

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the charter of Cedar Valley Lodge No. 44 be revoked at this Grand Session or its members advised to proceed to make arrangements to consolidate with one of its closest lodges and surrender its charter by the first of October, A. L. 5943. This lodge has only six members and has failed to meet four _____ I believe this to be to the welfare of the members of that lodge in general, as it will give them a lodge home and a place to participate in the work.

Article XIII Section 1 (b)

Be revised to read as follows: The revenue of the Grand Lodge is derived from the following sources: For every warrant or charter, \$15.00; for dispensation to found a lodge, \$30.00; dispensation to confer three degrees at one meeting, \$5.00; dispensation to confer two degrees at one meeting, \$3.00; dispensation to pass the chair, \$2.00; dispensation for a festival (St. John's Day or the preceding Sunday excepted,) \$3.00; for Grand Lodge diploma, \$1.00; for every candidate initiated, 75 cents. for passing, 50 cents; for raising, 75 cents.

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You will please note that/Article XIII, Section 1(b) I have recommended two changes: 1. In regard to dispensation to confer two degrees in one evening--all of us will readily admit that it is almost an impossibility for a candidate to assimilate a reasonable amount of the work taught during the conferring of only one degree. Since the Grand Lodge is in reality the custodian of the work taught in this Grand Jurisdiction, and since the Grand Lodge is in need of added revenue in the general fund, I believe the charge of \$3.00 to

be to the welfare of the craft in this Jurisdiction. 2. In regard to the 25 cent increase in fees for entering and raising, my dear brethren, at present all the money the Grand Lodge receives from every candidate made in this jurisdiction is only \$1.00, which is far less than many of our sister Jurisdictions. I believe this to be a fair amount if we had the populace from which to draw, but since we do not and the Grand Lodge must exist in order for the candidate to be legally made a Mason, I do not feel that it is asking too much for the Grand Lodge to receive \$2.00 instead of \$1.00 as it is in dire need of these added revenues.

Article XIII Section 1 (c)

Be revised to read as follows:

Every lodge shall pay into the general fund of the Grand Lodge \$1.00 for each and every member on its roll on June 1 and \$1.00 for each and every member on its roll on December 1 of each year, and to the Grand Relief Fund One Dollar (\$1.00) for each member on its rolls the first day of July, October, January and April respectively, which quarterly payments shall be accompanied by a report made out upon blanks to be furnished by the Grand Secretary showing the names of the members for whom it is paid. Any member Three (3) Quarters in arrears shall not be eligible for benefits from the Relief Fund; and no money paid into the Grand Relief Fund shall be transferred or loaned to any other department.

You will please note that under Article XIII, Section 1 (c) I have recommended one change in regard to Grand Lodge dues. Now, my brethren, this does not represent any increase or decrease in amounts due in this case, as moneys due because of the Special Tax have been

used for this purpose for a number of years. The Grand Lodge can ill afford to decrease this amount at this time, and I do not feel it is urgent or necessary to increase it at this time. However, I feel that this recommendation will do much to clarify the payment of this Special Tax, as it has been very confusing to a large number of the craft, and it will greatly simplify bookkeeping in both the Grand and subordinate lodge.

Article XIII Section 3

Be amended to read as follows:

In the assessment of annual dues, no distinction shall be made between members on account of age or for other causes except that there shall be no Grand Lodge dues charged against a member while actively engaged with the armed forces of our country.

Under Article XIII, Section 3 you will please note that I have added "except that there shall be no Grand Lodge dues charged against a member while actively engaged with the armed forces of our country."

In this case, my brethren, a plan similar to this has been adopted in most all jurisdictions with which I have communicated. However, under no circumstances are benefits paid in regard to relief because of death. It is almost an impossibility for a brother to remit these dues from the far flung battle fields of the world, and it is almost an imposition to require some of our smaller lodges to pay these dues for their members who are in the armed forces. In many of our sister jurisdictions, members who are in the service are given cards stating such facts and showing them to be in good standing in the fraternity that they may visit lodges of any jurisdiction that ^{they} may happen to be stationed in.

Chapter IV Section 36(a)

Be amended to read as follows:

The Grand Secretary shall keep an accurate, separate and complete record of all lodges and all moneys paid by them to the Grand Relief and Burial Fund under provisions of Article XIII of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge for the Relief Department of which One Dollar (\$1.00) per quarter shall be paid for each member except those actively engaged with the armed forces of our country.

Thus you will note that under Chapter IV, Section 36 (a) I have added "except those actively engaged with the armed forces of our country." This is to make it in accord with the provision of Article XIII of the constitution of this Grand Lodge. However, I want to make one more recommendation in regard to this--that the lodges on filing their returns to the Grand Secretary will write in names of those members who are in the service, after which state such facts and what branch of the service they are in.

Chapter XIX Section 212

Grand Lodge Dues

Be amended to read as follows: Each chartered lodge in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall collect from its members annual dues, exempting none, and shall pay into the Grand Lodge Treasury, the sum of \$1.00 for each person who is a member of the lodge on July 1, and \$1.00 for each person who is a member of the Lodge on December 1 of each year.

I think this recommendation is self-explanatory.

Chapter XIX Section 214

Grand Lodge Dues And How Paid

Be revised to read as follows: It shall be the duty of the Master of each subordinate lodge on or before June 25 to collect from each member in good standing the sum of Two Dollars together with all other moneys due the Grand Lodge, and forward to the Grand Secretary the amount; and a failure so to do shall be prima facie a neglect of duty, and shall be

attended with the same disqualifications and consequences as provided in Section 211 of this Code; and said lodge shall have no voice or vote in the Grand Lodge until said sum is paid.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT

This branch of the business of our Grand Lodge somewhat resembles that which in some Jurisdictions is nearly an insurance department. However, for the information of those brethren who might not fully understand, may we say that as a Grand Lodge we do not write or carry any insurance upon the lives of any members of this Jurisdiction. We simply--and in accordance with the rules of the Relief Department, have for a number of years made little donations to the nearest heir of each member who dies in good standing in his local lodge and on all records of our Grand Lodge. All donations, of course, have been made in excess to or supplemental to whatever a subordinate lodge may under its own regulations give to the family of a deceased brother.

Now, my dear brethren, your humble servant has been accused on several occasions of trying or attempting to tear down our Relief Department simply because I have tried to--and I think and hope, somewhat succeeded in--presenting to the craft of our Grand Jurisdiction the true condition and policy of this department. A number of you know that for several years a few members of the craft have, after their way of thinking, been aware of the unsoundness of or the impossibility of our continuing to make donations of these amounts with the funds we have available for this purpose. Now, may I again, in defense of myself state as I have often stated before that I am not for scuttering the ship--to use a little slang, but am whole-heartedly in favor of and in support of any and all recommendations that will patch up the boat and keep it from

sinking that it may sail on in an even keel.

In presenting the chart in regard to this department to our subordinate lodges as I visited them, I did not fail to take along the proceedings of our Grand Lodge for the year, tabulated for my own satisfaction and absolute proof of figures shown. Not once have I had any of these figures disputed or contested. Thus the display of the chart, my brethren, was done solely to impress upon the craft of our Jurisdiction the necessity, in my opinion, of creating a more reliable or stable Relief Department; and in order to do this I did not wait until the sitting of our Grand Lodge as I was told to do by some of our more illustrious votaries, but rather have done my best to present these facts to as many M.M. in our Jurisdiction as possible that we may come together at this time with a greater realization and understanding of the problems confronting us, and have more ideas as to how we may go about improving our condition. The synopsis of the situation is that we cannot continually pay out more money than we are due to take in--not to mention the amount which is actually taken in--as we all know it has been less than that which was due.

Now, my dear brethren, I firmly believe that each and every member of our Jurisdiction must share alike all benefits, responsibilities and obligations of our Grand Old Order. Under the law as it now exists, we are somewhat divided. However, to a small extent it may be good that this has happened, for it has been timed to bring the true condition of things to light. I therefore believe that we should and without delay make necessary amendments, alterations or regulations governing this department that it may be more sound and practical. In my Bulletin No. 5 to you I made two suggestions simply to give you something to

work on. However, at this time I would like to make a recommendation in regard to Article XIII, Section 1 (c). Realizing that perfection is yet to be obtained in this world, I know that this proposal is not perfected in form, but I do think that it has or there are some small bits of good if carefully studied to be obtained from it.

~~In order that the money effectively made available to the distressed
orphan and widowed of a deceased brother of the jurisdiction
of the Grand Lodge, Iowa, may be used for the purpose of
the construction of a relief fund, it is recommended that
a relief fund be established and maintained under
the following rules and regulations, and in addition there to such other
enactments as the Grand Lodge may from time to time see fit.~~

~~It is recommended that a fund of this relief fund be es-
tablished solely for the purpose of giving relief as universally as
possible as hereinafter directed and shall not be construed or inter-
preted to include any other purpose.~~

Fund to the same is hereby established upon the death of a M.M.
in good and regular standing, satisfactory evidence of the death sub-
mitted, the Grand Lodge may donate the sum of \$50.00 to \$200.00 re-
lief money to the following: Chapter 6, section 37 of the Code as
existing today--37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 applicable as to whom these
moneys are payable.

