lodge or by the Grand Lodge of all arrearage due up to the last day of the quarter preceding the Convention; provided such payment is made before the opening of the Convention; and provided further that the State or National Recording Secretary shall not be obliged to send the identification cards to

each Delegate, but may deliver such identification cards to each individual Delegate or to the higher ranking officer of the Local Lodge or of the Grand Lodge present to attend the Convention.
All credentials of Delegates sent to the State or National Recording Secretary by the Local Lodge or Grand Lodges subject to disciplinary measures imposed upon them depriving them of representation on the Convention, shall be considered null and void and of no effect. The State or National Recording Secretary is hereby forbidden to issue identification cards upon credentials forwarded by any such Local Lodge or Grand Lodge.

REGULATIONS OF A MISCELLANEOUS NATURE

ART. 114. Whenever the General Laws of the Supreme Lodge conflict with the Constitution of the Supreme Lodge, the Constitution of the Supreme Lodge shall prevail. Whenever the Constitution and General Laws of the Supreme Lodge conflict with the laws of the Grand Lodge or of the Local Lodge, the Constitution and General Laws of the Supreme Lodge shall prevail over the others.
Whenever the laws of the Grand Lodge conflict with those of a Local Lodge within its jurisdiction, the laws of the Grand Lodge shall prevail. Whenever the laws of the Supreme Lodge conflict with those of a Local Lodge within its jurisdiction, the laws of the Supreme Lodge shall prevail.
In the event of doubt or conflict between English and Italian versions of these laws, the English version shall prevail.
To commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, the Supreme Lodge proclaims Columbus Day as the **OFFICIAL HOLIDAY OF THE ORDER.** Since the discovery of America by the Italian navigator, who divined the event and blazed the way to its realization, is a milestone in the history and progress of mankind, the Grand Lodges and the Local Lodges of the Order shall celebrate such anniversary each year in a solemn and dignified manner worthy of the outstanding achievements and greatness of Christopher Columbus.
Whenever National or State Officers, either individually or collectively, officially attend the manifestations, the festivities, and the initiation ceremonies of the Local Lodges or pay official visits to them, they shall be accorded the honors due to them as prescribed by the laws of the Order.

ART. 115. The Financial Secretaries and Treasurers of all ranking units in the Order shall be required to give a surety bond in such an amount as may be determined by the Council of the ranking unit. Moreover, the Treasurer of the Mortuary fund and all other officers and employees who have custody of funds of any ranking unit of the Order shall likewise be required to give a surety bond in such amount as may be determined by the Council of such ranking unit. The surety bonds are to be deposited with the President of the unit for whose benefit the bond is given and the premium therefor shall be paid by such unit.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ART. 116. There is hereby created the Office of National Executive Director.

ART. 117. The National Executive Director shall be an employee of the Supreme Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America and shall perform such duties as directed by the National President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council.

ELECTRONIC MAIL COMMUNICATIONS

ART. 118. Electronic Mail is an acceptable substitute for first class U.S. Mail for all members who have email capability.
(Art. 118 revised 8/14/2013) –cc

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

ART. 119. The rules contained in the current edition of **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised** shall govern the Order Sons of Italy in America in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Order Sons of Italy in America may adopt.
(Art. 119 added 8/19/2015) – cc

JUDICIAL CODE OF THE ORDER

PREFACE

The Judicial Code of the Order guarantees each member the privileges and protections of the Constitution and General Laws of the Order. This Judicial Code supersedes all existing judicial procedures in all ranking units of the Order.

JUDICIARY POWERS

JC ART. 1. The Judicial Code of the Order is the primary method of enforcing the Constitution and General Laws of the Order and resolving disputes arising within the Order over application of the Laws of the Order. No member may resort to the Civil Courts until they have pursued and exhausted all available remedies under this Judicial Code. Wherever the word "member" is used in this Judicial Code it shall only mean "regular" and "associate" member.

JC ART. 2. The Judiciary powers of the Order are exercised by:
(a) The Supreme Court of the Order
(b) The Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission
(c) The Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission
(d) The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission
(e) The Trial Commissioners of the Arbitration Commissions of the ranking units of the Order

SUPREME COURT OF THE ORDER

JC ART. 3. The Supreme Court of the Order shall be composed of all of the State Presidents of the Grand Lodges of the Order, except the State President(s) of the Grand Lodge(s) from which the cause for judicial determination arose. A majority of the membership of the Supreme Court of the Order shall constitute a quorum and they must be present for the Supreme Court to convene. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Supreme Court of the Order present, at a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall be necessary for the authorization, decision or taking of any action voted upon by the Court. The members of the Supreme Court of the Order, at the time the court is convened, shall then elect a President from among their members who shall be known as President of the Supreme Court of the Order. The President shall be entitled to vote at any meetings and hearings and shall preside at all meetings and hearings. The President shall also act as the Clerk.

JC ART. 4. The Supreme Court of the Order shall have jurisdiction as follows:
(a) To conduct a trial of the charges filed against the National President by the affirmative vote of a majority of the National Officers of the Supreme Council.
(b) To hear appeals of the decision to suspend the National President made by the affirmative vote of a majority of the National Officers of the Supreme Council.
(c) To hear appeals on decisions rendered by the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission.
(d) To hear appeals on decisions rendered by a National Trial Commissioner

SUPREME LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

JC ART. 5. The Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of the five (5) members elected at the biennial convention of the Supreme Lodge for a period of two (2) years and serve until their successors are elected and installed. A quorum shall consist of not less than three (3) members present at a meeting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting, at which a quorum is present, is necessary for the authorization, decision or taking of any action voted upon by the Commission. The members shall meet immediately following their installation and elect a President from their membership who shall be known as President of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission and a Recording Secretary who shall be known as the Recording Secretary of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission. The President shall be entitled to vote at any meeting and hearings. Whenever any of the five (5) elected Commissioners is unable to serve for any reason as a Commissioner, such Commissioner shall be replaced (temporarily or permanently) by an Alternate Commissioner selected in the order of the votes (highest to lowest) received for election as an Alternate Commissioner.
(JC Art. 5 revised 8/12/2009) -cc

JC ART. 6. The Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission shall, by majority vote, decide whether to exercise its original or appellate jurisdiction; and, when acting as a Commission of original jurisdiction, will act through a Trial Commissioner who is elected by majority vote of the Commission members; and, have original and appellate jurisdiction as follows:

(a) To hear complaints filed by the National Orator.

(b) To hear complaints filed against Grand Lodges, against Local Lodges under differing Grand Lodges or against Local Lodges under direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge.

(c) To hear complaints filed against National Officers (other than the National President), against a State President or against Presidents of Local Lodges under the direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge.

(d) To hear appeals on decisions rendered by State Trial Commissioners, the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission, and by the Trial Commissioner of Local Lodges under the direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge.

GRAND LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

JC ART. 7. The Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of the five (5) members elected at the Biennial Convention of the Grand Lodge for a period of two (2) years and serve until their successors are elected and installed. Grand Lodges holding annual conventions may elect its Arbitration Commission for a period of one (1) year and they shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. A quorum shall consist of not less than three (3) members present at a meeting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting, at which a quorum is present, shall be necessary for the authorization, decision or taking of any action voted upon by the Commission. The members shall meet immediately following their installation and elect a President from their membership who shall be known as President of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission. The President shall be entitled to vote at any meeting and hearing of the Commission and shall preside at all meetings and hearings. Whenever any of the five (5) elected Commissioners is unable to serve for any reason as a Commissioner, such Commissioner shall be replaced (temporarily or permanently) by an Alternate Commissioner selected in the order of the votes (highest to lowest) received for election as an Alternate

Commissioner.

JC ART. 8. The Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission shall, by majority vote, decide whether to exercise its original or appellate jurisdiction; and, when acting as a Commission of appellate jurisdiction, will act through a full Commission of five (5) members; and when acting as a Commission of original jurisdiction, will act through a Trial Commissioner who is elected by majority vote of the Commission members; and, have original and appellate jurisdiction as follows:

(a) To hear complaints filed by the State Orator.

