

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ORIENT OF (ORIENT NAME)



COMMANDERS OF THE RITE, 33^o

NORTHERN JURISDICTION, AASR

PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION

ALLEGIANCE

Acknowledging and yielding allegiance to the United Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals of the Thirty-third and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliated of the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Holy See is at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Commanders of the Rite, Northern Jurisdiction were duly organized and constituted under the auspices of:

- Ill Dr Russell S Gideon, 33^o - SGIG
Sovereign Grand Commander
 - Ill Booker T Alexander, 33^o - SGIG
Lieutenant Grand Commander
 - Ill B. Albert Ford, 33^o - SGIG
Grand Minister of State
 - Ill Carl L. Wilson, 33^o - SGIG
Secretary General of the Holy Empire
- Add - Name and Title of Deputy and Gr Master of Orient
use separate lines as above

Use of this Constitution and By-Laws is with the express permission of Illustrious I H Clayborn, 33^o - Sovereign Grand Commander, Southern Jurisdiction, AASR - P H A., whose Jurisdiction conceived and first organized the Commanders of the Rite

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMANDERS OF THE RITE

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Commanders of the Rite, believing that men of like attainments and of similar ideas of Masonic brotherhood and fellowship by binding ourselves together for maximum service to humanity; by aiding mankind's search with God's help, to achieve

better men in a world; with the ultimate purpose of creating a deeper feeling of brotherly love and fraternal respect for each other; do enact and establish this Constitution and accompanying Bylaws for the government of its members.

"While other people and organizations are talking about Faith and Brotherhood, this Body is making a serious effort to make it a reality."

ARTICLE I

OBJECT AND PURPOSES

Section 1 -- To provide a forum for the enlightenment and development of Illustrious Peers (Grand Inspector Generals) through lectures, workshops and research assignments

Section 2 -- To prepare its members for not only active roles in the development and guidance of all masonic bodies; but also to disseminate and inculcate those Masonic ideals among those with whom its members come in contact.

Section 3 -- To prepare its members for greater usefulness in the causes of humanity, freedom and dignity of the individual; by promoting programs and sponsoring activities which will enhance the image of Prince Hall and Scottish Rite Masonry within the local community and/or throughout the state

Section 4 -- To stimulate, encourage and aid, wherever masonically possible; down-trodden humanity in its effort to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status.

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ARTICLE II

NAME

The name of the organization shall be:

COMMANDERS OF THE RITE, ORIENT OF (Orient Name)

Symbols: The 33rd ring, Laurel banded cap or crown and lapel pin of crown with figure 33 under it, worn in left lapel of coat only.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be limited to Masons of good standing; who have been awarded the Honorary Thirty-third (33^o) Degree and/or members of the United Supreme Council, AASR of Freemasonry, Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliation.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1 -- The officers shall be the Illustrious Deputy of the Orient; Illustrious President; Illustrious Secretary; and Illustrious Treasurer; Illustrious Chaplain, A Public Relations Officer and others appointed at the discretion of the Deputy.

ARTICLE V

Selection of Officers

Section 1 -- The above described officers except the Illustrious Deputy, shall be elected at an Annual Meeting, composed of paid up members, by majority vote.

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Section 2 -- All officers as elected in Article V, shall hold office for a period of one year, or until their successors are elected and installed. In the case of vacancies in any office, the Illustrious Deputy of the Rite may make appointments to be in force until the next election.

Section 3 -- An Orient may be divided into Regions (not more than (3) wherein an Illustrious Vice-President; Illustrious Secretary; and Illustrious Treasurer will be nominated and elected at the Annual Regional Election Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of the Rite. Election procedure may be the same as that followed for the Rite.

Section 4 -- Any officer may be elected to succeed himself. All duly elected officers are expected to submit quarterly reports of their area to the Deputy.

Section 5 -- (a) A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Deputy and shall present a proposed slate of officers at the regular Annual Meeting
(b) Nominations from the floor are in order
(c) No name shall be placed in nomination without the consent and/or presence of the nominee
(d) The duly elected officers shall assume their duty at the adjournment of the meeting designated as the Annual Meeting.

(c) Vacancies occurring in office, with the exception of the Illustrious President, may with acquiescence of the Deputy, be filled by the Executive Council

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES, DESCRIPTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1 -- The Illustrious Deputy shall be the Chief Executive of the Rite. The Illustrious President shall assist the Illustrious Deputy in presiding over the meetings of the Commanders of the Rite and shall perform such duties and accept responsibilities that are customary, and perform such duties as may be assigned to him in furthering the work of the Rite throughout the Orient. Officers shall perform such duties and accept responsibilities that are customary and evolve upon them in keeping with their respective positions

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES

The Commanders of the Rite have the authority through its administrative officers to create such committees as are deemed necessary to carry on the object and purpose of the Rite at will.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1 -- Composition - The Executive Committee shall consist of the Deputy, elected officers, the immediate Illustrious Past President and the officers of regions, if any

Section 2 -- Duties: The Executive Council shall transact such emergency business as arises between regularly called meetings of the Rite. It shall approve appointments as designated in these Bylaws

Section 3 -- Quorum: Five (5) members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum, one of whom must be the Deputy of the Orient.

