

*Advanced Reports*  
*Grand Lodge of Maryland*



*Independent Order of Odd Fellows*

**Grand Master**

**2024-2025**

**Brenda G. Hamilton**

## *Dedication*

*I dedicate my year as Grand Master, to my husband, Don Hamilton, PGM. He has been very supportive of my Odd fellow journey. He has left footprints in my heart for the last fifty years, kind and giving footprints for many to follow. He is active in all 4 branches of our Order. Friendship, Love and Truth evidence themselves in the Lodges, our Family, our Church, the Community, and other organizations in which he holds membership. Life has been greatly challenging for us the past 2 years, however he still strives to live Oddfellowship.*

*I also would like to dedicate my year to my dear departed Sister, Doris Jean Tinder. She nurtured my "growing pains" in Rebekah/Oddfellowship. Doris Jean made certain I had the literature, instruction and most importantly-Friendship. All have been so very useful to me. I miss her dearly!*

*My dedication extends to each and every member of our Oddfellow Family, for supporting me each step of the way to this podium today!!*

# *Project*

## **Our Impact**

### **Our Impact**

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research.

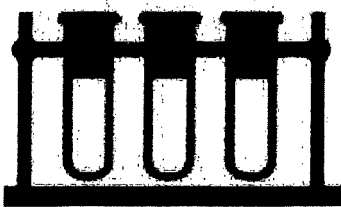
**Our Vision:** A world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®

**Our Mission:** The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.



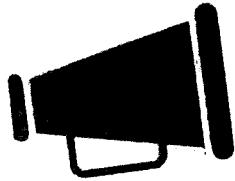
### **Care and Support**

We work on a national and local level to provide care and support for all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias.



### **Research**

As the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research, the Association is committed to advancing vital research toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.



## Advocacy

The Association is the leading voice for Alzheimer's disease advocacy, fighting for critical Alzheimer's research and care initiatives at the state and federal level.



The Association has been recognized as a top large nonprofit to work for by *The NonProfit Times*, the leading information provider for the nonprofit sector.

- [Join our cause](#)

**We provide care and support for those affected**



MOTTO:	KINDNESS MATTERS
GOALS:	UNITY AMONG OUR MEMBERS
	MEMBERSHIP GROWTH
	TRANSPARENCY
	RECREATE OUR NEWSLETTER
	LET US HAVE FUN AND ENJOY ODDFELLOWSHIP
PROJECT:	MARYLAND CHAPTER OF MEALS ON WHEELS
PRAYER:	THE LORD'S PRAYER
SONG:	LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH
FLOWER:	BUTTERCUP (It Is a Beautiful Weed)

*In a world where you can be any thing,  
BE KIND*

# **Grand Lodge of Maryland Independent Order of Odd Fellows**

## *Elected Officers*

Grand Master	Brenda Hamilton Baltimore City No. 57	2619 Bunker Hill Rd Granite, MD 21163 443-244-2280
Deputy Grand Master	Brianna Shuman Baltimore City No. 57	5648 Jacobs Ct. Mt. Airy, MD 21771 443-320-3618
Grand Warden	Dave Brown North Point No. 4	7813 Denton Ave Baltimore, MD 21219 410-371-5739
Grand Secretary	Laura Teate, PG Triumph No. 16	3405 Nova Scotia Rd. Aberdeen, Md. 21001 410 734-7090
Grand Treasurer	Laurel Shuman,PG Baltimore City No. 57	5648 Jacobs Ct. Mt. Airy, MD 21771 443-320-3625
Grand Representative	Len Taylor North Point No. 4	5380 Swamp Rd Felton, PA 17322 443-677-8916
Immediate Past Grand Master	George Wills, PGM North Point No. 4	81 Kinship Road Dundalk, Md. 21222 443-804-1162

# Grand Lodge of Maryland

## Independent Order of Odd Fellows

### *Appointed Officers*

Grand Marshal	Sandy Shuman, PGM Baltimore City No. 57	5648 Jacobs Ct Mt. Airy, MD 21771 443-320-3616
Grand Conductor	Cliff Koback, PG Baltimore City No. 57	2106 Spencer Ln Finksburg, MD 21048 301-526-8607
Grand Chaplain	Dr. Howard Malin, PGM North Point No. 4	2250 Bear Den Rd Frederick MD 21701 301-668-1941
Grand Guardian	Don Hamilton, PGM Baltimore City No. 57	2619 Bunker Hill Rd Woodstock, MD 21163 443-547-4513
Grand Herald	Mike Rose, PG Centre No. 40	11770 Tridelphia Rd Ellicott City, MD 443-538-4513
Color Bearer	Sheila Rose, PG Centre No. 40	11770 Tridelphia Rd Ellicott City, MD 443-538-4513
Ambassador Good Will	Donna C Koback, 3rd Degree Baltimore City No. 57	2106 Spencer Ln Finksburg, MD 21048 443-421-9695
Emeritus		
Grand Chaplain Grand Representative	Dr. Howard Malin, PGM North Point No. 4	2250 Bear Den Rd Frederick MD 21701 301-668-1941

**Past GM Still Living**

Stanley R Labuda	Washington #1	1990-1991
Daniel McAndrew	Baltimore City #57	1996-1997
Donald L Hamilton Sr	Baltimore City #57	1998-1999
Dr Howard G Malin	Potomac #31	1999-2000
James Sollers	Baltimore City #57	2000-2001
Richard L Taylor	Oriole #47	2001-2002
John C Macek	Baltimore City #57	2002-2003
F Henry Nessul	Poolesville #97	2003-2004
Richard A Humbert	Centre #40	2004-2005
Austin A Pirrone Jr	Mount Moriah #32	2005-2006
Joseph A Labuda	North Point #4	2006-2007
Edward Addison Foreman Jr	Upper Falls #175	2008-2009
Thomas Dillingham	Poolesville #97	2011-2012
Arlie W Humphrey	Baltimore City #57	2012-2013
Sandy A Shuman	Baltimore City #57	2013-2014
Sharon P Thomas	Oriole #47	2014-2015
Leonard Taylor	North Point #4	2017-2018
Gene Leasure	Towson #79	2020-2021
Beverly Labuda	Washington #1	2021-2022
Jeff Teate	Triumph # 16	2022-2023
George Wills	North Point #4	2023-2024

## DECEASED PAST GRAND MASTERS

Thomas Wildey	Washington	No. 1	1821-25
Charles Common	Washington	No. 1	1825-26
Thomas Scotchburn	Franklin	No. 2	1826-29
G John Roach Sr	Columbia	No. 3	1829-30
Ezekiel Wilson	Franklin	No. 2	1830-31
Augustus Mathiot	Washington	No. 1	1831-31
Samuel Lucas	Washington	No. 1	1831-33
George Keyser	Columbia	No. 3	1833-34
James Ridgely	Columbia	No. 3	1834-35
H.H. Sanderson	Marion	No. 8	1835-36
Augustus Mathiot	Washington	No. 1	1836-37
Robert Neilson	Maryland	No. 11	1837-38
F.A. Gatch	Franklin	No. 2	1838-39
Jacob Mearis	Washington	No. 1	1839-40
Andrew E. Warner Jr	Marion	No. 8	1840-41
Richard Marley	Franklin	No. 2	1841-42
Levi Taylor	Jefferson	No. 9	1842-43
John J Johnson	Marion	No. 8	1843-44
William Warren	Franklin	No. 2	1844-45
John B. Emery	Jefferson	No. 9	1845-46
Archer Ropes	William Tell	No. 4	1846-47
John A. Thompson	Columbia	No. 3	1847-48
Enoch P. Holden	Harmony	No. 6	1848-49
Nathan T Dushane	Franklin	No. 2	1849-50
John H.T. Jerome	Gratitude	No. 5	1850-51
John McGeoch	Jefferson	No. 9	1851-52
B. F. Zimmerman	Merchanics	No. 15	1852-53
James C Ninde	Corinthian	No. 10	1853-54
Samuel Wentz	Irish	No. 46	1854-55
Jason Stockbridge	Harmony	No. 6	1855-56
George m Mowbray	Oriental	No. 52	1856-57
William Bayley	Washington	No. 1	1857-58
Joshua Vansant	Columbia	No. 3	1858-59
William C Cunningham	Marion	No. 6	1859-60
William A Young	Monumental	No. 48	1860-61
John C. Smith	Harmony	No. 6	1861-62
Grafton M Bosley	Towson	No. 79	1862-63
Alexander Mantz	Adam	No. 35	1863-64
Henry F Garey	Iris	No. 48	1864-65
Charles H Dupuy	Corinthian	No. 10	1865-66
Josiah Baugher	Franklin	No. 2	1866
N.S. Harrison	Pacific	No. 63	1866-67
E. Grover Cox	Columbia	No. 50	1867-68
John Q A Herring	Baltimore City	No. 57	1868-69
Samuel Snowden	Iris	No. 48	1869-70
Alexander K Spear	Monumental	No. 14	1870-71
Joseph Vansant	Mechanics	No. 15	1871-72
William R Creery	Iris	No. 48	1872-73
Joseph Thompson	Franklin	No. 2	1873-74
Thomas H Dennison	Harley	No.107	1874
William Kirk	Harmony	No. 6	1874-75
John McCahan	Fidelity	No. 54	1875-76
William H Ruby	Towson	No. 79	1876-77
Joshua Lynch	Independence	No. 77	1877-78
William Bockmiller	Marion	No. 8	1878-79
J. Woodfin Minifie	Harley	No.107	1879-80
Charles H. Gatch	Pacific	No. 63	1880-81
George Reed	Baltimore City	No. 57	1881-82
C.Dodd McFarland	Monumental	No. 14	1882-83
George W. Lee	Pacific	No. 63	1883-84

J.Frank Grant	Baltimore City	No. 57	1884-84
J.F. Plummer	Atlantic	No. 72	1884-85
Louis Grauer	Monumental	No. 14	1885-86
William M. Isaac	Centre	No. 40	1886-87
James H. Downs	Friendship	No. 7	1887-88
James B. Law	Independence	No. 77	1888-89
James B. Guyton	Golden Rule	No. 58	1889-90
George Plaggemeyer	William Tell	No. 4	1890-91
Augustus Bouldin	Oriental	No. 52	1891-92
William Grason	Towson	No. 79	1892-93
William A Jones	Monumental	No. 14	1893-94
Charles M Thompson	Shiloh	No.111	1894-95
Augustus Quandt	Independence	No. 77	1895-96
Clifford Taylor	Baltimore City	No. 57	1896-97
J.J. Kahler	Oriental	No. 52	1897-98
Joseph Hofsetter	Garden	No.114	1898-99
Richard Gibney	Washington	No. 1	1899-00
John C. Bell	Mt. Zion	No. 87	1900-01
Martin Perkins	Dorchester	No. 19	1901-02
Eugene S Anderson	Warren	No. 71	1902-03
Edward Rossmann	Oriental	No. 52	1903-04
William B Baker	Blenheim	No.102	1904-05
James Chapman, Jr.	Waverly	No.158	1905-06
C.F. Hetzel	Chosen Friends	No. 34	1906-07
Robert W Mobray	Monumental	No. 14	1907-08
John Young	Barton	No. 94	1908-09
William W Varney	Washington	No. 1	1909-10
Dr. John S Green	Bethany	No. 22	1910-11
Howard P Hartman	Potomac	No. 31	1911-12
Frederick A. Groom	Towson	No. 79	1912-13
Frank G Dorsey	Prosperity	No. 58	1913-14
William J. Arthur	Morning Star	No. 20	1914-15
E.Hofstetter Jr	Garden	No.114	1915-16
E.J.C. Paesons	Newton	No. 56	1916-17
Rev Martin L Beall	Bethany	No. 22	1917-18
Henry M. McCullough	National	No. 37	1918-19
John Backus Spence	Baltimore City	No. 57	1919-20
H.Dorsey Etchison	Frederick	No.100	1920-21
Saul Praeger	Chosen Friends	No. 34	1921-22
Rev L.B. Hafer	Taney	No. 28	1922-23
Frank I Duncan	Towson	No. 79	1923-24
W.James Wilkerson Sr	Waverly	No.158	1924-25
A. T. White	Oak	No. 8	1925-26
Charles B. Schone	Garden	No.114	1926-27
Dr. Arthur Tiemeyer	Monumental	No. 14	1927-28
Rev James Bergey	Franklin	No. 2	1928-29
Thomas Jefferson	Washington	No. 1	1929-30
Abram Joseph	Centennial	No.129	1930-31
S. Elmer Brown	Frederick City	No.100	1931-32
James C McGuire	Baltimore City	No. 57	1932-33
Claude Lanman	Relay	No.169	1933-34
Hedley Black	Washington	No. 1	1934-35
Charles W Held Sr	Towson	No. 79	1935-36
T. Earl Ewing	Miller	No. 19	1936-37
Raymond Hanson	Waverly	No.158	1937-38
A. Frank Miller	Prosperity	No. 58	1938-39
Leonard E Mason	Monumental	No. 14	1939-40
Charles W Bennett	Newton	No. 56	1940-41
Charles M Lewis	Relay	No.169	1941-42
Harry E Fisher Sr	Helena	No.171	1942-43
Edward C. Ryall	Waverly	No.158	1943-44
Donald E Pitts	Oriole	No. 47	1944-45