(b) To hear complaints filed against Local Lodges under the direct supervision of the Grand Lodge.

(c) To hear complaints filed against State Officers (other than the State President) or against the President of Local Lodges under the direct supervision of the Grand Lodge.

(d) To hear appeals on decisions rendered by Local Lodge Trial Commissioners.

LOCAL LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

JC ART. 9. The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of the five (5) members elected at the annual meeting for electing officers of the Local Lodge for a period of one year and they shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Local Lodges holding biennial elections shall elect its Arbitration Commission for a period of two (2) years and they shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. A quorum shall consist of not less than three (3) members present at a meeting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting, at which a quorum is present, shall be necessary for the authorization or taking of any action voted upon by the Commission. The members shall meet immediately following their installation and elect a President from their membership who shall be known as President of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission. The President shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Commission and shall preside at all meetings. Whenever any of the five (5) elected commissioners is unable to serve for any reason as a Commissioner, such Commissioner shall be replaced (temporarily or permanently) by an Alternate Commissioner selected in the order of the votes (highest to lowest) received for election as an Alternate Commissioner.

JC ART. 10. The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission shall act as a commission of original jurisdiction, and will act through a Trial Commissioner, who is elected by majority vote of the commission members as follows:

(a) To hear complaints filed by the Local Lodge Orator against members and Officers (except the President) of the Local Lodge.

(b) To hear complaints filed by members of the Local Lodge against members and Officers (except the President) of the Local Lodge.

GENERAL PROCEEDINGS

JC ART. 11. All trials of complaints and hearings of appeals shall be open only to members of the Order. The general public shall be excluded. Any party may be represented, at that party's expenses by a member of the Order, at a trial or hearing. Any party may call any witness, whether a member or non-member of the Order, at such party's expense.

ABSENT PARTIES

JC ART. 12. If any party and/or their designated representative, if any, fails to appear at any proceeding after notice of such proceeding in accordance with Article 13 or 14 of this Judicial Code, such proceeding shall be held regardless of whether or not said party or their designated representative, if any, appears and a decision may be rendered.

SERVICE

JC ART. 13. Whenever the Recording Secretary is required to serve any document or notice in accordance with this Judicial Code, such service shall be made as follows:

(a) By Registered United States Mail or by United States Certified Mail with a return receipt requested, or by personal service.

(b) If by personal service, any adult individual may personally serve any document or notice, and said person shall sign a statement indicating the name to whom service was made, the date and place the service was made, and itemize all documents served. This statement shall become a part of the record of the proceedings.

JC ART. 14. If service is by Registered United States Mail or United States Certified Mail, and the envelope is returned with an endorsement showing the failure of service, such as refusal, unclaimed, etc., and if no personal service can be made, then service shall be by publication as follows:

(a) Before service by publication can be made, the moving party shall file an affidavit, as part of the record of the proceedings, stating that service cannot be made in accordance with Article 13 (a) of this Judicial Code.

(b) The Recording Secretary shall publish a notice, at least once, in the newspaper of the ranking unit of the Order, or if the ranking unit does not publish a newspaper, then in a newspaper of general circulation in the general jurisdiction wherein the party to be notified resides

(c) The published notice shall contain the name of the party to be notified, a brief summary of the purpose of the cause of action, and the name and address of the Recording Secretary.

(d) Service shall be completed at the date of the last publication.

(e) Upon confirmation of publication, the Recording Secretary shall file an affidavit, as part of the record of the proceedings, showing the fact of publication together with a copy of the newspaper publication of the notice as part of the record of the proceedings.

(f) The affidavit and copy of the published notice shall constitute proof of service.

(g) No proceeding may commence earlier than thirty (30) days following the last date of publication of any notice specifying the proceeding and its commencement date.

THE COMPLAINT

JC ART. 15. The complaint shall be in writing and shall contain the following information:

(a) The name, address and telephone number of the complainant.

(b) The name, address and telephone number of the respondent.

(c) A clear and concise statement, in plain language, explaining the alleged violation(s) of the law(s) of the Order and such additional information necessary to clarify the nature of the offense(s).
(d) The name, address and telephone number of witnesses to the offense(s), if known at the time the complaint is filed.
(e) A simple and concise statement of the relief requested or as specified in the laws of Order.
(f) The name, address and telephone number of any designated representative of the complainant.
(g) The signature of the complainant and the date signed.

JC ART. 16. An original copy of the complaint shall be filed with the Recording Secretary of the Arbitration Commission having jurisdiction at the address of record for said Recording Secretary. (JC Art. 16 revised 8/12/2009) -cc

JC ART. 17. No complaint may be filed unless it is filed:
(a) Not later than six (6) months from the date of the offense or not later than six (6) months from the date the offense became known, or should have become known in the exercise of reasonable diligence, whichever is later.
(b) Includes deposit of any required filing fees established in Article 48 of this Judicial Code with the Recording Secretary.

JC ART. 18. Upon receipt of a complaint the Recording Secretary shall:
(a) Date the complaint received.
(b) Forward one copy of the complaint to the President of the Arbitration Commission.
(c) Serve, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, one copy of the complaint to the respondent; a statement that the respondent must file an answer within thirty (30) days; and require that the respondent must notify the Recording Secretary of any designated representative within thirty (30) days. If no answer is filed, all averments of fact contained in the complaint will be deemed admitted.

JC ART. 19. A copy of any subsequent filings must be served on all parties and the President of the Arbitration Commission by the proponent.

JC ART. 20. The Recording Secretary shall:
(a) Forward a copy of all filings to the Trial Commissioner.
(b) Notify, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, all parties and their designated representatives, if any, of the identity of the Trial Commissioner.

JC ART. 21. The Trial Commissioner shall establish a pre-trial hearing date to be attended by the complainant and the respondent along with their designated representatives, if any. At the pre-trial hearing, the Trial Commissioner shall:
(a) Define the issues which will be presented at the trial.
(b) Record the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all witnesses who will be called to testify at the trial by either party.
(c) Establish the date, time and place for the trial and review the trial procedure.
(d) Receive any information the parties may desire to submit.

(e) Issue a pre-trial order through the Recording Secretary, setting forth the above information and any other necessary information in writing to all parties and their designated representatives, if any, within twenty (20) days from the pre-trial hearing date.

JC ART. 22. All parties shall make an effort to resolve the matter and if possible arrive at a final disposition at the pre-trial hearing date or at any time prior to commencement of the trial.

TRIAL

JC ART. 23. The trial shall be held at a location determined by the Trial Commissioner. The proceedings of the trial shall be recorded and transcribed at the sole cost and expense of the complainant.

JC ART. 24. The following trial procedure, power, and authority shall apply:
(a) The Trial Commissioner shall declare the trial open and verify that any designated representatives are members of the Order.
(b) Administration of the following oath by the Trial Commissioner or the Recording Secretary to all persons who will give testimony at the trial:

> **I _____ swear (affirm) to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in this hearing, so help me God.**

(c) The complainant shall present its case, evidence and witness(es) which shall be subject to cross examination by the respondent and/or their designated representative, if any, and/or the Trial Commissioner.
(d) The respondent shall then present its defense, evidence and witness(es) which shall be subject to cross examination by the complainant and/or their designated representative, if any, and/or the Trial Commissioner.
(e) If during the trial any witness refuse to testify, and/or to answer questions asked of them, or if such witness becomes unruly, abusive or uses foul and profane language, the actions of the witness shall be referred to the Orator of the ranking unit of the Order for appropriate action.
(f) The Trial Commissioner shall have the authority to require the parties to submit any additional evidence and/or to call additional witnesses.
(g) The Trial Commissioner shall have the authority to interpret the laws of the Order.
(h) The parties and their designated representatives, if any, may submit any oral or written arguments to the Trial Commissioner they deem appropriate to their position.

JC ART. 25. The Trial Commissioner shall render a written decision within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trial. In rendering a decision, the Trial Commissioner shall consider all the evidence submitted. The burden of proof shall rest upon the complainant who shall be required to prove his case by a fair preponderance of the evidence. Whenever the evidence is equally balanced, a decision in favor of the respondent is to be returned.

JC ART. 26. The Trial Commissioner may by decision:
(a) Expel a party from the Order.
(b) Remove a party from office.
(c) Suspend a party from office for a period of time deemed advisable.

(d) Suspend the rights and privileges of a party for a period of time deemed advisable.
(e) Assess the trial cost as established in Article 50 of this Judicial Code, including stenographic costs previously paid by the complainant, against either party or both of the parties equally.
(f) Impose a fine.

JC ART. 27. The Recording Secretary shall serve, in accordance with Article 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, a copy of the decision to all parties including their designated representatives, if any; the President of the Arbitration Commission; and the President and the Orator of the unit of the Order wherefrom the complaint originated.

JC ART. 28. The decisions of the Trial Commissioner shall be considered as and are the laws of the Order. The orders, findings and decisions of the Trial Commissioner shall be carried out immediately by all affected parties and/or the ranking units of the Order. An appeal shall not operate to stay the decision of the Trial Commissioner. A stay must first be sought from the Trial Commissioner and, if refused, the request for a stay then by application to the next higher ranking tribunal of the Order.

APPEALS

JC ART. 29. The losing party (the appealing party) may appeal a Trial Commissioner's decision or an appellate decision to the next higher ranking Arbitration Commission, or if appropriate, to the Supreme Court of the Order; that is, from Local Lodge Trial Commissioner to the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission; from the State Trial Commissioner to the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission; from the decision of the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission to the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission; from the National Trial Commissioner to the Supreme Court of the Order; and from the decision of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission to the Supreme Court of the Order.

JC ART. 30. The appeal shall be in writing and shall contain the following information:
(a) A clear and concise statement, in plain language, explaining the reason for the appeal.
(b) The signature of the appealing party and the date signed.
(c) A copy of the complete transcript of the trial proceedings or intermediate appellate decision being appealed.

JC ART. 31. The appeal shall be filed as follows:
(a) An original copy with the Recording Secretary of the Arbitration Commission having jurisdiction at the address of record for said Recording Secretary.
(b) Not later than thirty (30) days from the date the appealing party received a copy of the Trial Commissioner's decision or the decision rendered by any Arbitration Commission.
(c) Deposit the required filing fees established in Article 49 of this Judicial Code with the Recording Secretary.
(d) If the requirements as set forth in Article 31(a), (b), and (c) of this Judicial Code set forth above are not followed, then the appeal may be quashed upon motion of the responding party.

JC ART. 32. Upon receipt of an appeal the Recording Secretary shall:
(a) Date the appeal received.
(b) Serve, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, one copy of the appeal to the non-appealing party and their designated representative, if any, and a statement that the non-appealing party and their designated representative, if any, may or may not file a reply with thirty (30) days.

(c) Obtain a copy of the complete transcript of the trial proceedings or appellate proceedings being appealed (including the original filings and all documents submitted and received into the record as evidence at the trial or appellate hearing) from the Recording Secretary of the appropriate Arbitration Commission.

JC ART. 33. The Recording Secretary shall serve, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, one copy of any subsequent filings to all parties and their designated representatives, if any; and:
(a) Convene the Arbitration Commission and determine a suitable date, time and place to conduct a hearing.
(b) Advise all parties and their designated representatives, if any, of the date, time and place set for the hearing of the appeal.

JC ART. 34. The appeal shall be heard by the full Arbitration Commission and the following procedure, power and authority shall apply:
(a) The appealing party and/or their designated representative, if any, shall present reasons for the appeal.
(b) The non-appealing party and/or their designated representative, if any, shall respond accordingly.
(c) The members of the Arbitration Commission shall have the authority to inquire of the parties on the issues of the case.
(d) The Arbitration Commission shall have the authority to interpret the laws of the Order, and to assess the costs as established in Article 50 of this Judicial Code, including stenographic costs previously paid by the complainant, against either party or both parties equally.
(e) The parties and their designated representatives, if any, may submit any oral or written arguments to the Arbitration Commission they deem appropriate to their position.
(f) Oral submissions shall be presented first by the appealing party and/or their designated representative, if any, and followed by the non-appealing party and/or their designated representative, if any.
(g) At the conclusion of all presentations, the President of the Arbitration Commission shall declare the hearing closed but subject to any written memorandums either party and their designated representatives, if any, may desire to submit within tn (10) days.

JC ART. 35. The Arbitration Commission shall render a written decision to all parties and their designated representatives within thirty (30) days. In rendering a decision, the Arbitration Commission may affirm, modify or set aside any decision of a lower tribunal or Trial Commissioner. A lower tribunal's decision may be set aside or modified only upon a showing of the abuse of the discretion given to the lower tribunal. The decision shall be signed by not less than three (3) concurring members of the Arbitration Commission.

JC ART. 36. The Recording Secretary shall serve, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, a copy of the decision to all parties including their designated representatives, if any; and the President(s) and Orator(s) of the appropriate ranking units of the Order.

JC ART. 37. The decision of the Arbitration Commission shall be considered as and are the laws of the Order. The orders, findings and decision of the Arbitration Commission shall be carried out by all affected parties and/or the ranking units of the Order. An appeal shall not operate to stay the decision of

the Arbitration Commission. A stay must first be sought from the Arbitration Commission and if they refuse the request for a stay then by application to the next higher ranking tribunal of the Order.

APPEALS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE ORDER

JC ART. 38. The losing party (appealing party) may appeal a National Trial Commissioner's decision or decision of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission to the Supreme Court of the Order.

JC ART. 39. The appeal shall be in writing and shall contain the following information:
(a) A clear and concise statement, in plain language, explaining the reason for the appeal.
(b) The signature of the appealing party and the date signed.
(c) A copy of the complete transcript of the trial proceedings or intermediate appellate decision being appealed.

JC ART. 40. The appeal shall be filed as follows:
(a) An original copy with the National Recording Secretary addressed and mailed to the National Office of the Order with copies to the non-appealing party.
(b) Not later than thirty (30) days from the date the appealing party received a copy of the National Trial Commissioner's decision or the decision rendered by the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission.
(c) Deposit the required filing fees established in Article 49 of this Judicial Code with the National Recording Secretary.
(d) If the requirements set forth in Article 40 (a), (b), and (c) of this Judicial Code set forth above are not followed, then the appeal may be quashed upon motion of the responding party.

JC ART. 41. Upon receipt of an appeal, the National Recording Secretary shall:
(a) Date the appeal received.
(b) Forward one copy of the appeal to the National President.
(c) Obtain a copy of the complete transcript of the trial proceedings or appellate proceedings being appealed (including the original filings and all documents submitted at the trial or appellate hearing) from the Recording Secretary of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission.

JC ART. 42. The parties shall serve one copy of any subsequent filings on the National President.

JC ART. 43. The National President shall:
(a) Instruct the National Recording Secretary to forward a copy of all materials filed to all members of the Supreme Court of the Order.
(b) Determine a suitable date (not later than the next scheduled Supreme Council Meeting), time and place to conduct a hearing.
(c) Instruct the National Recording Secretary to notify, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, all parties and their designated representatives, if any, of the date, time and place set for the hearing of the appeal.

JC ART. 44. The appeal shall be heard by not less than a majority of the members of the Supreme Court of the Order and the following procedure, power and authority shall apply:

(a) The appealing party and/or their designated representative, if any, shall present its reasons for the appeal.
(b) The non-appealing party and/or their designated representative, if any, shall respond accordingly.
(c) The members, of the Supreme Court of the Order shall have the authority to inquire of the parties on the issues of the case.
(d) The Supreme Court of the Order shall have the authority to interpret the laws of the Order, and to assess the cost as established in Article 50 of this Judicial Code, including stenographic costs previously paid by the complainant, against either party or both parties equally.
(e) The parties and their designated representatives, if any, may submit any oral or written arguments to the Supreme Court of the Order they deem appropriate.
(f) Oral submissions shall be presented first by the appealing party and followed by the non-appealing party.
(g) At the conclusion of all presentations, the President of the Supreme Court of the Order shall declare the hearing closed.