Section 4 -- Duties of the Officers: Such as are specified in the Bylaws.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES ARE HEREBY DEFINED:

1. MASONIC RESEARCH:

It is the duty of this committee to research and compile information relative to the Rite, such as the history, dates of the founding and other interesting and pertinent data for the enlightenment of the Rite

2. MASONIC EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP:

One of the functions of this committee will be to disseminate information that may be provided by the Committee on Research, and other educational material from other sources, and single out persons in the Rite who have made outstanding contributions in various fields of endeavor, and gather and disseminate information and materials relative to available scholarship aid

3. PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This Committee shall suggest projects or programs to be sponsored and/or co-sponsored with other groups of the Rite on a regional basis and/or a state-wide basis that will be of

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interest to the Commanders of the Rite and/or the general public, and bring recognition and credit to the Masonic Fraternity

4. COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIP:

This committee shall propose activities that will bring the Commanders together, with their families whenever possible, on a regional and/or statewide basis during the year

5. COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE:

This committee should approximate the amount of money necessary to assure the functioning of the Commanders of the Rite such as: stationery, supplies, postage, condolences, etc., and prorate the same to each Commander

6. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

To work with all Orient name Scottish Rite and fraternal reporters throughout their assigned areas. To submit all articles concerning or relating to the Rite to the State Public Relations Officer for publication in local newspapers

7. COMMITTEE ON CHARITY:

Upon notification of dire need, distress or calamity relating to a Commander of the Rite or his immediate family; this committee will, after notifying administrative officers, attempt to work out some program for aid and relief to the distressed; also, visit and comfort to the best of their abilities sick and distressed Peers and Brothers.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETING

Section 1 -- A minimum of two (2) meeting will be held each year,

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and will be called by the Deputy, The Illustrious President and the Executive Council. Proper notice of all meetings shall be given to the entire membership.

Section 2 -- There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Commanders of the Rite, to be held at a time and place in harmony with the Council of Deliberation, and if needs be, the Deputy of the Orient, may for the good and discretion of the Order, call a non-scheduled meeting

Section 3 -- Special meetings of the Orients Name Commanders of the Rite may be called in emergency situations only; but emergency call meetings may not occur without the knowledge and support of a majority of the duly elected officers of the Rite

ARTICLE IX

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

Section 1 -- The Orient Name Commanders of the Rite is a unified body; but to facilitate the work of the Order and bring about a closer fraternity, where needed, the body is authorized to establish up to three (3) regions based upon geographical proximites and as near as possible equal membership.

Section 2 -- These regions or sections, if formed, are at no time to lapse into regionalism and shall keep in mind that they are a part or segment of a unified body

ARTICLE X

RULES OF ORDER

The Constitution and the Bylaws shall constitute the Rules of Order, supplemented by the Constitution of the United Supreme Council. General rules of parliamentary procedure will be followed.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

Section 1 -- This Constitution can be amended at any Annual Meeting upon the approval of two-thirds of the membership present, provided notice of such proposed amendment (s) is submitted in writing to the membership not later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE XII

QUORUM

Section 1 -- The Deputy or his Official Designate and fifty percent of the officers and at least twenty percent of the other members shall constitute a quorum for a state-wide meeting

Section 2 -- The Regional Illustrious Vice-President or his Official Designate and fifty percent of the officers, and at least twenty percent of the other members shall constitute a quorum for a regional meeting

BYLAWS

Law 1 ----- Membership Dues -- As recommended by a Budget and Finance Committee may be adopted Such dues or any increase as later recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee, will require an assenting vote of two-thirds

of the members at an Annual State meeting

Law 2 ----- If a dues structure is adopted, if after proper notification, a member has not paid his dues to the Orient name Commanders of the Rite by October 1st of each year, the member shall be considered by the Executive Council for suspension

Law 3 ----- Neither the Commanders of the Rite nor any region as described in the Constitution Article IX, shall make any rules and regulations in violation of the United Supreme Council, 33^o AASR - PHA, N J., Constitution, Regulations and Statutes, nor at any time conduct themselves as a body and/or individually in an unmasonic manner.

Law 4 ----- The fiscal year shall be from October 1st to September 30th inclusive.

Law 5 ----- Discipline - All matters of membership discipline are subject to Constitutions and General Regulations of the United Supreme Council - Section 159 - 163, pp. 45 and 46

Law 6 ----- Amendments - These Bylaws can be amended or added to in the same manner as the Constitution as described in Article XI of the Constitution.

Orient Name Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for the Commanders of the Rite

Date: