

CHAPTER VI.

GRAND RELIEF FUND

Section 33.- There is hereby created a fund to be known as the Grand Relief Fund for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of the State of Iowa and Jurisdiction. This fund is not a Life Insurance Fund or an Endowment Bureau, and does not provide for Burial Benefits. No policy is to be issued and no contract whatsoever exists between any Master Mason and the Grand Lodge with reference to it.

Section 34.- All donations from this fund, unless hereinafter provided, shall be on the last day of each regular Grand Communication on account of all deaths that shall have occurred during the preceeding Grand Lodge year of which satisfactory proof has been submitted and proper claimants established as hereinafter provided.

Section 35.- Every Master Mason, except those in the armed forces of the U. S. during a national emergency, shall donate to the Grand Relief Fund a donation of four dollars per year to be paid in quarterly installments of one dollar each payable through his subordinate Lodge on the first days of July, October, January, and April, respectively.

Section 35 (a)- Unless otherwise provided for, seventy-five percent (75%) of the monies thus collected during each year shall be equally divided among the proper claimants whose rights thereto shall not have been impaired as hereinafter provided, provided that no claimant shall receive more than one hundred dollars (\$100), the other twenty-five percent (25%) to be transferred to the General Fund to defray the expense of administering this fund.

Section 35 (b)- At each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, unless hereinafter provided, the Grand Trustees, Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall determine the amount to be paid each claimant from this fund and report its findings to the Grand Lodge for approval before payments are made.

Section 35 (c)- All monies in the Grand Relief Fund in the excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be designated as Grand Relief Fund Reserves.

Section 35 (d)- Whenever it has been properly established that the claimant is a widow or minor child and that the claim bears no encumbrance, the Grand Master may authorize prompt payment of such claims from the Grand Relief Fund Reserves. Provided further, that the payments shall not exceed the amount heretofore specified, shall be in accordance with enactments hereinafter provided and shall be reported by the committee on Grand Relief at each Annual Grand Communication.

Section 36.- It shall be the duty of the Secretaries of the several subordinate Lodges of this jurisdiction to make up as hereinbefore provided immediately following their stated meetings in July, October, January and April of each year, reports in triplicate, on blanks to be furnished by the Grand Secretary showing the names of the members by whom donated and the amount donated to this fund by each, one of which copies shall be forwarded to the Grand Master; one to the Grand Secretary accompanied by check or money order and the other to be retained by the Secretary of the Subordinate Lodge.

Section 36 (a)- All benefits, if any, due to the beneficiaries of a member of a delinquent Lodge shall be paid in proportion to the amount of indebtedness to this fund by said delinquent Lodge.

Section 36 (b)- The Grand Lodge reserves the right to withhold all donations from the beneficiaries who fail to remit contributions for this fund for any quarter preceeding the death of said member.

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Section 36 (c) The Grand Secretary shall keep an accurate separate and complete record of all Lodges and all monies paid by them to the Grand Relief Fund under the provisions of Article XIII of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

Section 36 (d) All applications for relief shall be made to the Grand Master upon satisfactory proof of death, provided the right thereto has not been impaired as hereinafter provided; further, that on account of the death of a member whose death occurs within the first year of his membership in this jurisdiction, a sum of not to exceed \$25 shall be paid out, or one-fourth of the maximum amount paid to any claimant (for the year in which claim is filed) who has participated in this department for over four years. If death occurs within the second year of membership one-half; third year, three-fourths, and the fourth year and thereafter the full amount.

Section 36 (e) Provided, further, that a member automatically dropped from the Relief Department shall be reinstated by beginning payments on any quarter and his status will be on the same basis as a new member.

Section 37.- In the absence of a widow the order of payment shall be; children, mother, father, sisters, brothers.

Section 37. (a) The word "children" in this section shall be construed to mean sons and daughters by blood or adoption or the immediate progeny of the first generation; and shall not extend to include grandchildren or their descendants.

Section 37 (b) The words "brothers" and "sisters" used in this section shall be construed so as to include those of the half as well as of the whole blood.

Section 37 (c) Provided that; whenever a subordinate Lodge has paid the Relief dues of members who are so situated as to be unable to pay for themselves, then in the event of death the Secretary shall certify to the Grand Secretary under seal of the Lodge the amount due said Lodge by reason of said payments, and the Grand Secretary shall first draw warrants payable to said Lodge, for said amount, and then the warrants as herein provided for.

Section 38.- If none of the above beneficiaries can be found within one year, the Lodge of which the deceased was a member shall be the beneficiary, provided no other beneficiary has been designated as hereinafter provided.

Section 39.- The right of the above-named beneficiaries may be impaired by the willful neglect or flagrant abandonment of deceased while living; but in no case shall this section be interpreted as referring to any alienation caused by unnatural conditions of the deceased.

Section 40.- Any member who leaves neither widow or minor children may designate a beneficiary by notice to the Secretary of his Lodge, who shall enter the name of said beneficiary upon the records of the Lodge prior to the death of such member.

Section 41.- Donations from the Relief Fund shall be made to the proper claimants of every member who at the time of his death was not in the Armed Forces during a national emergency and whose death was not caused by intoxication or other immoral conduct on his part, in which case no benefit whatever shall be paid.

Section 42.- The Grand Lodge reserves the right to withhold all donations where there is evidence of collusion or fraud.

Section 42 (a) "And the Grand Treasurer shall immediately notify the Secretary of a subordinate Lodge whenever any relief money is forwarded to the dependents of a deceased member of that Lodge."