JC ART. 45. The Supreme Court of the Order shall render a written decision to all parties and their designated representatives, if any. In rendering a decision, the Supreme Court of the Order shall only set aside or modify a lower tribunal's decision upon a showing of the abuse of the discretion given to the lower tribunal. The decision shall be signed by not less than a majority of the concurring members of the Supreme Court of the Order who heard the case.

JC ART. 46. The National Recording Secretary shall serve, in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of this Judicial Code, a copy of the decision to all parties including their designated representatives, if any; and the President(s) and Orator(s) of the appropriate ranking units of the Order.

JC ART. 47. The decisions of the Supreme Court of the Order shall be considered as and are laws of the Order. The orders, findings and decisions of the Supreme Court of the Order shall be carried out immediately by all affected parties and/or the ranking units of the Order.

JUDICIAL FEES AND COSTS

JC ART. 48. Whenever a complaint is filed, it shall be accompanied by a one-hundred dollar ($100) filing fee unless the complaint is filed by an Orator of a ranking unit pursuant the duties of the Orator, in which event there is no filing fee.

JC ART. 49. Whenever an appeal is filed, it shall be accompanied by a filing fee as established by the following schedule:
(a) Four-hundred dollars ($400) when the appeal is from a decision rendered by a Trial Commissioner.
(b) One-thousand dollars ($1,000) when the appeal is from a decision of an Arbitration Commission (second appeal).
(c) Two-thousand dollars ($2,000) when the appeal is from a decision of the Supreme Lodge Arbitration Commission, and which decision was also appealed from a Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission (third appeal).

JC ART. 50. The costs of conducting a trial before a Trial Commissioner include the following:

(a) Stenographer's fees
(b) Transcript of the record of the trial if it is reduced to writing
(c) Photo-copying and postage
(d) Publication costs, if any, of Article 14 of this Judicial Code
(e) The per-diem as established by the laws of the ranking unit for the Trial Commissioner and Recording Secretary
(f) The cost of travel, lodging, and meals less the per-diem established by the laws of the ranking unit for the Trial Commissioner and Recording Secretary
(g) The cost of obtaining a room for holding a trial before the trial Commissioner.

JC ART. 51. The cost and per-diem for conducting hearings on appeals by any Arbitration Commission and the Supreme Court of the Order shall be borne by the ranking unit of the Order and shall not require any authorization for payment by any of the ranking units and shall be made from the treasury of such ranking unit.

RECORDS

JC ART. 52. A copy of the final decision rendered in a trial or hearing shall be forwarded by the Recording Secretary of the ranking unit of the Order to the National Home Office of the Order. For purpose of this article, a final decision is a decision which was not appealed.

APPENDIX A

FRATERNAL PACT

Resolution

WHEREAS, there has existed since December of 1954 a Fraternal Pact between the Supreme Lodge, Order Sons of Italy and the Grand Lodge Dominion of Canada, Order Sons of Italy of Ontario, with an amendment to said Fraternal Pact approved by both parties in April/May, 1971, as more fully set forth in Appendix "A" of the Constitution and General Laws of the Order Sons of Italy in America; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Canada, Order Sons of Italy has been granted a charter of incorporation by the Federal Government of Canada under the name "Order Sons of Italy of Canada," thereby replacing the Grand Lodge of Canada, Order Sons of Italy of Ontario; and

WHEREAS, the new federally incorporated Order Sons of Italy of Canada, hereinafter referred to as OSIC, is desirous of entering into a new relationship with the Order Sons of Italy in America, hereinafter referred to as the Supreme Lodge, under the following terms and conditions:

1. OSIC's present per capita tax to the Supreme Lodge will be eliminated.
2. OSIC will pay a membership fee of one dollar ($1.00) per year in United States Currency, with membership figures as of January 1st of each calendar year. OSIC's payment of the total annual membership fees will be paid on or about July 1st of each year, which is the first day of the Supreme Lodge's fiscal year.
3. OSIC's representation in the Supreme Lodge will be limited to the President of OSIC being a member of the Supreme Cabinet with full voting power on said Supreme Cabinet. The President of OSIC may attend the Biennial Convention of the Supreme Lodge at OSIC's expense.
4. The President of OSIC will be kept apprised of the Supreme Lodge's organizational developments and meetings.
5. Although the members of OSIC will not receive the OSIA News, the President of OSIC will at all times remain on the Supreme Cabinet mailing list and will receive complimentary copies of OSIA News for himself/herself and other OSIC National Officers; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Supreme Lodge, a fraternal organization, being an integral part of the United States of America, are dedicated to the progress of these United States and which they serve at all times with undivided devotion; realizing that they uphold, and strengthen this Republic through an intelligent and constant exercise of civil duties and rights and obedience to the Constitution of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the members of OSIC, a fraternal organization, being an integral part of Canada, are dedicated to the progress of Canada and which they serve at all times with undivided devotion; realizing that they uphold and strengthen Canada through intelligent and constant exercise of their civic duties and rights, and obedience to the laws of Canada, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Supreme Lodge and members of OSIC, united in the belief in God, are conscious of being a representative element of an old civilization which has contributed to the

enlightenment of the human spirit are justly proud of the contribution made by those of Italian extraction to the civic and cultural development of America and Canada, and which pride will become stronger with the knowledge and practice of collective action and responsibilities;

Now, **THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** that it is deemed fitting and proper that the Supreme Lodge and OSIC, subject to the above conditions 1 through 5, unite in a spiritual bond, for the following purposes;

1. To unite in one social entity people of Italian descent residing in North America, without prejudice as to religious or political faith, who believe in the fundamental conceptions of a society based upon law and order, and a government founded on principles of country and nation.
2. To foster and promote international understanding between the United States and Canada.
3. To uphold the concept of Americanism and Canadianism.
4. To encourage the diffusion of Italian culture and language as an effective medium of the appreciation of the race; to keep alive in the youth the spiritual admiration for the land of their fathers, with the knowledge that the cultural, historical, and traditional patrimony constitutes the greatest contribution that they can make to the progress of America and Canada.
5. To promote the moral, intellectual, and material advancement of the members; to initiate and support causes for the defense, affirmation and exaltation of the Italian name in America and Canada; to determine and propagate the contribution made by people of Italian extraction in the discovery and development of America and Canada.
6. To organize institutions of charitable assistance and social welfare for the mutual protection of the needy, widows and orphans; to give benefits, subsidies, and help as material examples of the solidarity of the Italian people; and to encourage and instill in the hearts of the members the sense of traditional independence, dignity and pride of our people.

The above *Resolution* was unanimously approved by the Supreme Delegates to the 43rd Biennial Supreme Convention, meeting at The Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida, August 22-29, 1993.

Joanne L. Strollo, National President
Order Sons of Italy in America

The above *Resolution* was unanimously approved by the delegates of OSIC at an annual meeting held on May 14, 1994, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Chris Bennedsen, National President
Order Sons of Italy of Canada

APPENDIX B

SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION, TRUST AGREEMENT

Trust agreement made this 24th day of August, 1959, by and between the ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, a fraternal organization, hereinafter referred to as the Donor, and Joseph Gorrasi, Supreme Venerable, John Ottaviano, First Assistant Supreme Venerable, George J. Spatuzza, Ex-Supreme Venerable, Joseph C. Palermo, Supreme Orator, Joseph A.L. Errigo, Supreme Recording Secretary, Americo A. DeMartinis, Supreme Financial Secretary, Joseph Cernuto, Supreme Treasurer, John A. Volpe and Americo V. Cortese, hereinafter referred to as the Trustees.

1. Purpose of Trust: This Trust is created and shall be operated exclusively and solely within the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect, for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, within the United States or any of its possessions. No part of the Trust Fund shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and no part of the activities of this Trust shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, or of participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

2. Name of Trust: The name of this Trust shall be the Sons of Italy Foundation, and, so far as practicable, the Trustees shall conduct the activities of the Trust in that name.

3. Trust Fund: The Trustees may receive donations from the Donor or from any other source in cash or in other property acceptable to them. All donations so received, together with the income therefrom, herein referred to as the Trust Fund, shall be held, managed, administered and paid out by the Trustees pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Trustees may accept donations which restrict their uses and purposes, provided such restrictions are within the uses and purposes set forth in paragraph one (1) and which limit the time, manner, amount or other terms of distribution; but, unless otherwise specifically required, the Trustees may mingle such restricted donations with other assets of the Trust Fund.

4. Use of Trust Fund: The trustees shall apply the Trust Fund, at such time or times, in such manner, and in such amounts as they may determine or as may be required by restricted donations, to the uses and purposes set forth in paragraph one (1), or they may make contributions to other charitable organizations to be used within the United States or any of its possessions. For this purpose, the term "charitable organizations" shall mean a corporation, trust or community chest, fund or foundation, created and organized in the United States or in any possession thereof, or under the law of the United States, or any State or Territory, or the District of Columbia, or any possession of the United States, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation. The Trustees shall not unreasonably accumulate income within the prohibition and limitation of Section 504 of the Internal Revenue Code or any similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect.

5. Action of Trustees: The Trustees shall act by a vote of a majority of their number at any given time. Any instrument required to be executed by this Trust shall be valid if executed in the name of this Trust by such a majority of the Trustees. All actions of the Trustees shall be taken either by resolution at a meeting or by written record without a meeting. The Trustees shall appoint from among themselves a secretary who shall cause a record to be kept of all actions of the Trustees. A copy of any resolution or actions taken by the Trustees, certified by any one of the Trustees, may be relied upon by any person dealing with this Trust. No person shall be required to see to the application of any money, securities or other property paid or delivered to the Trustees or to inquire into any action, decision or authority of the Trustees.

6. Trustees Powers: In the administration of the Trust and of the Trust Fund, the Trustees shall have all powers and authority necessary or available to carry out the purposes of this Trust and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, shall have the following powers and authority:

(a) To receive the income, profits, rents and proceeds of the Trust Fund and to collect and receipt the same.

(b) To purchase, subscribe for, retain, invest and reinvest in securities or other property wherever situated and whether or not productive or of a wasting nature and without any requirement for diversification as to kind or amount. The words "securities or other property" as used in this Agreement shall be deemed to include real or personal property, stocks, common or preferred, or any other interest in any corporation, association, investment trust or investment company, bonds, notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness or ownership, secured or unsecured, even though the same may not be legal investments for a trustee under the laws applicable hereto.

(c) To sell for cash or on credit, convert, redeem, exchange for other securities or other property, or otherwise dispose of any securities or other property at any time held by them.

(d) To alter, repair, improve, erect buildings upon, demolish, manage, partition, mortgage, lease (even for a term exceeding five (5) years), exchange, grant options to lease or to buy and sell or dispose of, at public or private sale, and upon such conditions and such terms as to cash and credit as they may deem advisable, real property.

(e) To pay all administrative expenses of this Trust and any taxes imposed upon it and to settle, compromise or submit to arbitration any claims, mortgages, debts or damages due or owing to or from the Trust, to commence or defend suits or legal proceedings.

(f) To exercise any conversion privilege or subscription right available in connection with any securities or other property at any time held by them; to consent to the reorganization, consolidation, merger or readjustment of the finances of any corporation, company or association or to the sale, mortgage, pledge or lease of the property of any corporation, company or association, any of the securities of which may at any time be held by them and to do any act with reference thereto, including the exercise of options, the making of agreements or subscriptions and the payment of expenses, assessments or subscriptions which may be deemed necessary or advisable in connection therewith, and to hold and retain any securities or other property which they may so acquire.

(g) To vote personally, or by general or limited proxy, any shares of stock which may be held by them at any time and similarly to exercise personally, or by general or by limited power of attorney, any right appurtenant to any securities or other property held by them at any time.

(h) To borrow money in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as shall be deemed advisable or proper to carry out the purpose of this Trust and to pledge any securities or other property for the repayment of any such loan.

(i) To employ suitable accountants, agents, counsel and custodians and to pay their reasonable expenses and compensation.
(j) To make, execute and deliver all instruments necessary or proper for the accomplishment of the purpose of this trust or of any of the foregoing powers, including deeds, bills of sale, transfers, leases, mortgages, assignments, conveyances, contracts, purchase agreements, waivers, releases and settlements.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is expressly provided that the powers herein conferred shall not be exercised unless they are consistent with the requirements of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect.

7. Foundation Trustees: There shall be 17 voting members of the Board of the Trust selected and/or elected with qualification, eligibility, terms and duties as follows:
(a) Five (5) members from the ranks of the Supreme Council by virtue of their incumbency of their positions on the Supreme Council as follows: (first) National President; (second) National First Vice President; (third) National Recording Secretary; (fourth) National Financial Secretary; (fifth) National Treasurer. These trustees shall serve upon election to such office and continue to serve until their successor qualifies.
(b) There shall be not more than four (4) additional trustees elected by a majority vote from the list of active Past National Presidents by he trustees who serve by virtue of the incumbency of their positions on the Supreme Council.
(c) Eight (8) additional trustees shall be elected by the Supreme Council at its meeting held subsequent to the Biennial Supreme Convention. The election shall be by a majority vote of the Supreme Council members. All eight (8) members thus elected shall be automatic ex-officio delegates to the Supreme Convention. The eight (8) additional trustees do not have to be delegates to the Supreme Biennial Convention but must be members of the Order in order to qualify for election.
(d) The National President shall be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall elect a President who shall be the chief executive officer of the Sons of Italy Foundation at the first meeting of the trustees following the Biennial Supreme Convention. The President of the Sons of Italy Foundation shall have all the powers and prerogatives of a presiding officer pursuant to and consistent with the terms of the Trust. The National First Vice President, the National Recording Secretary, the National Financial Secretary, and the National Treasurer shall serve respectively as the First Vice President, the Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Foundation with all the necessary and regular duties of those offices.
(e) The seventeen (17) Trustees so elected shall be the voting members of the Foundation. The voting members shall have the right to establish various categories of non-voting membership and specify the qualifications therefor.
(f) The Trustees shall serve at the pleasure of the Supreme Council of the Donor. Any Trustee may resign his office at any time without leave of court. Vacancies existing in the office of Trustee, for whatever cause, shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining trustees of the Foundation, but the Trustees may act notwithstanding the existence of any vacancy so long as there shall continue to be at least five (5) Trustees in office. The resignation or removal of a Trustee and the appointment of a successor Trustee shall have the same powers and duties as those conferred upon the Trustees named in this Agreement.

8. The Executive Committee of the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) is composed of the National President of the Donor, the Chairman of the SIF, the National First Vice President and by appointment of the National President, two of the National Past Presidents serving as trustees of the SIF.
The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President of the SIF, at a time and place designated by the said President or by telephone conference. The Executive Committee is not authorized to make any expenditure of funds, not indicated as a line item in the budget of the SIF, in excess of three thousand ($3,000) dollars. The Executive Committee shall not, under any circumstances, take any action contrary to the intention of the Donor that the Trust be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific literary or educational purposes or in any manner which would cause the trust to lose its tax exempt status under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect.
The Donor of the Trust has authorized the institution of the Executive committee in order to facilitate matters of an emergency nature that require immediate action.

9. Bond and Compensation: No Trustee shall be required to furnish any bond or surety. Trustees shall serve without compensation for their services hereunder, but all expenses of this Trust or of any Trustee acting hereunder shall be paid by the Trustees from the Trust Fund.

10. Accounting by Trustees: The Trustees shall render accounts of their transactions to the Donor at least annually, and the Donor may approve such accounts by an instrument in writing delivered to the Trustees. In the absence of the filing in writing with the Trustees by the Donor of exceptions or objections to any such account within sixty (60) days, the Donor shall be deemed to have approved such account; and in such case or upon the written approval of the Donor of any such account, the Trustees shall be released, relieved and discharged with respect to all matters and things set forth in such account as though such account had been settled by the decree of a court of competent jurisdiction. No person other than the Donor may require an accounting or bring any action against the Trustees with respect to this Trust. The Trustees may at any time initiate legal action or proceedings for the settlement of their accounts and, except as otherwise required by law, the only necessary party defendant to any such action or proceedings shall be the Donor.

11. Liability of Trustees: Trustees shall be liable only for their own willful misconduct or omissions in bad faith. No Trustee shall be liable for the acts or omissions of any other Trustee, or of any accountant, agent, counsel or custodian selected with reasonable care. Each Trustee shall be fully protected in acting upon any instrument, certificate or paper, believed by the Trustee to be genuine and to be signed or presented by the proper person or persons, and no Trustee shall be under any duty to make any investigation or inquiry as to any statement contained in any such writing but may accept the same as conclusive evidence of the truth and accuracy of the statements therein contained.

12. Amendment: This Agreement may be amended or modified from time to time by the Supreme Council of the Donor whenever necessary or advisable for the more convenient or efficient administration of this Trust or to enable the Trustees to carry out the purpose of this Trust more effectively, but no such amendment or modification shall alter the intention of the Donor that this Trust be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals within the United States or any of its possessions, and in manner which shall make this Trust tax exempt under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the

Internal Revenue Code or any similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect and the donations to it deductible from taxable income to the extent allowed by the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and other applicable legislation and regulations. Every amendment or modification of this Agreement shall be made in writing, shall be signed by two (2) officers of the Donor pursuant to authority of its Supreme Council and shall be delivered to each of the Trustees then in office.

13. Irrevocability and Termination: This Trust shall be irrevocable but may be terminated at any time by action of the Supreme Council of the Donor. Upon any such termination, the Trustees shall promptly distribute the entire Trust Fund to qualified recipients exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect under the terms of this Trust.

14. Situs: This Agreement is executed and delivered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the situs shall be in that Commonwealth, and it shall be governed by, and construed and administered in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, and consistent with the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any similar Federal Statute hereinafter in effect under the terms of this Trust.

15. Acceptance of Trust: The Trustees do hereby accept this Trust and undertake to hold, manage and administer the Trust Fund in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Agreement has been executed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the Donor and by each of the Trustees named herein.

APPENDIX C

BYLAWS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE OF THE ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

CSJ ARTICLE I - NAME, PURPOSES OF CORPORATION, MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 1.1. Name: The name of the Corporation is **Commission for Social Justice of The Order Sons of Italy in America**.

Section 1.2. Purpose: The purpose of the Corporation is to inure equal concern, respect, treatment, and opportunity for all Italians, Italian-Americans and those of other ethnic origins by appropriate and lawful processes, and to advance proper understanding among all people to be accomplished through education, understanding, and to preserve and translate into greater effectiveness, the principles of liberty, equality and justice.

To receive, administer and disburse funds for charitable, literary and educational purposes, all within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended (hereinafter, the "Code"). Within the limitation of such purposes, the Corporation will:

(a) Aid, assist, foster, promote and advance good will and proper understanding between Americans;

(b) Preserve and translate into greater effectiveness the ideals of American democracy;

(c) Eliminate bias, bigotry and prejudice and counteract un-American and anti-democratic activities through broad educational programs;

(d) Apply, expend, disburse, grant or contribute its income and, if the Corporation deems it advisable, the principal of its property, to or for the advancement of any of the aforesaid purposes;

(e) Accept and receive contributions to the Corporation in money or other property, from any person, corporation, association, firm, community chest, funds, foundation or individual provided that such money or other property contributed shall be used only for any or all of the foregoing purposes, and

(f) To have unlimited power to engage in and to do any lawful act or conduct any lawful business as permitted by the Non-profit Corporation Law of Pennsylvania provided that such act or business is not in conflict with the foregoing purposes or violative of the corporation's exempt status under the Code.

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee or other private individual, nor shall any substantial part of the activities of the Corporation be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or participating in, or intervening in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) of any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, in accordance with the provisions of the Code except as may be permitted otherwise under the Code.

Upon any dissolution of the Corporation, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by the Corporation from any source, including its operations, after the payment of all debts and obligations of the Corporation of whatsoever kind or nature, shall be used or distributed exclusively for purposes within those set forth in these Articles of Amendment and within the intendment of the Code.

The Corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.

Section 1.3. Members:

(a) The incorporators of this Corporation shall be its initial members. After the incorporators' first meeting, membership shall be open to all natural persons. Members of the Order Sons of Italy in America shall be eligible for membership in this Corporation upon paying membership dues as may be determined, from time to time, by the Board of Directors. Other persons shall be eligible for membership upon terms and conditions specified from time to time by the Board of Directors.

(b) Voting Members: The Voting Members of this Corporation shall be known as Regular Voting Members and At-Large Voting Members.

(1) Regular Voting Members shall consist of the following:

(i) The National President of the Order Sons of Italy in America

(ii) The National First, Second and Third Vice Presidents of the Order Sons of Italy in America

(iii) The Immediate Past President of the CSJ

(iv) Six (6) State Chapter Chairpersons appointed by the National President of the Order Sons of Italy in America from Grand Lodges with active, innovative, successful State Chapters

(2) At-Large Voting Members: In addition to those Voting Members referred to as "Regular Voting Members" as above set forth, an additional four (4) Voting Members shall be elected by the Regular Voting Members and who shall hereinafter be known as "At-Large Voting Members" provided, however, that two (2) of the At-Large Voting Members must be elected from among those Past National Presidents of the CSJ who have been and continue to remain active in the work, goals and affairs of the CSJ. The other two (2) At-Large Voting Members need not necessarily be either members of the Order Sons of Italy in America or of Italian Extraction; however, they should be prominent citizens in their respective communities who bring to the CSJ those kinds of special skills, professionalism and dedication which would facilitate the purposes, aims and goals of the CSJ.

(i) The term of office of the four (4) At-Large Voting Members shall be co-terminus with the terms of office of the Regular Voting Members regardless of the date of their election as At-Large Voting Members by thr Regular Voting Members. In no event shall their term of office extend beyond the date of the installation of the National Officers of the Order Sons of Italy in America at the Supreme Convention of the Order Sons of Italy in America next following the election of the said four (4) At-Large Voting Members.

(ii) The successors of the four (4) At-Large Voting Members shall be nominated and elected by the Regular Voting Members at a special meeting of the Regular Voting Members, which shall take place at the site of the Supreme Convention of the Order Sons of Italy in America and as soon as reasonably possible following the installation of the National Officers of the Order Sons of Italy in America. Nothing contained herein shall preclude the nomination and election of an incumbent At-Large Voting Member to a successive term or terms, except in the case of the President who shall not be able to succeed to a third consecutive term.

(3) Commissioners Emeritus: In addition to the Regular Voting Members and the At-Large Voting Members, the voting members may, from time to time, elect "Commissioners Emeritus" who shall serve for life; who shall have full voting privileges; who shall be considered ex-officio electors of the four (4) At-Large Voting Members; and who shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors.

(c) Non-Voting Members:

(1) All other members of this corporation shall be non-Voting members.
(2) The Voting Members shall have the right to establish various categories of non-voting membership and specify the qualifications therefore, such as:

Life Members
Associate Members
Sustaining Members
Honorary Members

(3) A member's inclusion in one of the categories of non-Voting membership shall not preclude such member's becoming a Voting Members upon meeting the requirements for achieving the status.

Section 1.4. Voting: All Voting Members, but only Voting Members, shall have the right to vote. Non-Voting Members shall have no voting rights whatsoever. At all meetings of members, each Voting Member may attend either in person or by proxy and may vote either in person or by proxy. All proxies shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Corporation. Except as otherwise provided specifically by law or in these bylaws, all matters coming before any meeting of members shall be determined by a majority vote of the Voting Members present in person or by proxy. Such vote may be taken by voice unless a Voting Member demands that it be taken by ballot, in which event the vote shall be taken by written ballot, and the Judge or Judges of Election, or, if none, the Secretary of the Meeting, shall tabulate and certify the results of the vote.