Part 2--^{as} This fund ^{is} known as ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{dest} Relief ~~fund~~ for the
M.W. United Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. (P.H.A.) for the State of Iowa.
Further, this fund is not and cannot be under Masonic Law and usage a
life insurance fund or company or an endowment bureau, and it does not

provide for burial benefits. There is no policy issued and no contract of any nature whatsoever between an M.M. and the M.W. United Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. (P.H.A.) of Iowa.

~~Part 2-- All moneys shall have exclusive and original jurisdiction on all and sundry claims hereinafter provided for in any year...~~

Part 3-- All donations shall be made on the last day of each regular annual Grand communication for all the deaths occurring in the preceding fiscal year of the Grand Lodge provided satisfactory proof of death has been submitted and proper claimants established as hereinafter provided.

Part 4-- Every M.M. shall donate to the Relief Fund a charitable donation of \$2.00--suggested, but the amount to be fixed by the Grand Lodge per year. The donations are to be paid in quarterly payments of \$0.50 *per quarter* through his lodge, for each member on its roll the first day of July, October, January and April respectively. ~~The same charitable donations must be collected on the first day of July, the first day of October, the first day of January, and the first day of April.~~

Part 5--The moneys thus collected over the period of one year shall be equally divided among the proper claimants whose rights thereto have not been impaired as otherwise provided for in this chapter.

Part 6-- It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the subordinate lodges of this Jurisdiction, and they are hereby requested to forward to the Grand Secretary as hereinafter provided on or before the date of their stated meeting in July, Octo-

ber, January and April reports to be made in triplicate form on blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary showing the names of the members for whom it is paid and the amount donated--1 copy to be sent to the Grand Master, 1 to the Grand Secretary with the check or money order for payment and 1 to be retained by the secretary of the lodge. ~~Any member whose name appears in arrears shall not be eligible for benefit from the Relief Funds,~~ and no money paid into the Grand Relief Fund shall be transferred or loaned to any other department.

Part 8 -- The local secretaries having been elected by local or subordinate lodges, are not the agents of the Grand Lodge, but the agents for the member. Any illegal act performed by them--such as wrongfully marking up a brother's book or failing to remit these funds to the Grand Lodge or committing any act in violation of civil or criminal law or in violation of a Grand Lodge law cannot bind a Grand Lodge or will the said Grand Lodge be responsible for such act or acts, the Grand Lodge not having appointed them nor is there any contract existing between them and the Grand Lodge and no compensation is paid them by the Grand Lodge and under no conditions will the Grand Lodge be responsible for donations until same shall have reached the office of the Grand Secretary.

Part 9 -- Every Mason on being initiated will be read these laws, rules and regulations and the fact of his initiation being completed, he assents and subscribes to the same. He is further charged that he must communicate the same to his wards or family as provided last year in this chapter and Code. Upon failure so to do, the Grand Lodge after his death cannot and will not be responsible for his dire neglect.

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The Grand Lodge does not assume any respinsibility where lodges fail, from any cause whatsoever, to remit their controbution ti this fund. and ~~whenever~~ ^{where} and where there is such failure of remittance during any fiscal year will be proportionately reduced

The synopsis of this recommendation is that moneys collected in over the period of one year are to be held by the Grand Lodge and to be equally divided among the proper claimants or beneficiaries on the last day of each Grand Session for the deaths during the preceding year unless their rights thereto have been impaired as provided ~~last year~~ in this Code.

I recommend that a copy of this recommendation be immediately placed in the hands of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

I recommend that each month the Grand Treasurer send the Grand Master the originals or duplicate statements from the bank or banks in which the funds of the Grand Lodge are deposited for review and examination by him.

I recommend that all lodges in remitting to the Grand Lodge are to make all checks, drafts or money orders payable to the M.W. United Grand Lodge.

I recommend that all files of Grand Masters five years or more old be placed in the lodge rooms of one of our subordinate lodges, (No. 17 nominated.)

I recommend that the copy of the Clark History in the office of G.M. be placed in a safe deposit box to insure the safe keeping of at least one of our two remaining copies until we are able to go to press, as this is entirely too valuable a piece of work to be promiscuously tossed around.

I recommend that the salary of \$25.00 for C.C.F.C. be cut to \$10.00. My reason for this is that too few proceedings have been

reviewed by our C.C.F.C. the past few years. During the last year only ²four or five proceedings were received to be reviewed by our C.C.F.C., which represents a cost to the Grand Lodge of between \$4.00 and \$5.00 per copy. Twelve of the 41 (P.H.A.) Jurisdictions have combined the office of C.C.F.C. with that of the Grand Secretary, thus reducing immeasurably the expense, but since it is one of the most interesting positions in Masonry, I believe it should be retained as a separate office in this Jurisdiction.