George I. Seiders	Fort Carroll	No. 11	1945-46
Orlando M Shockley	Worcester	No. 13	1946-47
Charles V Tracey	Waverly	No.158	1947-48
Robert W Young	Chapel Hill	No. 53	1948-49
Earl B Hoppman	Liberty	No. 10	1949-50
Dr. Max Kirshbaum	Washington	No. 1	1950-51
Rev Parke Heller	Helena	No.171	1951-52
J. Samuel Carey	Newton	No. 56	1952-53
V. Browne Kookan	Philos	No. 91	1953-54
Maurice A Ramsburg	Frederick City	No.100	1954-55
B. Frank Benny	Miller	No. 18	1955-56
Burland E Debolt	Chosen Friends	No. 34	1956-57
Melvin M Harris	Jefferson	No. 9	1957-58
Calvin Brincefield	Oriole	No. 47	1958-59
Leroy Hoppman	Liberty	No.10	1959-60
Harry Hilton	Fort Carroll	No. 11	1960-61
George Trotter	Towson	No. 79	1961-62
George Mitchell	Mizpah	No. 66	1962-63
Henry Halfpap	Loyalty	No.165	1963-64
Benjamin Sklar	Washington	No. 1	1964-65
James H, Fritz	Memorial	No. 44	1965-66
Frank Long	Liberty	No. 10	1966-67
George Tederick	Chapel Hill	No. 53	1967-68
Emerson Plummer	Memorial	No. 44	1968-69
Floyd E. O'Hern	Fort Carroll	No. 11	1969-70
Charles E. Delosier	Centre	No. 40	1970-71
Leroy C Schlimme	Helena	No.171	1971-72
John Seymour	Liberty	No. 10	1972-73
Joseph Williamson, Sr.	Federal	No. 35	1973-74
Charles Godwin	Constitution	No. 78	1974-75
Sam Wachs	Washington	No. 1	1975-76
Richard Stanton	Jurisdictional		1976-77
Wilson Lang	Providence	No.116	1977-78
Eldred C. Tinder	Helena	No.171	1978-79
Howard F.Carter	North Point	No. 4	1979-80
Roy V. Williams	Towson	No. 79	1980-81
Melvin M Harris	Jefferson	No. 9	1981-82
Herbert M Burmeister	North Point	No. 4	1982-83
James J Buckner	Triumph	No. 16	1983-84
Robert B. Cox	Blenheim	No.102	1984-85
Lawrence O. Brady	Loyalty	No.165	1985-86
William Sollers Sr.	Baltimore City	No. 57	1986-87
Herbert M Burmeister	North Point	No. 4	1987-88
Eldred C. Tinder	Helena	No.171	1988-89
Vaughn Pete Thomas	Loyalty	No.165	1989-90
James Showalter	Memorial	No. 44	1991-92
James Henry	Miller	No. 18	1992-93
George H.Verry	Forest	No. 41	1993-94
William Sollers, Jr.	Baltimore City	No. 57	1994-95
Frederick E. Marcuson	North Point	No. 4	1997-98
Richard L. Taylor	Oriole	No. 47	2001-02
Austin A. Pirrone Jr	Mount Moriah	No. 32	2005-06
Shirley L. Sell	North Point	No. 4	2007-08
Clifton R. Poist	North Point	No. 4	2009-10
Doris Jean Tinder	Providence	No.116	2016-16
Darlene Rosie Parker	Towson	No. 79	2016-17
Louis P. Butler	Metropolis	No. 17	2018-19
Dennis Brown	North Point	No. 4	2019-20

## Report No. 1

### Grand Master's Report

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge:

Greetings,

Grand Master Brenda Gayle Hamilton was honored to serve the members of Maryland as Grand Master. Through her term as Deputy Grand Master, we talked extensively about her goals and plans for her program. One of her biggest goals was unity among members. She aimed to approach many of our issues with kindness. She often spoke of extending an olive branch. Those who were blessed enough to be close to her, knew of her dedication to this Order, and to living by the tenets of our Order.

Brenda frequently recalled her many defining experiences as a Rebekah, and serving as the President of the Rebekah Assembly. She recalled serving as President beside her husband, Donald Hamilton, who was Grand Master the same year. She recalled the many visitations that they both traveled to attend. She often reflected on how differently things used to be done. While she understood that the world has changed, and the order must change with it, she also noted that we must remain true to the principles and goals that have brought Odd Fellows and Rebekahs this far. Part of her goal was to return to some of the beautiful traditions that brought members together in the past.

One of the first events that Brenda attended as Grand Master was the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. She was excited to attend and see the workings of another Grand Lodge. At the social events, she was able to connect with several of the members from other states who shared her thoughts and goals for the Order. She noted being impressed by the work that New Jersey was doing, and wondered if Maryland could do something similar.

In August, Brenda attended the Sessions of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, where she also connected with several members from other jurisdictions who shared her thoughts. She was excited to see all of the art, writings, and innovations of other members. Brenda was very proud to support our brother, Dr. Howard G. Malin in completing his term as General Commanding of the General Military Council. She was also able to have some fun with the other brothers and sisters from Maryland who attended the session.



*A self-proclaimed Hotdog Connoisseur, Brenda was excited to find the Wienermobile waiting outside of the hotel at SGL session in Pittsburgh, PA*



King David Lodge #50 was Brenda's first Visitation as Grand Master. She was very impressed that the lodge was so active in their community, and doing so much to spread the spirit of Odd Fellowship, despite being a small lodge. Brenda remarked that they set a good example of what lodges should be doing, and showed that even the smaller lodges can make a big impact. She and the members of the lodge noted the comfort and support felt during the visitation.



*Grand Master Brenda Hamilton and Staff with Members of King David Lodge #50 at her official Visitation. October 2024*

Brenda was excited and encouraged by any ideas to bring our members together. When the idea of expanding the Halloween event was proposed, she was immediately on board, and began brainstorming ideas. As the committee shared thoughts and goals for the event, she was



*Halloween Trick or Treat event in 2017*

supportive and asked what she could do to help. The committee kept her updated on the progress of the set up for the event, sending her pictures and videos of the decorations. Although she was not feeling well, she insisted on preparing cupcakes and table centerpieces for the event. As she was very excited about the event, she was very disappointed to not be able to attend.

The members who were able to attend either the Trick or Treat, the after party, or both, were very supportive of Brenda's program and goals. With multiple Halloween-themed fundraisers, members were able to raise money for her project, the Alzheimer's Association—Maryland Chapter.

Although Brenda took her final degree this past November, the Grand Staff continued to promote her program through the remainder of her term. As many lodges sent donations to support her project, or presented them at their visitations, members within her Granite community also sent donations to her project. Brenda was well-known and well-loved in

Granite, as she played a significant role in preserving the history of the area. The community's support of Brenda, and her home lodge, Baltimore City #57, has been strong over the years, and they made donations to ensure she, and her projects with the Order would be preserved.

Brenda did not get to finish her term as Grand Master, but she had been looking forward to the upcoming events and activities to support her program, and the Order. She and her husband Don had participated in the Odd St. Nick program at North Point #4 for many years, often playing the

roles of Santa and Mrs. Claus. She had been looking forward to participating and helping distribute gifts to the children in the community as the Grand Master.

She had expressed the importance of celebrating and memorializing our founder, Thomas Wildey. Although we were not able to organize a memorial service for him during her term, we are planning to carry out her wishes in the upcoming years to visit the gravesite and hold a proper memorial service. We did organize a birthday party for brother Wildey, and though Brenda was not a part of these plans, we are confident that she would have enjoyed the event.

Brenda had talked about having some Springtime events to bring our members, and the community together. She had many ideas, which we hope to bring to life in the upcoming years. She had also been looking forward to attending the Mid-Atlantic States Conclave this Spring. She had attended many times in the past, and enjoyed the memories that she made. While she was not able to attend the 2025 conclave, she did attend in 2024. She made a significant effort to encourage more of our members to attend as well. When she returned, she shared her positive experiences with many members, encouraging them to attend in the future.



*Grand Master Brenda Hamilton and husband, Past Grand Master Donald Hamilton attending Mid-Atlantic States Conclave in 2024*

Grand Master Brenda Hamilton created a program focused on Friendship, Love, and Truth. Although she was not able to see the fruits of her labors, her Grand Staff was honored to continue her efforts and ensure her goals were achieved. Her loss was felt deeply by the members of Maryland, her family, and her community. But the joy, love, and kindness that she shared will be felt by all for many years to come.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Brianna Shuman, Deputy Grand Master, for

Brenda Hamilton, Grand Master





Lady Brenda Gayle Hamilton  
Grand Master  
2024-2025

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND  
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS



PROCLAMATION

Time in its eternal flight has once again brought us to that place in time where we pause to pay tribute to the memory of one who for a while labored with us in the great cause of Universal Brotherhood, and who has now passed to their eternal resting place.

As we now pause to remember, let us also pause to rededicate ourselves to the cause for which they labored and held dear. Let us, in their memory, be determined to make Odd Fellowship the brightest star in the Fraternal Universe.

SISTER BRENDA GAYLE HAMILTON  
GRAND MASTER  
2024

Sister Brenda G. Hamilton was born Friday July 11, 1952. Sister Hamilton passed away on Thursday November 14, 2024. Sister Brenda joined Jefferson Lodge #9 as an Odd Fellow May 1, 2014 where she obtained rank of Past Grand in 2016. Upon her death she was a member of Baltimore City Lodge #57. Sister Brenda obtained rank of Deputy Grand Master in 2023 and continued to rank of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 2024.

Sister Hamilton joined Monumental Canton in 1999, Salem Encampment #13 in 2015 and was a charter member of Bunker Hill Canton #10 that was instituted in July 2019.

Sister Hamilton joined Hope Rebekah Lodge #3 in 1992 and Faith Lodge #57 as a charter member in July 1996. Sister Hamilton obtained rank of Past Noble Grand before becoming Rebekah President 1998-1999. She received the meritorious service jewel during her term in the Order. She was appointed Chairperson of the Rebekah Assembly Youth Committee in 1999.

Sister Brenda joined the Ladies Encampment Auxiliary Jerusalem LEA #1 in April of 1994 where she rose to Chief Matriarch in 1996. Sister Brenda was awarded the Declaration of Chivalry the highest award elevating her to the exalted position of Lady of the Decoration of Chivalry Brenda G. Hamilton

Sister Brenda leaves behind husband Donald Hamilton, daughter Donna Hamilton Clark-Koback and husband Cliff, son Don Hamilton, Jr. and wife Denise; grandchildren Tyler Storm Clark and wife Sam, Jesse Collin Clark, Katelyn, Kimberly and Kelly, five great-grandchildren; nieces Dona Michelle Hush and Judith David; great-niece and nephew Samantha Wiegler and Zachary Boone. She is also survived by four great-great nieces.

Grand Master Lady Brenda G. Hamilton has answered the last roll call of the Heavenly Father and has passed from this world. She will be missed, Farewell Sister till we meet again.

In accordance with our past custom and usages of this, the Mother Jurisdiction of American Odd Fellowship, all Odd Fellow Lodges in the State are directed to drape their charter with the proper ceremony of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the lodge Charters shall remain draped for a period of thirty days, as is only proper and fitting to memorialize the passing of one who has accomplished so much for our Order.

Proclamation drawn up at the Grand Lodge of Maryland, United States of America, this 2nd day of December in the Two Hundred Sixth Year of our beloved Order.

Respectfully Submitted  
Brianna Shuman  
Deputy Grand Master

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND  
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS



PROCLAMATION

Time in its eternal flight has once again brought us to that place where we pause to pay tribute to the memory of one who for a while labored with us in the great cause of Universal Brotherhood, and who has now passed to their eternal resting place.

As we now pause to remember, let us also pause to rededicate ourselves to the cause for which they labored and held dear. Let us, in their memory, be determined to make Odd Fellowship the brightest star in the Fraternal Universe.

FRANK "RAZ" RACZNIK  
GRAND MASTER  
2010 – 2011

Brother Frank Racznik was born June 4, 1936. Brother Raz passed away on Sunday June 30, 2024. Brother Raz joined North Point Lodge #4 as an Odd Fellow October 8, 2003.

Brother Racznik served on many committees during his time in the Odd Fellows. He volunteered many hours and donated generously to many projects and causes during his time in the Order.

He obtained rank of Grand Warden May 2008 and continued to rank of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 2010.

Brother Raz joined Salem Encampment March 06, 2004. He obtained rank of Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment 2012.

He is survived by his daughter Rose and her partner Theresa, great grandchildren Cody, Kameron, Peyton, Logan and Ellie.

He was proceeded in death by his wife Rose, children Francis and Deborah and great great grandchild Willow.

Brother Past Grand Master Frank "Raz" Racznik has answered the last roll call of the Heavenly Father and has passed from this world. He will be missed, Farewell Brother till we meet again.

In accordance with our past custom and usages of this, the Mother Jurisdiction of American Odd Fellowship, all Odd Fellow Lodges in the State are directed to drape their charter with the proper ceremony of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the lodge Charters shall remain draped for a period of thirty days, as is only proper and fitting to memorialize the passing of one who has accomplished so much for our Order.

Proclamation drawn up at the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Dundalk MD this 20th day of July 2024

Respectfully Submitted

Brenda G. Hamilton  
Grand Master

Attested By  
Laura Teate Grand Secretary

## Report No. 2

### Deputy Grand Master Report

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge:

Greetings,

It was, again, a great pleasure to serve as an elected officer of the Grand Lodge. As Deputy Grand Master, I was asked to refresh the report that is filled out by District Deputies to provide the Grand Lodge more information about the state of each lodge. Grand Master Brenda Hamilton had also asked me to take charge of scheduling her visitations to each lodge, which has, as usual, been a challenge. There have been many challenges this year, but there have also been many great successes.

The duty of the Deputy Grand Master is to oversee the District Deputy Grand Masters, who are expected to report back to the Grand Lodge regarding the lodges assigned to them. After reviewing the previously used report form, Grand Master Brenda and I agreed to create a new form. Our goal was to learn about the needs and troubles of a lodge, and also hear about the good things happening around the state. Although we have many lodges that are in need of instruction on meeting and degree ritual, most lodges are doing good for their communities.

The schedule for visitations changed several times through the year. One obstacle that some lodges faced was the requirement to have a meeting during their visitation. For many years, visitations have been a dinner/social meeting at several lodges. This does not allow the Grand Lodge to see how the lodge operates, which prevents the ability to provide support to the lodge. Due to lack of quorum, several lodges had to reschedule their visitations, some, a few times. There are too many lodges in Maryland that consistently struggle to get a quorum at their meetings, and this needs to be fixed.

As I travelled around the state this year, I saw varying levels of proficiency with the meeting ritual. Many lodges have been trying to learn to conduct their meetings properly, but have not been able to get the help and instruction that they need. I do not hold this against the lodges. This is a failure of the Grand Lodge to enforce expectations, and provide support in recent years. Many lodges have reported feeling unsupported, and even antagonized by the Grand Lodge in the past. This is unacceptable, and again, needs to be fixed.

This year's staff has made an exceptional effort to reach out and connect with the lodges in a new way; to rebuild the relationship between the Grand Lodge and the Lodges in Maryland. I hope that our members are starting to feel more comfortable reaching out and seeking any help or support they may need. We have heard some of your needs and we are working on the tools and resources that you have asked for. It is my hope to provide demonstrations and other instruction

to the membership of Maryland, and provide opportunities to understand the ritual. We are working to become a better resource to you.

In another attempt to provide the needed resources to you, we took on the project of updating the website. As I stated to lodges at many of the visitations, we want this website to be a useful resource for the membership. Though gaining access and login information was a major obstacle, making the necessary updates was an easy fix. The website is still under construction, and we are open to feedback from the members on how it can be made more helpful. At this time, the website provides access to resources like the SGL Code of General Laws, our Grand Lodge Bylaws, membership and new member resources, and more. We have been working on updating the Lodge Directory for all Lodges, Encampments, and Cantons in Maryland, and created an easy way for lodges to update their information. We have been working hard to maintain a calendar of upcoming events to support and promote lodges' events, again, with an easy way to submit event information. Please use our website, [marylandoddfellows.org](http://marylandoddfellows.org), as a resource.

Despite the challenges that we are facing, many lodges are doing wonderful things to support their neighborhoods, and others worldwide. I have heard lodges donating to various charities of all sizes, helping other local groups, hosting fundraisers, running or supporting local food pantries, giving out scholarships, sponsoring sports teams, and so much more. I have also seen plenty of our members participating in local events and promoting Odd Fellowship. I hope to see our jurisdiction continue to grow.

Another goal that I share with our Grand Master is bringing everyone together. Many of you have heard me talk about the isolation that has occurred over that last several years. In an effort to bring our members back together, we have hosted events and parties at the Grand Lodge. The first was our double Halloween event, Indoor Trick-or-Treat, and A Very ODD Halloween Party. After hosting the indoor trick-or-treat event for many years, community participation was growing, but member participation was shrinking. To try to bring more members to the event, we added an after party for our members. Both events were a great success, drawing more Odd Fellows, and more families, with positive feedback from all. The second event that we held at the Grand Lodge, was a birthday celebration for Thomas Wildey's 243<sup>rd</sup> birthday. We had great fun playing games and eating cake. Many members were able to meet their brothers and sisters for the first time. We even raised some money for our Grand Master's project at both events. We hope to continue these events in the future, and add many more.

Though there were many great accomplishments this year, there were plenty of challenges. The greatest being the passing of Grand Master Brenda Hamilton. She, and her family, have been great friends to me for many years. I encouraged her to remain Grand Master as long as she could, and I promised her that I would continue her program if she was unable to. Having to step in as Acting Grand Master was not what I planned, nor what I wanted to do. But I kept my word and continued her program for her. All of the money collected this year will go to her project, the

Alzheimer's Association – Maryland Chapter. The password of this term was hers. The goals are hers. The things still yet to come will be hers.

As always, there were many disagreements among the members of the Board. At times, debate became quite intense. Unfortunately, there were several occasions where I, or Brenda, had to step in to resolve the matter. It is never pleasant to have to operate in this manner, and I always hold the hope that the members of the Board will be able to work together to complete the tasks expected of them. Most of the time, we as a Board were able to work together to accomplish the necessary tasks.

A major point of contention throughout the year was the rental of Grand Lodge space. As many of you know, we have leased out the large back-room space for several years now. While this has provided income for the Grand Lodge, it has prevented our members from using their own space for larger-scale events. I have spoken to many newer members, who are eager to bring new events and opportunities to our Order, but are discouraged by the fact that our large event space is not available to them. Several proposals from the leasing company have come to the Board asking for additional rooms in our building. This caused big disagreements among members of the Board; some in favor of renting more space for additional income, some in favor of preserving our space for our own events. At this time, no additional space has been leased, as the members of the Board look forward to hosting future events in our building.

This has been a challenging year, with many ups and downs, but I can feel a change in the Order. I feel that we are moving in the right direction. I can see that some of you do as well. I truly appreciate all of the kind words and support that many of you have sent my way this year. I hope that you all know that you can reach out to me for anything. Change can be uncomfortable, but your world can't get bigger if you stay inside your comfort zone. Whatever comes next, I will always push for what is best for Odd Fellowship.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Brianna Shuman, Deputy Grand Master



**Report No. 3  
Grand Warden**

To The Officers and Members of Maryland Odd Fellows,

In Memory of Our Grand Master Brenda Hamilton may she rest in Peace.

To our acting Grand Master, Thank you for doing the work that our Grand Master planned to do in her term. She would have been proud.

In my 20 plus years in Odd Fellowship I am humbled to have been elected to serve as Grand Warden for 2024-2025. It has been a very eye opening experience attending Board meetings and seeing the issues in the organization.

Visiting lodges with the staff has been interesting. The lodges have been very accommodating to the staff but some lodges struggle to have a quorum. We have 15 lodges in the state but we need members to get involved in their lodges and community to grow this order.

As you read this think can you do to make change a change to better this organization. Many members have been discouraged with leadership and other issues in the order within the order. I ask that you do not give up. Attend Board meetings and get the issues out so we can move forward to build a strong fellowship and make Maryland strong as a group not individuals. Step up and get involved.

In Friendship, Love and Truth!

Dave Brown  
Grand Warden

Your Voice Matters

Report No. 4  
Grand Secretary

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge: Greetings,

I hope all members of our jurisdiction will be able to attend this years session. There have been many changes at the Grand Lodge this year and more being proposed. Please plan to attend the session so as to continue to have your voice heard.

Once again we have lost members from our midst this year and they will all be memorialized at session. Our Order lost our sitting Grand Master Brenda Hamilton in November. GM Brenda continued her work until she could no longer. She attended meetings when it was obvious she was not feeling well and stayed in contact with me via phone during her short time away from the Grand Lodge. She did not complete her journey in the Grand Lodge however her dedication to make every moment count will not be forgotten. May she rest in peace and may her family find comfort knowing they will meet again.

We also lost PGM Frank Raczniak in July. Brother Raz was a long time member and dedicated many years to our Order. May he rest in peace.

I have been Grand Secretary for 9 years and during that time I have written many proclamations for Past Grand Masters and printed many names in the memorial reports in this time. We are slowly dying as an organization and need to find new members to continue the works of those who came before us.

Thank you Sister Sharon Thomas for being my side kick for the past 9 years. I treasure our friendship both in the Order and outside of it. We do not always see eye to eye on things but always respect and value each others opinions.

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers meet throughout the year to conduct business of the Grand Lodge. Minutes of the meetings were sent out to the lodges once approved by the Board and are included as part of my report.

Praying everyone stays well and has a safe summer.

In Sincere Friendship,  
*Laura K. Teate*  
Grand Secretary

Our lodges and members work within their communities helping in many ways and I like to make sure they are recognized for their efforts.

I would like to personally thank the following lodges for their generous donations and contributions.

I have only listed some of the recipients that our jurisdiction donated to as the lists are long.

Washington #1 gave away \$2400 to different groups including Autism Speaks, USO, MD food Bank

North Point #4 gave away \$2536 to different groups including Odd Nick, Soup for the soul, Scholarship, Churches

Triumph #16 gave away \$4661 different groups including Wreaths Across America, Sheriffs Office, World Kitchen, Foster Kids

Metropolis #17 gave away \$120 to Alzheimer's Association

Mt. Moriah #32 gave away \$1750 to different groups including Clear Springs ambulance, Hurricane Relief, GM Project

Federal #35 gave away \$1075 to different groups including Hurricane relief, hospice and little league sponsor

Oriole #47 gave away \$2947 to different groups including St.Anns Center, Hyattsville Elementary and Angel Tree

King David #50 gave away \$100 to Frederick Library

Baltimore #57 gave away \$12,560 to different groups to include Ronald McDonald House, House of Ruth, St Jude

Towson #79 gave away \$1797 to different groups to include WAA, Salvation Army and American Cancer Assoc

Poolesville #97 gave away \$12,135 to different groups including Scholarships, Meals on Wheels, Unicef, Arthritis

Blenheim #102 gave away \$3600 to different groups including Wounded Warrior, St Jude, Food Pantry

Upper Falls #175 gave away \$400 different groups including Kingsville VFD, Kingsville Parade, Human Society

This may not include scholarships that were given out by lodges.