Section 1.5. Place and Time of Meetings: Annual Meetings of Voting Members for the election of Directors shall be held at 1800 Penn Mutual Tower, 510 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or such other place as the Board of Directors shall designate. At such meetings, the Voting Members shall elect officers of the Corporation. At least five (5) days' written notice of the place so fixed shall be given to Voting Members. Non-Voting Members are not entitled to notice of such meetings. Non-Voting Members may attend such meetings but they shall have no right to participate in any part of such meetings, including but not limited to the nomination and election of Directors. Non-Voting Members shall have no right to participate in any discussions of any issues raised at such meetings unless their participation in discussion is permitted by the Voting Members.

Section 1.6. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Voting Members may be called from time to time by the President of the Board or upon request in writing to the President of the Board of Directors by a majority of the Board of Directors, or by a Majority of the Voting Members, and may be held at such time and place within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or elsewhere as may be designated in the notice calling the meeting.

CSJ ARTICLE II - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2.1. Number: The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of eleven (11) Directors.
Section 2.2. Eligibility: Only Voting Members of the Corporation shall be eligible to be elected and serve as Directors. Each Director, once elected, shall serve as Director only as long as said Director continues to be a Voting Member.

Section 2.3. Term of Office of Directors: The Board of Directors shall be elected at the first meeting of the Voting Members, and thereafter their successors shall be elected at the annual meetings of Voting Members. The terms of the members of the Board of Directors shall be coterminous with the "Council Members" regardless of the date of their election as members of the Board of Directors and they shall remain as Directors until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Upon termination of a Director's status as a Voting Member, said Director's status as Director shall also terminate. Any Director may be removed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Voting Members in attendance.

Section 2.4. Place of Meeting: Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such place within Pennsylvania or elsewhere as a majority of the Directors may specify from time to time, or as may be designated in the notice calling the meeting.

Section 2.5. Regular Meetings: A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held annually, immediately following the annual meeting of Voting Members, at the place where the meeting of the Voting Members is held or at such other place, date and hour as a majority of the Directors may designate. In addition to that regular meeting, the Board of Directors shall have the power to fix by resolution the place, date and hour of other regular meetings of the Board.

Section 2.6. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by the President of the Board of Directors or a majority of the Directors in office.

Section 2.7. Notice of Special Meeting: At least two (2) days' written notice of a special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given to each Director, either by personal delivery, by mail or by wire.

Section 2.8. Non-Voting Members' Attendance at Meetings: The Board of Directors may exclude Non-Voting Members from any regular meeting or special meeting for any reason.

Section 2.9. Quorum: A majority of the Directors in office shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the acts of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the Board of Directors. If there be less than a quorum present, the majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, and shall cause notice of each adjourned meeting to be given to all absent Directors.

Section 2.10. Powers:

(a) GENERAL POWERS - The Board of Directors shall have all the power and authority granted by law to the Board, including all powers necessary for, or appropriate to, the management of the business and affairs of the Corporation.

(b) SPECIFIC POWERS - Without limiting the general powers conferred by the last preceding clause and the powers conferred by the Articles and bylaws of the Corporation, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board of Directors shall have the following powers:

(1) To confer upon any officer or officers of the Corporation the power to choose, remove or suspend assistant officers, agents or servants.

(2) To appoint any person, firm or corporation to accept and hold in trust for the Corporation any property belonging to the Corporation or in which it is interested, and to authorize any such person, firm or corporation to execute any documents and perform any duties that may be requisite in

relation to any such trust.

(3) To approve and authorize the borrowing of money and the granting of security interests in the personal property and mortgages on the real estate of the Corporation as security for the repayment of loans and payment of interest thereon.

(4) To purchase, sell, lease, mortgage, pledge, transfer in trust, and otherwise deal with real and personal property of the Corporation.

(5) To appoint a person or persons to vote shares of another corporation held or owned by the Corporation.

(6) To appoint and remove staff personnel who need not be Voting Members of the Corporation.

(7) By resolution adopted by a majority of the whole Board of Directors to designate one or more committees, each committee to consist of one or more of the Directors of the Corporation. To the extent provided in any such resolution, a committee so designated shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the business and affairs of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may designate one or more Directors as alternate members o any committee, who may replace any absent or disqualified member at any meeting of the committee. In the event of the absence or disqualification of any member and all designated alternates of such committee or committees, or if the whole Board of Directors has failed to be present at any meeting and not disqualified from voting, whether or not they constitute a quorum, may unanimously appoint another Director to act at the meeting of the Committee in the place of any such absent or disqualified member.

(8) To appoint a non-voting Advisory Board consisting of prominent individuals interested in the goals of The Commission for Social Justice consisting of not less than 50 nor more than 150. The Advisory Board shall meet at such places and at such times as the Board of Directors decides. Vacancies on the Advisory Board shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 2.11. Vacancies: Vacancies on the Board of Directors, including vacancies resulting from disqualification of a Director, shall be filled by the Voting Members of the Corporation at a special meeting thereof called for such purpose. Each person so elected shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term of the vacated Directorship. If a vacancy occurs within six (6) months before the next Annual Meeting of the Voting Members, the filling of the vacancy may be postponed until the Annual Meeting.

CSJ ARTICLE III - OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE STAFF

Section 3.1. Offices and Election: The Corporation shall have a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected by the Voting Members. The Board of Directors may elect as additional officers one or more assistant officers. Only Voting Members of the Corporation shall be eligible to be elected and serve as officers or assistant officers, except as provided herein. An officer, once elected, may serve only as long as said officer continues to be a Voting Member. A Non-Voting Member may be elected as an officer or assistant officer, upon the adoption of a resolution approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all Voting Members. "The National President" of the Order Sons of Italy in America, shall, at all times, hold the honorary title of "Chairman of the Board."

Section 3.2. Term: The terms of office of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be coterminous with the terms of office of the "Council Members" regardless of the date of their election as

officers of the corporation and they shall remain as officers until their successors are duly elected and qualified, unless removed from office by the Voting Members. Any person elected to the position of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and/or assistant to any of those positions shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms of office in that position commencing with the elections at the 45th Biennial National Convention. Upon termination of an officer's status as a Voting Member, said officer's status as an officer shall also terminate.

Section 3.3. Powers and Duties of the President: Unless otherwise determined by the Voting Members, the President shall have the usual duties of a chief executive officer with general supervision over and direction of the affairs of the Corporation. In the exercise of these duties and subject to the limitations of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, these bylaws and the actions of the Board of Directors, the President shall preside at all meetings of the members at which the President shall be present, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall be a member of all committees. The President shall also do and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the office from time to time by the Board of Directors. Unless otherwise determined by the Voting Members, the President shall have full power and authority on behalf of the Corporation to attend, to act and to vote at any meeting of the shareholders of any corporation in which the Corporation may hold stock. At any such meeting, the President shall possess and may exercise any and all the rights and powers incident to the ownership of such stock and which, as the owner thereof, the Corporation might have possessed and exercised. A resource person shall be a member of the Order Sons of Italy in America who has demonstrated an interest in the work of the CSJ and who would be a source of valuable information and expertise.

Section 3.4. Powers and Duties of the Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assist the President as may be required. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President whenever the President is unable to serve or, by reason of incapacity, cannot serve.

Section 3.5. Powers and Duties of the Secretary: Unless otherwise determined by the Voting Members, the Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, members and all committees, in books provided for that purpose, and shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices for the Corporation. The Secretary shall have charge of the corporate seal, membership books, and other such books and papers as the Board of Directors may direct. The Secretary shall perform all other duties ordinarily incident to the office of Secretary, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the office by the Board of Directors.