I am only reporting on donations that are listed on the annual reports however lodges help their communities in many different ways including but not limited to allowing use of their lodge for repass functions, other fraternal lodge meetings, scouts, and other nonprofit groups. Many of our members and lodges work with senior groups providing companionship and other social activities. We hope that you are promoting Odd Fellowship and visiting the sick. Our jurisdiction has much to be proud of. Some lodges do not have their own temple and some have limited members each yet all our lodges do what they can to help others in their community.

What a great Order we are privileged to be a member of. Continue to elevate the character of mankind and enjoy the great feeling you get in return.

MD-GL  
-12  
2024 Annual Report of Grand Lodge of Maryland  
Commencing January 1, 2024 and Ending December 31, 2024

Number of Units in last report.....				17				Number of members relieved.....				1			
Number of Units this report.....				14				Number of families relieved.....				5			
Number of members as per last report.....				Total				Number of members buried.....				4			
Bro. Sis. Total				AMOUNT PAID FOR:				Relief of Members.....				800.00			
344 106 450				Relief of widowed families.....				11,486.09				FROM WHICH DEDUCT:			
				Relief and Education of orphans.....				28,000.00				Associate members.....			
				Burying the Dead.....				1,400.00				Non-Contributing members....			
				Operating Homes for the Aged and Orphans.....				0.00				Total Deductions.....			
				Special relief / Donations.....				88,890.53				122 21 143			
				TOTAL.....				110,576.62				NUMBER SUBJECT TO ANNUAL DUES.....			
				RECEIPTS:								208 87 295			
				From dues.....				10,844.95							
				From admissions and Degrees.....				361.00							
				From rents and interest.....				217,767.28				Annual Dues @ \$28.50 per Member.....			
				From all other sources.....				492,142.97				8,407.50			
				TOTAL RECEIPTS.....				721,116.20				Amount of check enclosed			
				Number weeks sickness benefits paid....				6				8,407.50			
				Lodge Expenses.....				400,907.62				IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seal of the Grand Lodge of Maryland			
				Lodge Invested Funds.....				5,592,564.72				This day of , 2025			
				GL Income.....				319,989.34				S E A L			
				GL Expenses.....				347,670.31							
				Grand Body paid Special Relief/Donations				2,350.00							
				Invested funds of the Grand Body.....				9,733,363.83							
				Amount paid for operating Homes.....				0.00				Grand Master			
				Homes funds invested.....				0.00							
				Amount invested in Homes.....				0.00				Grand Secretary			

2024 Annual Report of Grand Lodge of Maryland

MD-GL		MEMBERSHIP																									
-12		INCREASE										DECREASE										Membership 12/31/2023		Membership 12/31/2023		Membership 12/31/2024	
No. of Unit	NAME OF UNIT	By Error		Initiated		By Card		Reinstated		Sub Total		Sub Total		Suspended for Cause		Suspended for N.P.D.		Expelled		Deceased		Bro	Sis	Membership 12/31/2024			
		Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis						
1	Jur Grand Jurisdictional	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0				
2	1 Washington	96	14	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	96	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	94	15				
3	4 North Point	46	21	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	51	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	45	21			
4	16 Triumph	7	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	10			
5	17 Metropolis	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1				
6	32 Mount Moriah	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3				
7	35 Federal	25	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	2				
8	40 Centre	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7				
9	47 Oriole	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8				
10	50 King David	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	0				
11	57 Baltimore City	35	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	36	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	36	7				
12	79 Towson	14	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	14	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	8				
13	97 Poolesville	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4				
14	102 Blenheim	16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	4				
15	116 Providence	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5				
16	175 Upper Falls	41	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	8				
17																											
18																											
14	TOTALS	344	106	1	0	5	10	0	1	1	0	351	117	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	1	330	108			

RELIEF RECORD																					
No. of Unit		AMOUNTS PAID																			
		Associate Members		Associate Members		Non-Contributing Members		Non-Contributing Members		No. Past Grands										No. Past Grands	
		Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis	Bro	Sis
1	Jur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	92	11	0	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	4	0	0	2	0	20	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	16	1	0	1	5	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	17	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	32	1	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	35	7	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	40	1	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	47	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	50	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	57	1	1	0	0	20	3	1	3	1	6	300.00	11,086.09	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	79	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	97	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	102	0	0	7	1	10	1	0	1	1	0	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	116	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	175	3	0	2	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17																					

2:02 PM

04/22/25

Accrual Basis

## The Grand Lodge Of Maryland I.O.O.F. Inc.

## Profit &amp; Loss

June 1, 2024 through March 1, 2025

	Jun 1, '24 - Mar 1, 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Fund Raising Income	
Grand Master Project	160.00
Total Fund Raising Income	160.00
general Admin Misc	
Workers Comp	-167.00
general Admin Misc - Other	8.80
Total general Admin Misc	-158.20
Interest Income	
Money Fund Earnings	20.20
Total Interest Income	20.20
Pass Thru Income	
Donations	
Grand Master Project	650.00
Total Donations	650.00
SGL Per Capita	6,184.50
Total Pass Thru Income	6,834.50
Rent	
Backroom Rent	38,400.00
Backroom Utilities	9,525.00
Room Rental	
Room Rental Refundable Deposit	300.00
Room Rental - Other	500.00
Total Room Rental	800.00
Total Rent	48,725.00
Sales	
Goods Sold	669.85
Postage and Handling	22.39
Printing Charges	105.50
Total Sales	797.74
Snow Removal	600.00
Total Income	56,979.24
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	537.95
Total COGS	537.95
Gross Profit	56,441.29
Expense	
Back Room Rental	61.13
Baltimore Property	
Building Maintenance	
Exterminating	25.67
Fire Extinguishers	339.00
Handsoap/PaperTowels/TP	47.69
HVAC Contract	2,240.00
hvac unit maintenance	1,277.00
Improvements	37.83
Seasonal Maintenance	
Grass Cutting	1,000.00
Snow Removal	1,650.00
Total Seasonal Maintenance	2,650.00

2:02 PM

04/22/25

Accrual Basis

## The Grand Lodge Of Maryland I.O.O.F. Inc.

## Profit &amp; Loss

June 1, 2024 through March 1, 2025

	Jun 1, '24 - Mar 1, 25
Sprinkler/Backflow Yr Contract	1,133.86
Suppples, Cleaning	31.49
trash removal	1,027.20
Building Maintance - Other	7,987.50
Total Building Maintance	16,797.24
Fire Inspectin Certificate	50.00
Proerty Tax 7721 Battle Grove	5,129.52
Utilities	
Electric	
9485930000 Grand Lodge Dundalk	9,706.53
Total Electric	9,706.53
Telephone	1,170.50
Water and Sewer	
Water and Sewer 7721	200.88
Total Water and Sewer	200.88
Total Utilities	11,077.91
Total Baltimore Property	33,054.67
Bank fees	21.00
Committees & Events	
Membership	1,750.69
Sunshine Fund	60.00
Total Committees & Events	1,810.69
General & Administrative Exp	
Alarm Expense	
repalrs	312.50
Alarm Expense - Other	91.16
Total Alarm Expense	403.66
Bank Costs	126.84
Equipment	
Copler	
dellvery charge	0.00
lease	1,377.81
Total Copler	1,377.81
Total Equipment	1,377.81
Insurance	
D&O	1,803.00
Package Policy	16,359.27
Umbrella	2,667.77
Total Insurance	20,830.04
Internet Access	
Web page Service	20.17
Total Internet Access	20.17
Mileage & Per Diem	1,162.87
Office supplies	15.35
Postage & Delivery	
Postage	
Stamp rolls / books	43.80
Postage - Other	22.44
Total Postage	66.24
SGL Shipping	6.44
Total Postage & Delivery	72.68



2:02 PM

04/22/25

Accrual Basis

**The Grand Lodge Of Maryland I.O.O.F. Inc.**

**Profit & Loss**

**June 1, 2024 through March 1, 2025**

	Jun 1, '24 - Mar 1, 25
Professional Fees	
Payroll Svr	450.00
Tax Return Svr	1,552.75
Total Professional Fees	2,002.75
General & Administrative Exp - Other	65.00
Total General & Administrative Exp	26,077.17
Grand Master Project	1,419.00
Payroll	
Payroll Taxes	1,655.14
Payroll - Other	20,701.22
Total Payroll	22,356.36
Phillos Cemetery Expense	20.99
Room Expense	
Cleaning	100.00
Event Staff	100.00
Refundable Deposit	300.00
Room Expense - Other	19.95
Total Room Expense	519.95
Sales Tax Maryland	30.84
Total Expense	85,371.80
Net Ordinary Income	-28,930.51
Net Income	-28,930.51

REPORT NO. 6  
BOARD MINUTES  
**BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**  
Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2024  
Time 5:41 PM

Lord as we prepare to start this meeting we ask that You help us to function, not as individuals with our own motives, but as a team, working towards a common goal. Help us to use the time we have together wisely. We know that You desire unity, and that the enemy is the one who seeks to divide and destroy. Please remove any selfish gain from among us. Grant us patience towards each other, and help us to be respectful of each other's input. May we be quick to hear and slow to speak. May we be even slower to take offense, and even quicker to show grace and forgiveness. May our actions be filled with Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

Roll Call: \_\_\_\_\_ GM George Wills \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brenda Hamilton \_\_\_\_\_ GW Brianna Shuman  
\_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate    A \_\_\_\_\_ GT Candy Beatty \_\_\_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
\_\_\_\_\_ I PGM Jeff Teat \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Doris Taylor \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

**Sick/Distress**

GW Brianna #57 Doing good now	Robert Beatty #47 Home getting ramp
Frank Racznik PGM # 4 hospice care on morphine	GM Wills #4 Doing well
Jeannie Guilano #1 In car accident	

Lord, Look upon our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**April 15, 2024 Minutes:** Motion by Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brenda to Approve minutes. Motion Carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**GL Windows:** Final quote \$7500. Rain causing delays.

**King David:** Non Profit status reinstated by IRS effective 9/5/23 notified 5/2/24.

**Federal Lodge:** Have sent paperwork to Maryland for unclaimed property recovery. Not in good standing with IRS. Waiting for response from state for the return of property. Lodge has reached out to Senator to see if he can help with the return of the funds.

**Building Expenditures:** GM George to ask SGL Rep Elect Len Taylor of BGLO request to submit legislation to SGL. Len will look at Code and get back with Board. Not able to find \$2500 in Code. Code states "No funds of this lodge shall be invested or used in the purchase, construction or alteration of a building unless the plans specifications, and full particulars of financing are submitted to and receive approval of the Grand Lodge. The lodge shall not incur any debt or obligation nor enter into any contract for such purpose without the prior approval of the said Grand Lodge. GL bylaws added the word repair and \$2500 limit. Discussion that GL bylaws may be in violation of Code. Discussion as to what other jurisdictions require. GM George stated what others do should not matter if we are in conflict with code.

**Mailbox:** Received waiting on Post Master to come out and put on lock

**SGL Rep Report Session 8/21-24 2023:** SGL Rep Report submitted for advanced reports.

**Publicity Committee:** Ordered 24"X48" Banner for each lodge.

**Jefferson Lodge:** IRS notice for \$17,852.63 Taxes \$3,391.26 Late Fee. Accountant was no help. Said Richard was taking care of it. Accountant could not find their file to look back. DGM Brenda was aware of the tax bill stated Richard said Accountant was taking care of it. Still nothing received from accountant.

Dissolved Corporation. Waiting on IRS to send copies of previous year returns. Buyer is finding things hidden in walls. Found a bond certificate. We have requested info from Israel Bonds regarding the bond DGM Brenda wanted the plaques on walls to get back to the families if they want them. Plaques are here for her to take.

**Annual Reports:** Discussed issues with #175 reports and concerns regarding their bookkeeping and or reporting. Monies were showing on bank statements that was not reported on annual report. Motion Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff to start with audit of the lodge books. Brianna stated that there should be someone like Len Taylor or Sandy Shuman part of the audit committee since the lodge trusts them. Grand Master George stated that Len is a member and would not be part of it. He stated that the lodge has no reason to not trust the GL or his committee and at this time it would be himself, the Grand Secretary and the Lodge Return Chairperson that would work with the lodge. Motion carried. Grand Secretary was instructed to start with requesting copies of all bank statements from 2023. #175 provided bank statements and revised report and sent email stating that PGM Sandy Shuman explained to them there was mistake on their starting balance. Lodge Treasurer Denise stated that was what confused them and they did not know they needed to report grant monies or monies from events they held. Statements show where expenses over \$2500 were made for building repair/upgrades without any approval from Grand Lodge. GM went out to lodge to discuss the above. GM questioned if all others are complete. Sharon stated there were questions on #57 regarding all members paying dues and got it figured out.

**Perpetual Givens:** GS Laura would like to establish account for lodge when it is closed and property sold so that interest from the monies invested could be used to keep name of lodge alive in the community. \$255,687.05 transferring to giving account. Account is setup.

**Annual Reports Closed Lodge:** Wants to look thru Helena Lodge annual reports. Has Reports.

**Mt. Moriah:** Lodge asked about online access to account. Advised Grand Lodge does not use online access for any accounts. Lodge would like to have any funds over the \$73,000 transferred to their main account and want to know if it can be automatic. GS confirmed that the lodge does receive monthly statements for the escrowed account.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Grand Representative:** Received notice from SGL Secretary stating “ It is my understanding that Leonard Taylor is not in good standing to be a Grand Representative – Canton Monumental No 2 is being suspended today after many attempts to receive the annual report and per capita”. SGL Rep Len asked that the email be forwarded to him. Does not understand why he was not contacted about this when many others have been? Len will be reaching out to find the answers.

**By Law Committee:** Chair Sharon Thomas discussed Upper Falls #175 being sent letter and getting email back asking does every lodge have to make changes or only them? Sharon stated this seems to be what happens when they are made aware of issues of any type.

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

**Scheduled Visitations:** North Point #4 May 22 6PM Dinner

**Annual Session:** June 8 at Grand Lodge 9am

**Congratulations:** Sharon gave GM George wishes for a harmonious session and hoped he accomplished all he set out to do.

**GE and RAM Sessions:** Grand Matriarch and Rebekah President said date was 6/23/24 but has been advised that there is numerous conflicts with this date. They will advise asap if that date will remain.

Next meeting 6/14/24 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer 7:08PM  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent

## BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS Meeting Minutes

Date: June 17, 2024  
Time 7:00 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions that will be made today, so that they may align with your perfect plan for this organization. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

Roll Call:   \_\_\_ GM Brenda Hamilton   \_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman   \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ GW Dave Brown  
              \_\_\_ GS Laura Teate       \_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman       \_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
              \_\_\_ I PGM George Wills   \_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman   \_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

### Sick/Distress

Frank Raczniak PGM # 4 hospice care on morphine, still alert on occasions  
Jeannie Giuliano #1 In car accident, got new car doing better  
Joe Labuda PGM #4 Sister having surgery

Lord, Look upon our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**May 20, 2024 Minutes:** Motion by George 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy to Approve minutes. Motion Carried

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**GL Windows:** Final quote \$7500. Waiting for install.

**Federal Lodge:** Not in good standing with IRS. Waiting for response from state for the return of property. Lodge has reached out to Senator to see if he can help with the return of the funds.

**Building Expenditures:** GM George to ask SGL Rep Elect Len Taylor of BGLO request to submit legislation to SGL. Len will look at Code and get back with Board. Not able to find \$2500 in Code. Code states "No funds of this lodge shall be invested or used in the purchase, construction or alteration of a building unless the plans specifications, and full particulars of financing are submitted to and receive approval of the Grand Lodge. The lodge shall not incur any debt or obligation nor enter into any contract for such purpose without the prior approval of the said Grand Lodge. GL bylaws added the word repair and \$2500 limit. Discussion that GL bylaws may be in violation of Code. Discussion as to what other jurisdictions require. GM George stated what others do should not matter if we are in conflict with code. GM Brenda requested GS to submit request for SGM opinion on MD Cons & Bylaws VS Code and conflict.

**Mailbox:** Received waiting on Post Master to come out and put on lock

**Jefferson Lodge:** Waiting on IRS to send copies of previous year returns. Buyer is finding things hidden in walls. Found a bond certificate. We have requested info from Israel Bonds regarding the bond DGM Brenda wanted the plaques on walls to get back to the families if they want them. Plaques are here for her to take.

**Annual Reports Closed Lodge:** Wants to look thru Helena Lodge annual reports. Has Reports.

**Grand Representative:** Received notice from SGL Secretary stating “ It is my understanding that Leonard Taylor is not in good standing to be a Grand Representative – Canton Monumental No 2 is being suspended today after many attempts to receive the annual report and per capita”. SGL Rep Len asked that the email be forwarded to him. Does not understand why he was not contacted about this when many others have been? Len will be reaching out to find the answers. Len advised he delivered report and check to Ed Gordon on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Bylaws:** Sharon (Chair of 23-24 committee) stated that Lodge #57 & #175 bylaws were approved and sealed copies given to Sandy #57 and DDGM Len for #175. Explained that Lodges may be able to cancel their bonds if their Gen Liability insurance covers employee dishonesty.

**Upper Falls:** Sharon asked why Upper Falls #175 is not held to the same standards as the other lodges. Referenced their spending greater than \$2500 for repairs without getting 3 quotes and submitting for GL approval. Sandy questioned if they knew they had to and have they done it since? It was stated that it has. Sharon stated she was asked if she was only asking #175 to make changes to their bylaws or do others have to also. Sharon stated they were told all who submit bylaws for approval are looked over and many have corrections. Sharon wonders why they would think it would only be them?

## NEW BUSINESS

**DDGM Commissions:** Did the commissions get mailed to the Deputies or the Lodges. GM stated they were mailed directly to the Deputies on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriole Lodge:** Sharon asked GM Brenda why she felt the need for a “Strong Deputy” at Oriole Lodge as stated to PGM Stanley Labuda when she asked him to take to position. Sharon said she is very proud of all members of the lodge and especially the new members who have assumed offices and perform the duties very well. GM Brenda said she did not make that statement to Stanley and does not know why he would say she did. GM Brenda said she was not at the visitation for Oriole this year but heard it went very well.

**GL Foundation:** Laurel asked who is on the Board for the Foundation. It was stated Sharon Thomas, Stanley, Beverly Labuda, Ed Foreman. Asked when are elections. No answer was provided. Sharon stated that questions should be addressed to the Foundation for answers. Sharon explained that the Grand Lodge is not part of or involved with the Foundation. Discussion regarding bylaws and again it was stated that the GL does not have the info the Foundation should be asked these questions.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided.

**Publicity Committee:** GM announced that the committee is already working on things. GS asked when the committee members will be included as she is part of committee and has not been notified of any meetings or received any communications from chairperson.

**Website:** GM asked who is in charge of website. GS stated previous boards have appointed her to be in charge of updates and point of contact for submissions to the website. GM stated the website is in violation of code and needs corrected. She stated there are members who she would like to take over the website.

**ODD Fellows News:** GM stated she will have the committee get the news letter back in publication. PGM George stated that for a few years he reached out to the lodges for info to submit in the news letter and got little to no response. GS stated that lodges did not get items in before deadlines so many times events were over before next publication. GM is hopeful DDGM will help with this endeavor.

**Building Access:** GM discussed providing keys for all BGLO. GS explained that since computer server crashed there was no access to the electronic program to allow activation of new cards and over 50% of those activated have been reported lost or not returned. Waiting for alarm company to come and get system back in program mode to activate more keys. GS stated she has a few to distribute but not enough for all BGLO at this time.

**Dress Code for Staff:** GM wants Black Tux with white shirt, MD tie and red cummer, Black Dresses or White Shirt with black slacks or skirt.

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

**Welcome New Board Members:** Congratulations Grand Master Brenda, Deputy Grand Master Brianna, Grand Warden Dave Brown, Grand Treasure Laurel Shuman and Chair of Trustee on your elected positions. Welcome Chair of Finance Sandy Shuman. Past Grand Master George I hope you enjoyed your term and session.

**GE and RAM Sessions:** June 30, 2024. Grand Encampment 11:30 am Rebekah Assembly 2pm

**BGLO Meetings:** GM discussed days for meetings and advised that as no lodges meet on Fridays she will have meetings on Fridays. Discussion on having them on Thursdays as only 2 lodges meet that day. GM stated 7PM start time and discussion on having earlier so as to not be at GL till after 9pm. GM stated as members work and to allow them to attend it would be 7pm. Will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Month. George stated Fridays are not good for him, Sharon said she will do her best but Fridays are not real good.

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity.

Next meeting 7/12/24 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent

**Website:** GM asked who is in charge of website. GS stated previous boards have appointed her to be in charge of updates and point of contact for submissions to the website. GM stated the website is in violation

of code and needs corrected. She stated there are members who she would like to take over the website. GS asked what violations there are. GT said the info on SGL site was misleading, only suggestion not mandates.

**ODD Fellows News:** GM stated she will have the committee get the news letter back in publication. PGM George stated that for a few years he reached out to the lodges for info to submit in the news letter and got little to no response. GS stated that lodges did not get items in before deadlines so many times events were over before next publication. GM is hopeful DDGM will help with this endeavor.

**Building Access:** GM discussed providing keys for all BGLO. GS explained that since computer server crashed there was no access to the electronic program to allow activation of new cards and over 50% of those activated have been reported lost or not returned. Waiting for alarm company to come and get system back in program mode to activate more keys. GS stated she has a few to distribute but not enough for all BGLO at this time. Have gotten program installed and back up. GT provide key card and hard key. Sandy and Brianna were given cards after meeting. Dave will see if he can obtain PGM Dennis card before getting one.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy advised he asked 2 times for copy of bylaws from Stanley Labuda as instructed by Sharon and did not get response. He obtained a copy from the resident agent however they are 2<sup>nd</sup> revised set not dated. Sandy told Grand Master she can request a copy as she is a member of the Board for the foundation. GM instructed the GS to send request to the GL foundation to obtain a copy.

### NEW BUSINESS

**BGLO Meetings:** GM will not hold meeting in August unless there be an urgent need.

**Expenditures:** GM has been made aware of North Point Lodge not getting 3 estimates or approval from GL to spend greater than \$2500. GM addressed that all lodges need to adhere to the Constitution and Bylaws as well as the Code of General Laws. GM explained that we may not like the rules but until they are changed we must be compliant. If we want to be a lodge we must follow the rules in place until they are changed. Dave spoke and stated that until the Grand Lodge pays for the repairs needed at North Point Lodge they will continue to do them as needed when needed without approval. Dave expressed his opinion that the GL should not have any say in them making repairs unless NP #4 is asking for money.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

**BGLO Meetings:** GM discussed days for meetings and advised that as no lodges meet on Fridays she will have meetings on Fridays. Discussion on having them on Thursdays as only 2 lodges meet that day. GM stated 7PM start time and discussion on having earlier so as to not be at GL till after 9pm. GM stated as members work and to allow them to attend it would be 7pm. Will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Month. George stated Fridays are not good for him, Sharon said she will do her best but Fridays are not real good and she will leave at 9pm if meeting is still going on. GS stated that Fridays are not best as she schedules room showings on Friday nights often. GM was asked about maybe making them earlier so as to not be out so late. GM will continue with Friday at 7PM.

**Trick R Treat Grand Lodge:** Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>. 4:00-5:30. GM assigned Len and Brianna as Committee and they will also plan an after party for the members.

**BGLO Minutes:** GM wants to get minutes out to lodges once approved. Discussion regarding when to get approved, at next meeting or via email. Tabled for further discussion.

**GT:** Informed BGLO that she is on the accounts for the Grand Lodge but having issue being added to account for Grave yard. Was told only the caretaker (administrator of account) could add her. GS to call and see what the issue is as this had not happen previously. GT started to discuss other items regarding finances and was asked to address these with the GS after meeting.

**GM Visitations:** Tentative dates August 28 #4 September 10 #50 October 8 #17 October 21 #16 October 28 #32 November 14 #97 November 21 #97 December 12 #102 January 27 #1 February 12 #175 February 18 #116 March 3 #40 March 11 #47 May 5 #35 May 14 #57

**SGL REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS aske if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 9/ 13 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer 9:22 PM  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early



**BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Aug 30, 2024      Time 5:16PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions that will be made today, so that they may align with your perfect plan for this organization. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:**    \_\_\_\_\_ GM Brenda Hamilton    \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman    \_\_\_\_\_ GW Dave Brown  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate                \_\_\_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman                \_\_\_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ I PGM George Wills    \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman    \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas  
**Visitors:** Don Hamilton PGM #57    Cliff Koback PG #57

**Sick/Distress**

Joe Labuda PGM #4 Sister recovering	Linda Humbert PG #32 Recovering knee surgery
Joe Labuda PGM #4 Many Dr Appointments	Jeff Teate PGM #16 Mother passed away
Don Hamilton PGM #57	

Lord, Look upon our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**July 12, 2024 Minutes:** Motion by Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave to Approve minutes as printed with spelling corrections or with corrections addressed and approved.      Motion Carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**GL Windows:** Completed

**Federal Lodge:** Lodge has reached out to Senator for help with the return of funds. Still waiting on determination from IRS

**Mailbox:** Locks on back order per post master.

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond.

DGM Brenda requested plaques to get back to families if they want them. Plaques are here for her to take.

**Annual Reports Helena Lodge:** Len Wanted to look thru and has Reports.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes

**Website:** GS has provided the password to Sandy for the website.

**Building Access:** GM providing keys for all BGLO. Dave will see if he can obtain PGM Dennis card before getting one. Dave was not able to obtain PGM Dennis key so one was issued to him. Many concerns with the way GL is being left after members are in using the building. Lights left on, trash left behind, bathrooms not cared for, hallway curtains left open. GM stated that committee chairperson needs to check building before leaving, reminded all to properly care for the building.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy advised he asked 2 times for copy of bylaws from Stanley Labuda as instructed by Sharon and did not get response. He obtained a copy from the resident agent however they are 2<sup>nd</sup> revised set not dated. Sandy told Grand Master she can request a copy as she is a member of the Board for the foundation. GM instructed the GS to send request to the GL foundation to obtain a copy. Foundation had Sharon bring copy of bylaws to provide per GM request. Sandy questioned when they were adopted, who was at the meeting, would like to see minutes. Has issues regarding violations of the bylaws. Will give Sharon list of concerns after reviewing the bylaws. Sharon provided info regarding finances of the Foundation since she has been in part of the Foundation Board.

**SGL REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would

come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried  
**Accounts:** Signature page sent to GT by GS for Barton Cemetery account. GS confirmed that she is the one who authorizes who is to be added or removed from the account. Have not received signature pages back yet. GT stated that she is being told that she cannot be added without Dwight authorizing it. GS stated she has email stating different, asked GT to send the signature page back to her and she will get it taken care of. GT to reach out to Brandi at M&T. GT was to be added to the investment accounts for MT Moriah.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Confidentiality Concerns:** GT has been requesting numerous financial reports and banking statements via emails. It was discovered that she has Bcc'd someone that should not be receiving this information. Sharon stated her concerns regarding sharing this information and the fact that it is being done as a Bcc which indicates GT knew it should not be shared. GT stated it was a mistake that this person was included in the emails. She had been emailing them previously and mistakenly included them on the request to GS for information. Cliff and Len suggested that info should be encrypted when sending via email.

**Building Issues:** GM took BGLO on tour of GL to point out the issue of mildew in many rooms. Discussed the humidity problem in building and how to eliminate the humidity. GM wants to have clean up days to give good cleaning to the building. Oct 12 and Oct 19 at 9am.

**GL Rental Events:** Sandy asked that events be included in BGLO minutes. GM instructed that the be included.

**GL Copier:** Sandy Chair of Finance questioned the expenses for copier and how many copies we use per year. Will look over contract and see if we should consider other options.

**Heritage Committee Report:** Laurel advised that she would need additional committee members or others to help organize the items from the heritage room in order to properly do an inventory as requested by GM. Informed us that she will be going to meet with Masons to see what systems they use for inventory.

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

**Trick R Treat Grand Lodge:** Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. 4:00-5:30. Party at 6PM Members, guests and perspective members. BYOB RSVP by 10/5. GM assigned Len and Brianna as Committee. Flyers sent to lodges and on facebook. GS asked to put it on GL facebook.

**BGLO Minutes:** GM wants to get minutes out to lodges once approved. Discussion regarding when to get approved. At next meeting or via email. Tabled for further discussion. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that GS draft minutes and send out within 2 weeks to BGLO for review. Any corrections if needed must be addressed with 1 week by BGLO. GS to make changes if needed and resend to Board. Minutes will still be approved at the BGLO meetings. Motion Carried

**GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates:**

Oct 8 #50 King David 6 PM Food	Oct 16 #4 North Point 6 PM Food	Oct 22 #32 Mt. Moriah Time TBD
Nov 14 #97 Poolesville 6PM Food	Nov 21 #79 Towson Time 6PM Food	

**GM requested Dates:** Dec 17 Blenheim #102 Jan 27 Washington #1 Feb 12 Upper Falls #175  
Feb 18 Providence #116 Mar 3 Centre #40 Mar 11 Oriole #47 May 5 Federal #35  
May 14 Baltimore City #57 #17 Declined TBD #16 TBD

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 9/20 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer 7:38 PM  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

## BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

### Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept 20, 2024      Time 7:09 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions that will be made today, so that they may align with your perfect plan for this organization. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:**    \_\_\_\_\_ GM Brenda Hamilton    \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman      A   GW Dave Brown  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate                \_\_\_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman                  A   SG Rep Len Taylor  
                    A   I PGM George Wills                \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman                \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas  
**Visitors:** Doris Taylor, PG #16    Don Hamilton, PGM #57

#### Sick/Distress

Wayne Rexroth PG #102 Wife in ICU moved to Rehab

Lord, Look upon our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**Aug 30, 2024 Minutes:** Motion Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laurel to Approve minutes as printed. Motion Carried

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Federal Lodge:** Lodge has reached out to Senator for help with the return of funds. Still waiting on determination from IRS. Question regarding good standing with St. of MD. GS confirmed they are.

**Mailbox:** Locks on back order per post master.

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond. GM questioned the penalty from IRS and missing \$16K from few years back. GS confirmed missing amount was a mistake in how reported to GL and no further from IRS.

**Annual Reports Helena Lodge:** Len wanted to look thru and has Reports. GS asked reports be returned.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy has issues regarding violations of the bylaws. Will give Sharon list of concerns after reviewing the bylaws. Sharon provided info regarding finances of the Foundation since she has been in part of the Foundation Board. Sharon asked what the sudden interest in Foundation are they accusing Board of embezzling of something? Sandy stated Board should know the financial status of Foundation. Sharon suggested meeting between Foundation Board President and GM Brenda. Sandy informed us that bylaws state GL is entitled to 2 times year financial report if requested. Asked GM to request reports for past 2 years. Continued discussions regarding meeting minutes from when bylaws were adopted in 2014. Sandy recalls being on the board but not the adoption of the bylaws. Would like to know who was at the meeting when adopted. Sharon to provide the requested financial reports for past 2 years. Explained that some of the years in question originally were before her time as Treasurer and she has not seen those years books. GM asked that Sharon ask for the minutes of meeting for adoption of current bylaws and for the financial reports.

**SGL REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried

**Accounts:** Signature page sent to GT by GS for Barton Cemetery account. GS confirmed that she is the one who authorizes who is to be added or removed from the account. Have not received signature pages back yet. GT stated that she is being told that she cannot be added without Dwight authorizing it. GS stated she has email stating different, asked GT to send the signature page back to her and she will get it taken care of. GT to reach out to Brandi at M&T. GT was to be added to the investment accounts for MT Moriah. GT Laurel states she left message for Brandy at M&T and no return call. GS Laura provided copy for signature and will return it to Brandy.

**Confidentiality Concerns:** GT has been requesting numerous financial reports and banking statements via emails. It was discovered that she has Bcc'd someone that should not be receiving this information. Sharon stated her concerns regarding sharing this information and the fact that it is being done as a Bcc which indicates GT knew it should not be shared. GT stated it was a mistake that this person was included in the emails. She had been emailing them previously and mistakenly included them on the request to GS for information. Cliff and Len suggested that info should be encrypted when sending via email. GT Laurel presented copies of emails and informed the Board that email showing account numbers did not go to the BCC person in original email. Grand Treasurer said the email only went to the GS and the GM.

**Building Issues:** Discussed the humidity problem in building and how to eliminate the humidity. GM wants to have clean up days to give good cleaning to the building. Oct 12 and Oct 19 at 9am. GS informed that if dumpsters were filled on 10/12 clean up they would not be empty for the 10/19 clean up. DGM Brianna stated they would not be throwing away much more of a clean up of the mold.

**GL Copier:** Sandy Chair of Finance questioned the expenses for copier and how many copies we use per year. Sandy reported he did not have chance to completely look over contract but it is a 5 year with 4 years left. Will look for buyout clause to see if we can maybe consider purchasing own equipment.

**Heritage Committee Report:** Informed us that she will be going to meet with Masons to see what systems they use for inventory.

**Committee Reports:** Committees have not in previous years given reports on their actions unless there was a need to spend funds or use the GL for their functions. If we are to have Reports given should we consider asking each committee to provide reports? Halloween Committee: still getting RSVP for party and to help with Trick R Treat. Started setup in Wildey suite for party, GS told to not rent that room at this time. About 15 have responded to attend /help. RSVP date 10/5. Wildey Memorial. Actual date of death is 10/19. GM would like something at cemetery. GS to check and confirm we can on a Saturday. Discussion of the marathon in city that causes traffic issues.

**Rental Events Scheduled:**

#### NEW BUSINESS

**GL Website:** Sharon stated phone numbers for contact at #17 and #47 need to be removed. Suggested that all secretaries should confirm it is ok to display their personal numbers. Sandy stated they were making changes and Brianna stated there is form to fill out to update the info that was on the site previously.

**Temperature:** Sandy suggested that the entire building be set at 72 degrees at all times to help control the mold. Discussion that even at that temperature the units do not run often as the building stays relatively cool but humidity is high. Sandy to meet with HVAC company and discuss the current Zonex system in place.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trick R Treat Grand Lodge: Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. 4:00-5:30. Party at 6PM Members, guests and perspective members. BYOB RSVP by 10/5. GM assigned Len and Brianna as Committee. Flyers sent to lodges and on Balt #57 facebook. GS put it on GL facebook. DGM asked that party invite be removed from GL facebook

**GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates:**

Oct 8 #50 King David 6 PM Food	Oct 16 #4 North Point 6 PM Food	Oct 22 #32 Mt. Moriah Time TBD
Nov 14 #97 Poolesville 6PM Food	Nov 19 #17 Metropolis 6PM Food	Nov 21 #79 Towson Time 6PM Food
Dec 17 #102 Blenheim 6:30 Food	Jan 27 # 1 Washington 7PM Meeting	
Mar 3 #40 Centre TBD	May 5 Federal #35 6:30 PM Food	

**GM requested Dates:** Feb 12 #175 Feb 18 #116 Mar 11 #47 May 14 Baltimore City #57 TBD #16 Triumph Lodge #16: Sponsoring a Stop the Bleed certification Wed 9/25 6:30pm. Must pre register 443-981-1732

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

GS and Head Trustee will not be at next meeting as it conflicts with NJ Rebekah Assembly Session they have already RSVP'd when meetings were scheduled for Monday nights. GM stated someone will take minutes.

Next meeting 10/11/24 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer 9:20 PM  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

**BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Oct 11, 2024      Time 7:17 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions that will be made today, so that they may align with your perfect plan for this organization. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:**      \_\_\_\_\_ GM Brenda Hamilton      \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman      \_\_\_\_\_ GW Dave Brown  
                  A \_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate      \_\_\_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman      \_\_\_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
                  A \_\_\_\_\_ I PGM George Wills      \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman      \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

**Visitors:** PGM Don Hamilton #57

**Sick/Distress**

Wayne Rexroth PG #102 Wife in Rehab

Lord, Look upon our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**Sept 20, 2024 Minutes:** Motion Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laurel to Approve minutes as printed. Motion Carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Federal Lodge:** Still waiting on determination from IRS.

**Mailbox:** Locks on back order per post master.

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond.

**Annual Reports Helena Lodge:** Len wanted to look thru and has Reports. GS asked reports be returned. Len left them for the GS.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes. Still working on changes

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy Asked GM to request reports for past 2 years. Continued discussions regarding meeting minutes from when bylaws were adopted in 2014. Sandy recalls being on the board but not the adoption of the bylaws. Would like to know who was at the meeting when adopted. Sharon to provide the requested financial reports for past 2 years. GM asked that Sharon ask for the minutes of meeting for adoption of current bylaws and for the financial reports. Sharon stated nothing new to report as she did not plan to be at this meeting.

**SGL REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried SGL expenses Brenda had receipts but decided to do them later. It was brought up that with things that are continuously left on the minutes under unfinished business maybe have the date when it was first brought up.

**Building Issues:** Clean up days scheduled for Oct 12 and Oct 19 at 9am. When cleaning the building was brought up Sharon said she did not know how those coming Saturday were going to clean but explained the deep cleaning done by her, Laura, Jeff on the Sec. office, both bathrooms, kitchen, dining area, board meeting room, hallway and flags. Dave suggested a professional cleaning service come in once a month to clean. Motion by Dave seconded by Sandy. Motion carried. The Grand Master wants the building committee to research this. During the discussion Laurel asked who the cleaning company was that she has seen checks written for. Sandy said it was Jeff's company. Grand Master Brenda wants to know how long Jeff and Laura have been paid to clean. Sharon explained this was only during rentals, they don't get paid any other time they clean. Dave & Grand Master Brenda feel this is a conflict of interest and shouldn't be done. Sandy said our money should take care of this building. We can spend the interest and not touch the Principal.

**GL Copier:** Sandy Chair of Finance questioned the expenses for copier and how many copies we use per year. Sandy reported he did not have chance to completely look over contract but it is a 5 year with 4 years left. Will look for buyout clause to see if we can maybe consider purchasing own equipment.

**Heritage Room:** Laurel informed she will be going to meet with Masons to see what systems they use for inventory. Heritage Committee Laurel, Ed and Gene met with the Masons. Laurel said the Library was beautiful. She and a member of the Masons went through the computer to see the program they were using and how they did things. We need to join the American Association of State, Local History \$98.00 The software is \$870.00 with a 20% discount and the multimedia upgrade, that we would need is \$308.00 for a total of \$1,102.00. Laurel made a motion to purchase all this, seconded by Brianna. Motion carried. Sharon asked if they were going to use a designated computer and Dave said that was the next motion. Laurel then made a motion to allow her \$500.00 to purchase a laptop. It may not cost that much but she needed to be sure it could do what she needed. Second by Dave. Motion carried

**Committee Reports:** Committees have not in previous years given reports on their actions unless there was a need to spend funds or use the GL for their functions. If we are to have Reports given should we consider asking each committee to provide reports? Halloween Committee: still getting RSVP for party and to help with Trick R Treat. Started setup in Wildey suite for party, GS told to not rent that room at this time. About 15 have responded to attend /help. RSVP date 10/5. Brianna stated 25 for trick r treat and a hand full more for the after party. Still decorating and getting ready. Wildey Memorial. Actual date of death is 10/19. GM would like something at cemetery. GS to check and confirm we can on a Saturday. Discussion of the marathon in city that causes traffic issues. GM decided to move to January on his birth date instead. Details to follow.

#### **Rental Events Scheduled:**

**Temperature/Humidity in Buliding:** Sandy suggested that the entire building be set at 72 degrees at all times to help control the mold. Discussion that even at that temperature the units do not run often as the building stays relatively cool but humidity is high. Sandy to meet with HVAC company and discuss the current Zonex system in place.. Sandy has not called to meet with anyone. Dave said his neighbor used to work for clean air and meet with Sandy and whoever comes out to see what the recommendations are to improve the airflow to stop the mold. Sandy asked the Grand Master if it is something he can take care of does he have the Grand Masters approval to do so? The Grand Master said Yes

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Annual Report Instruction Day:** GM wants to hold another instruction day. Only 2 new Secretaries since last instruction day. New Secretaries get installed in January. The Grand Master agreed that we should hold it after the elections. She wants the Grand Secretary to send letters out to each lodge to invite the Secretary, Financial Secretary if there be one, Treasurer, DDGM'S to Instruction Day. She wants the letters to go out the end of October with the Instruction Date to be January 11th.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Trick R Treat Grand Lodge:** Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. 4:00-5:30. Party at 6PM Members, guests and perspective members. BYOB RSVP by 10/5. GM assigned Len and Brianna as Committee.

#### **GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates:**

Oct16 #4 North Point 6 PM Food	Oct 22 #32 Mt. Moriah Time TBD	Nov 14 #97 Poolesville 6PM Food
Nov 19 #17 Metropolis 6PM Food	Nov 21 #79 Towson Time 6PM Food	Dec 17 #102 Blenheim 6:30 Food
Jan 27 # 1 Washington 7PM Mtg	Mar 3 #40 Centre TBD	Mar 11 #47 Oriole 6:30 PM Food
May 5 Federal #35 6:30 PM Food		

**GM requested Dates:** Feb 12 #175 Feb 18 #116 May 14 Baltimore City #57 TBD #16

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 11/08 / 24 7 PM  
Prepared by: Sharon Thomas Asst. Sec

Meeting Closed in Prayer  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

Date: Nov 8, 2024      Time 7:22 PM

**Roll Call:**      A   GM Brenda Hamilton      DGM   Brianna Shuman      GW   Dave Brown  
                     GS   Laura Teate                      GT   Laurel Shuman                      SG   Rep Len Taylor  
                     A   I PGM George Wills                      CH   Fin Sandy Shuman                      CH   Trustee Sharon Thomas

### Sick/Distress

Lord, Look upon our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Mailbox:** Locks on back order per post master.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes. Still working on changes.

**SGL REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried. SGL expenses Brenda had receipts but decided to do them later. It was brought up that with things that are continuously left on the minutes under unfinished business maybe have the date when it was first brought up. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to reimburse GM Brenda \$1750.96 for expenses. Question by Sharon do we have receipts? Sandy stated Brenda has them and they will be reconciled once received. Motion carried. SG Rep Len is working on his receipts and will submit soon.

**Building Issues:** Dave suggested a professional cleaning service come in once a month to clean. Motion by Dave seconded by Sandy. Motion carried. During the discussion Laurel asked who the cleaning company was that she has seen checks written for. Sandy said it was Jeff's company. Grand Master Brenda wants to know how long Jeff and Laura have been paid to clean. Sharon explained this was only during rentals, they don't get paid any other time they clean. Dave & Grand Master Brenda feel this is a conflict of interest and shouldn't be done. Sandy said our money should take care of this building. We can spend the interest and not touch the Principal. GS Laura asked what the scope of work would be for the cleaning contract. Discussed and will not include the RAM and GE offices, Library, or Storage rooms. Want a deep clean by company

that steams the carpets to start and then monthly of common areas. GS to get back to the companies with this info. Discussion that all rooms need to be clean free of the mold on furniture and belongings before having any cleaning company in. GS to inform Grand Encampment and Rebekah Assembly of this need.

**Heritage Room:** Laurel informed she will be going to meet with Masons to see what systems they use for inventory. Heritage Committee Laurel, Ed and Gene met with the Masons. Laurel said the Library was beautiful. She and a member of the Masons went through the computer to see the program they were using and how they did things. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Brianna to join the American Association of State, Local History \$98.00 and purchase software \$870.00 with a 20% discount and the multimedia upgrade, that we would need is \$308.00 for a total of \$1,102, Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow up to \$500.00 to purchase a laptop. Motion carried GT Laurel said GL of Iceland wants a mallet and she has found one and will have it engraved to send them.

**Committee Reports:** Committees have not in previous years given reports on their actions unless there was a need to spend funds or use the GL for their functions. If we are to have Reports given should we consider asking each committee to provide reports? Halloween Committee: still getting RSVP for party and to help with Trick R Treat. Started setup in Wildey suite for party, GS told to not rent that room at this time. About 15 have responded to attend /help. RSVP date 10/5. Brianna stated 25 for trick r treat and a hand full more for the after party. Still decorating and getting ready. Wildey Memorial. Actual date of death is 10/19. GM would like something at cemetery. GS to check and confirm we can on a Saturday. Discussion of the marathon in city that causes traffic issues. GM decided to move to January on his birth date instead. Details to follow. DGM Brianna updated that 19 were at doors to hand out candy and about the same at the after party. Raised \$160 for GM project. Kenny Sigal NP #4 thank the GL for the Trick r Treating and party.

**Rental Events Scheduled:** 11/9/24 1pm-8pm

**Temperature/Humidity in Building:** Sandy suggested that the entire building be set at 72 degrees at all times to help control the mold. Discussion that even at that temperature the units do not run often as the building stays relatively cool but humidity is high. Sandy to meet with HVAC company and discuss the current Zonex system in place.. Sandy has not called to meet with anyone. Dave said his neighbor used to work for clean air and meet with Sandy and whoever comes out to see what the recommendations are to improve the airflow to stop the mold. Sandy asked the Grand Master if it is something he can take care of does he have the Grand Masters approval to do so? The Grand Master said Yes. Dave still wants to have friend who works in HVAC come in and take a look. Sandy wants to have Clean Air in to meet with all. Prefer not on Thursday.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Lost Key:** GT Laurel lost key card. Needs new key issued. Confirmed old card was disabled. GS stated yes.

**Repairs:** Towson #79 sent in for emergency approval of roof repair over \$2500. GM Brenda approved the expenditure when received. Sharon asked for clarification on when and who needs to get approval. Metropolis is going to have to replace their HVAC unit it appears and they noticed in the minutes from previous meeting that it was stated that if GL is not paying for it they should not have say in it. Sharon wants to know what to tell Metropolis. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to allow them to use who they want for the repair. Question by Len regarding how will the GL know who they used and how much for repair. Sharon stated it will be sent to GL once decided. Motion carried.

**Grand Treasurer Duties:** Laurel feels that she is not performing the duties of her office. She wants the checks, the bank statements for all accounts open and closed, and a backup copy of the Quickbooks file tonight after the meeting. Sandy stated that all invoices have to be submitted to the finance committee before being paid. GS Laura stated that budgeted line items do not need preapproval as they have been approved when budget gets accepted at session. Sandy stated the Constitution and Bylaws state otherwise. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow purchase of laptop and new quick books for GT to use. Motion carried.

**Conflict of interest:** Sharon wanted the BGLO to be aware that for many years a member was paid to clean the Grand Lodge both in Highlandtown and in Dundalk and there was no conflict of interest so why now with Jeff cleaning only after an event that the GL charges for. Sandy stated that Clay secured a cleaning company when he started because of conflict. Sharon stated that others were paid to set up for events and Jeff does that at no charge to the GL and cleans at other times at no charge.

**Security Deposit:** GS Laura addressed the statement made by the GW Dave regarding a member of NP #4 not getting security deposit refund. Dave stated that the deposit was not returned because cleaning was not done properly. GS provided the contract and check stub for the deposit return and shared note made on



contract regarding member not wanting to clean and stating the bathrooms were a mess when she arrived. Mention of Bathrooms was not until end of event when she was being told she had to clean the room as agreed upon at contract signing. Previous Board was not happy that she was stating the Bathrooms were a mess as they were the only ones to use them after the cleaning. GW Dave stated it was not important enough arguing about. GS stated it was important enough for it to be brought up 5 years after the incident when the Grand Lodge was being accused of withholding deposits unnecessarily and now that it was shared that it did not happen as he stated it is not important. GS shared board minutes from 2019 that addressed the member and the incident.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Annual Report Instruction Day** October with the Instruction Date to be January 11th.

**GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates:**

Nov 21 #79 Towson Time 6PM Food    Dec 17 #102 Blenheim 6:30 Food    Jan 27 #1 Washington 7pm Social Food  
Mar 3 #40 Centre TBD    Mar 11 #47 Oriole 6:30 PM Food  
May 5 Federal #35 6:30 PM Food    May 14<sup>th</sup> Baltimore #57

**GM requested Dates:** Feb 12 #175    Feb 18 #116    TBD #16, #17, #97

**Veteran Breakfast:** NP #4 Saturday Nov 9

**DDGM Reports:** DGM Brianna shared info received on the reports from deputies received. Some members need degree work. Most lodges meeting regularly. No supplied requested. Some could be better versed in the rituals. Would like some advertisement items for giveaways. Some need code book updated.