Section 3.6. Powers and Duties of the Treasurer: Unless otherwise determined by the Voting Members, the Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds and securities of the Corporation which may come into the Treasurer's hands. When necessary or proper, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall endorse for collection on behalf of the Corporation checks, notes and other obligations, and shall deposit them to the credit of the Corporation in such banks or depositories as the Board of Directors may designate and shall sign all receipts and vouchers for payments made to the Corporation. The Treasurer shall sign all checks made by the Corporation, except when the Board of Directors shall direct otherwise. The Treasurer shall enter regularly, in books of the Corporation to be kept by the Treasurer for the purpose, full and accurate accounts of all money received and paid by the Treasurer on behalf of the Corporation. Whenever required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer

shall render a statement of the financial condition of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall exhibit the Treasurer's books and accounts at all reasonable times to any Director of the Corporation, upon application at the office to the Corporation during business hours. The Treasurer shall have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to the office from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall give such bond, if any, for the faithful performance of the Treasurer's duties as shall be required by the Board of Directors, and any such bond shall remain in the custody of the Executive Director.

Section 3.7. Powers and Duties of Assistant Officers: Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, assistant officers shall have the powers and perform the duties of their respective superior officer. Assistant officers shall have such rank as shall be designated by the Board of Directors; and each, in the order of rank, shall act for such superior officer in said officer's absence or upon said officer's disability or when so directed by such superior officer or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be the superior officers of the assistant treasurers and assistant secretaries, respectively. The Executive Director shall also be the superior of the assistant officers.

Section 3.8. Delegation of Office: The Board of Directors may delegate the powers or duties of any officer of the Corporation to any other officer, to the Executive Director, or to any Director from time to time.

Section 3.9. Salaries of Officers and Executive Staff: Officers of the Corporation and the Executive Staff shall receive such salaries as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may authorize the making of employment contracts between the Corporation and
(a) any one or more officers and
(b) any one or more members of the Executive Staff.

Section 3.10. Vacancies: The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill any vacancies in any office or in the Executive Staff occurring for any reason whatever.

Section 3.11. Executive Staff:
(a) The Board of Directors shall have the power, authority, but not the obligation, to appoint as part of the Corporation's Executive Staff an Executive Director, and any additional staff personnel as the Board of Directors shall determine. No Voting Member shall be eligible to hold any salaried position.
(b) The Executive Director shall have the duties and responsibilities of directing the administrative and fiscal affairs of the Corporation, and such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated to the Executive Director by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall serve under the direction of and be responsible to the Board of Directors.

CSJ ARTICLE IV - INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND OTHER PERSONS

Section 4.1: Each Director, each officer, each Executive Director, and each former Director, officer or Executive Director, and any person who serves or may have served at the Corporation's request as a director or officer of another corporation in which it owns shares of capital stock or of which it is creditor, whether or not then in office, and their heirs, executors and administrators shall be indemnified

by the Corporation against any costs and expenses, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative or other claim, action, suit or proceeding in which they may become involved or with which they may be threatened, by reason of their being or having been a Director, officer or Executive Director of the Corporation or by reason of serving or having served any corporation in which the Corporation owns shares of capital stock or of which it is a creditor, any firm or any other organization as director, officer, employee, trustee, member or otherwise at the request of the Corporation, and against any payments in settlement of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding or in satisfaction of any related judgment, fine or penalty, except costs, expenses or payments in relation to any matter as to which they shall be finally adjudged derelict in the performance of their duties, or in relation to any matter as to which there has been no adjudication with respect to their performance of their duties unless the Corporation shall receive an opinion from independent counsel that the Director, officer or Executive Director has not so been derelict. In the case of a criminal action, suit or proceeding, a conviction or judgment (whether after trial or based on a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or its equivalent) shall not be deemed an adjudication that the Director, officer of Executive Director was derelict in the performance of their duties if they acted in good faith in what they considered to be the best interest of the Corporation and with no reasonable cause to believe the action was illegal. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of other rights to which Directors, officer and others may be entitled as a matter of law or otherwise, and in the event of any amendment or repeal of this section, they shall be entitled to its benefits as to any acts or events which occurred during the period when it was in effect.

CSJ ARTICLE V - SEAL

Section 5.1: The form of the seal of the Corporation, called the corporate seal of the Corporation, shall be as impressed adjacent hereto.

CSJ ARTICLE VI - FISCAL YEAR

Section 6.1: The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on January 1 of each calendar year and end on December 31 of that calendar year.

CSJ ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 7.1: Only the Voting Members of the Corporation shall have the power to alter, amend or repeal these bylaws by a majority of those voting, at any regular or special meeting, duly convened after notice to the Voting Members of such purpose. Non-Voting Members have no right to vote with respect to the alteration, amendment or repeal of the bylaws.

CSJ ARTICLE VIII - INTERPRETATION OF BYLAWS

Section 8.1: All words, terms and provisions of these bylaws shall be interpreted and defined by and in accordance with the Non-profit Corporation Law of 1972 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as amended from time to time hereafter.

CSJ ARTICLE IX - USE OF CONFERENCE TELEPHONE AND SIMILAR EQUIPMENT

Section 9.1: One or more persons may participate in a meeting of the Board, or of another body, or of the Voting Members by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

Appendix of Amendments
Made to This Document (since 2005):

Editor's Note: Clerical Changes (Non-Substantive):
Article Numbers in Judicial Code assigned JC prefixes to minimize confusion within this document.
Article Numbers in CSJ By-Laws assigned CSJ prefixes to minimize confusion within this document.

8/11/2007 at 09:00; p. 63 of 2007 Palm Beach, FL Convention Book:
Art. 107 (c) – A Wording Change. (ref. 8/11/2007 Transcript pp. 142-143 & Minutes on p. 100 of 2009 Conv. Book)

8/12/2009 at 14:30; p. 21 of 2009 San Diego, CA Convention Book:
Art. 95 – A Wording Addition after Second Paragraph (ref. Minutes on p. 95 of 2011 Conv. Book)

8/12/2009 at 14:30; p. 20 of 2009 San Diego, CA Convention Book:
Art. 49 –Wording Added to Last Paragraph (ref. Minutes on p. 97 of 2011 Conv. Book)
JC Art. 5 –Wording Added (ref. Minutes on p. 97 of 2011 Conv. Book)
JC Art. 16 –Wording Change (ref. Minutes on p. 97 of 2011 Conv. Book)

8/9/2011 at 09:00; p. 66 of 2011 Orlando, FL Convention Book:
Art. 107 (c) – A Wording Change reversing the change made on 8/11/2007. (ref. 8/9/2011 Transcript pp. 64-74 & Minutes on pp. 63&66 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Conv. Book)

8/14/2013 at 09:00; pp. 29 & 34 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Book:
Art. 118 – Newly Inserted. (ref. pp. 37 & 38 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Transcript)

8/14/2013 at 09:00; pp. 29 & 32 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Book:
Art. 110 – Wording Added. (ref. pp. 39 & 40 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Transcript)

8/14/2013 at 09:00; pp. 29 & 33 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Book:
Art. 99 - Wording Added. (ref. pp. 41 & 42 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Transcript)

8/14/2013 at 09:00; pp. 30 & 35 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Book:
Art. 2 – Wording Change. (ref. pp. 42-77 of 2013 Philadelphia, PA Convention Transcript Book)

8/19/2015 at 14:30; p. 46 of 2015 Bonita Springs, FL Convention Book:
Art. 88 (d) – Full Paragraph Replacement. (Duties of National Recording Secretary)

8/19/2015 at 14:30; p. 46 of 2015 Bonita Springs, FL Convention Book:
Art. 99 - Wording Added after First Paragraph. (National Convention Committee)

8/19/2015 at 14:30; p. 54 of 2015 Bonita Springs, FL Convention Book:
Art. 65 – 'having the right to vote' Definition Added at End of Paragraph 4.

8/19/2015 at 14:30; p. 59 of 2015 Bonita Springs, FL Convention Book:
Art. 119 – New Article Added (Parliamentary Authority- Robert's Rules)

8/19/2015 at 14:30; p. 60 of 2015 Bonita Springs, FL Convention Book:
Art. 65 – Wording Change to First Sentence from "June" to "May or June" (Grand Conventions).

8/19/2015 at 14:30; Bonita Springs, FL Convention Distributed Addendum Letter:
Art. 98 – Deleted in Entirety (National Commission on Membership and Expansion).