**Instruction Day:** Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 10am at Grand Lodge for all Secretaries, Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and DDGM's.  
GT Laurel suggested looking at the video on SGL regarding the annual reports.

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 12/13 / 24    7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

**BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Dec 13, 2024      Time 7:28 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions made today, so they may align with your perfect plan for our Order. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:**    RIP GM Brenda Hamilton    \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman    \_\_\_\_\_ GW Dave Brown  
                         \_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate    \_\_\_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman    \_\_\_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
                         \_\_\_\_\_ I PGM George Wills    \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman    \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

**Visitors:** Chris Mergler HVAC consult

**Sick and Distressed:**

Answered last roll call  
Grand Master Brenda Hamilton #57 Passed Away 11/14/24

May we have a moment of Silence in remembrance of Grand Master Brenda

Past Grand Secretary Robert Beatty #47 passed away 11/30

Heavenly father we entrusted Grand Master Brenda and Brother Robert into your loving arms and prayed for your peace upon them. grant unto them eternal peace, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

Ed Forman & Wife PGM #102 Doing ok      Wayne Rexroth PG #102 Wife is Home  
Hamilton Family/Coback Family and Baltimore City Lodge #57 Family  
Jeanne Giuliano PG #1 bruised liver

Lord, Look upon all our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**Nov 8, 2024 Minutes:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy to Approve minutes as printed. Motion Carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Federal Lodge:** Still waiting on determination from IRS. Working to get unclaimed property from state

**Mailbox:** Locks on back order per post master. Checked on 12/5 still on back order

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes. Still working on changes.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy Asked GM to request reports for past 2 years. Continued discussions regarding meeting minutes from when bylaws were adopted in 2014. Sandy recalls being on the board but not the adoption of the bylaws. Would like to know who was at the meeting when adopted. Sharon to provide the requested financial reports for past 2 years. GM asked that Sharon ask for the minutes of meeting for adoption of current bylaws and for the financial reports. Sharon stated nothing new to report as she did not plan to be at this meeting. 12/10 Email sent asking again for minutes or for letter of refusal to request. 12/13 Sandy stated that by virtue of the name the Grand Lodge is part of the Foundation. Sandy questioned the bylaws as there was no seal and a hand written date and noted the Foundation is in violation of bylaws as they state minimum of 7 members and only had 5 for some time.

**SGL REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would

come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried SGL expenses Brenda had receipts but decided to do them later. It was brought up that with things that are continuously left on the minutes under unfinished business maybe have the date when it was first brought up. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to reimburse GM Brenda \$1750.96 for expenses. Question by Sharon do we have receipts? Sandy stated Brenda has them and the will be reconciled once received. Motion carried. SG Rep Len is working on his receipts and will submit soon. 12/13 GT stated she has Brenda's receipts and has reconciled them. Offered to send Len copy of the reconciliation sheet she designed.

**Building Issues:** Dave suggested a professional cleaning service come in once a month to clean. Motion by Dave seconded by Sandy. Motion carried. GS Laura asked what the scope of work would be for the cleaning contract. Discussed and will not include the RAM and GE offices, Library, or Storage rooms. Want a deep clean by company that steams carpets to start and then monthly of common areas. GS to get back to the companies with this info. Discussion that all rooms need to be clean free of the mold on furniture and belongings before having any cleaning company in. GS to inform Grand Encampment and Rebekah Assembly of this need. GS to get back to cleaning companies with this info. 12/13 GS provided quotes from 2 cleaning companies. Cleaning put on hold until cause of mold is determined. (see Temp/Humidity below)

**Heritage Room:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Brianna join the American Association of State, Local History \$98.00 & purchase software \$870.00 with 20% discount and multimedia upgrade, that we would need is \$308.00 for a total of \$1,102, Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow up to \$500.00 to purchase a laptop. 12/13 GS asked if purchases have been made. Sandy stated yes but not reimbursed yet. Laurel requested key cards for Joe Labuda and Ed Foreman. GS provided the keycards as requested. Laurel also stated she wanted to have the Board start meeting back in the previous board room so the heritage committee can use the current board room. GS Laura stated that the backroom tenants want to start lease on this room asap. (see new business item "Realestaged Lease")

**Committee Reports:** 12/13 Wildey Committee Chair Laura asked DGM Brianna about GM Brenda desire for the Wildey celebration in January, Laura suggested holding on same day as instruction day since many will be at GL already. DGM stated she would get back to her regarding the Wildey event.

#### **Rental Events Scheduled:**

**Temperature/Humidity in Building:** Sandy suggested that the entire building be set at 72 degrees at all times to help control the mold. Sandy to meet with HVAC company and discuss the current Zonex system in place. Dave said his neighbor used to work for clean air and meet with Sandy and whoever comes out to see what the recommendations are to improve the airflow to stop the mold. Sandy asked the Grand Master if it is something he can take care of does he have the Grand Masters approval to do so? The Grand Master said Yes. Dave still wants to have friend who works in HVAC come in and take a look. Sandy wants to have Clean Air in to meet with all. Prefer not on Thursday. Dave talked with tech when he met him for the diagnoses of 2 units failing. 12/13 Chris Mergler HVAC consultant feels that doors should be left open for ventilation to help with mold. He stated he thinks the issue with mold may be bigger than just humidity and ventilation he thinks building may be "sick" and suggests getting a company in who specializes in mold and air quality. GS Laura stated she had been leaving rooms open and airing them out previously but this years Heritage Committee and GM wanted doors closed and locked and the mold has been increasing. Sandy stated that if HVAC is left in auto fan will circulate. Sandy questioned us looking in the ceilings for mold issues before calling out company. Motion George 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to have mold remediation company come in for consult. Questions Motion carried

**Repairs:** Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to allow Metropolis to use who they want for the repair. Question by Len regarding how will the GL know who they used and how much for repair. Sharon stated it will be sent to GL once decided. Motion carried.

**Grand Treasurer Duties:** Laurel feels that she is not performing the duties of her office. She wants the checks, the bank statements for all accounts open and closed, and a backup copy of the Quick books file tonight after the meeting. Sandy stated that all invoices have to be submitted to the finance committee before being paid. GS Laura stated that budgeted line items do not need preapproval as they have been approved when budget gets accepted at session. Sandy stated the Constitution and Bylaws state otherwise. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow purchase of laptop and new quick books for GT to use. Motion carried. 12/13 GS asked if purchases have been made so it can be removed. GT stated yes. Not reimbursed yet.

**Realestaged Lease:** Backroom tenant Wants to move forward with the rental of extra space they asked for and was approved. They approached previous BGLO regarding future rental of extra space. Was given option of different areas and they decided on the Friendship Suite (current Board room). BGLO voted to allow rental of the requested room at \$13 per sq ft. Tenant wanted to start lease by end of 2024. Current questions about why they didn't rent when they first asked. Was stated they were not in need at that exact time. GW Dave said that is good business practice to not rent before the need is there. PGM George said the motion was made to rent to them and they were to let us know when they wanted it. Questions regarding did we give it to them in writing. George stated no it was a motion and part of minutes, we need to keep our word. Motion Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> George to allow them to rent the current Board Room (friendship suite). Questions asked. Tied vote DGM made the deciding vote. Motion failed.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

**GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates:**

Nov 21 #79 Towson Time 6PM Food	Dec 17 #102 Blenheim 6:30 Food	Jan 27 #1 Washington 7pm Social Food
Feb 10 #32 Mt. Moriah limited space	Feb 12 #175 Upper Falls	Feb 18 #116 TBD
Mar 3 #40 Centre TBD	Mar 11 #47 Oriole 6:30 PM Food	Apr 1 #17 Metropolis TBD
Apr 21 #16 Triumph TBD	May 5 Federal #35 6:30 PM Food	May 14 #57 Baltimore City TBD

**GM requested Dates:** #97 Poolesville Waiting for response on offered dates #1 Washington waiting for new date to be offered since they cannot hold social as previously agreed.

**Instruction Day:** Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 10am at Grand Lodge for all Secretaries, Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and DDGM's. GT Laurel suggested looking at the video on SGL regarding the annual reports. 3 Lodges RSVP #79, #40, #102

**Happy Holidays:** Wishing all our Brothers and Sisters a wonderful holiday. May you find time to visit with all your family and friends and often give thanks for all the joys and blessings you have.

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 1/10/25 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

### Cleaning Quotes

**Green Apple Cleaning**

Initial Cleaning	\$850	includes mopping
Carpet Steaming	\$750	carpeted areas
Monthly		
No mopping	\$550	
With mopping	\$725	
No windows, just spot cleaning of fingerprints, no cleaning of glass in heritage room only dusting of ext of cases		
Event room	\$225	includes hallway to & from room and exit and to bathrooms, and bathrooms

**Capazzoli Cleaning**

Initial Cleaning	\$790	includes mopping
Carpet Steaming	\$730	carpeted areas
Monthly		
No mopping	\$535	
With mopping	\$690	
No windows, just spot cleaning of fingerprints, no cleaning of glass in heritage room only dusting of ext of cases		
Event room	\$200	includes hallway to & from room and exit and to bathrooms, and bathrooms

All common area windows cleaned quarterly \$100.00. Does not include offices

Multi Corp not received yet

## BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan 10, 2025      Time 7:18 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions made today, so they may align with your perfect plan for our Order. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:**    RIP GM Brenda Hamilton    \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman    \_\_\_\_\_ GW Dave Brown  
                 \_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate                    \_\_\_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman                    \_\_\_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
                 \_\_\_\_\_ I PGM George Wills                    \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman                    \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

**Visitors:** Cliff Koback #57

**Sick and Distressed:**

Jeanne Giuliano PG #1 doing better

George Wills PGM #4 Kidney and respiratory issue

Hamilton Family Keep in prayers

Forman PGM #102 Had pacemaker and defibrillator

Lord, Look upon all our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**Dec 13, 2024 Minutes:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave to Approve minutes as printed. Motion Carried

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Federal Lodge:** Still waiting on determination from IRS. Working to get unclaimed property from state

**Mailbox:** Locks on back order per post master. Checked on 12/5 still on back order. 1/10 new post master said will order and be in within about 2 weeks.

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes. Still working on changes. 1/10 Phone # and previous committee chairs need offers for position. Appeals committee can only have 1 member from a lodge on it.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy Asked GM to request reports for past 2 years. Continued discussions regarding meeting minutes from when bylaws were adopted in 2014. Sandy recalls being on the board but not the adoption of the bylaws. Would like to know who was at the meeting when adopted. Sharon to provide the requested financial reports for past 2 years. GM asked that Sharon ask for the minutes of meeting for adoption of current bylaws and for the financial reports. Sharon stated nothing new to report as she did not plan to be at this meeting. 12/10 Email sent asking again for minutes or for letter of refusal to request. Sandy stated that by virtue of the name the Grand Lodge is part of the Foundation. 12/13 Sandy stated that by virtue of the name the Grand Lodge is part of the Foundation. Sandy questioned the bylaws as there was no seal and a hand written date and noted the Foundation is in violation of bylaws as they state minimum of 7 members and only had 5 for some time. 1/10 Email from Pres of foundation they would discuss the request at next meeting end of Jan.

**REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried.

Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried SGL expenses Brenda had receipts but decided to do them later. It was brought up that with things that are continuously left on the minutes under unfinished business maybe have the date when it was first brought up. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to reimburse GM Brenda \$1750.96 for expenses. Question by Sharon do we have receipts? Sandy stated Brenda has them and the will be reconciled once received. Motion carried. SG Rep Len is working on his receipts and will submit soon. 12/13 GT stated she has Brenda's receipts and has reconciled them. Offered to send Len copy of the reconciliation sheet she designed. 1/10 Len has not turned in his receipts yet. Working on submitting. Laura asked Laurel and Sandy for copy of Brenda's receipts be provided. Laurel to email to her.

**Building Issues:** Dave suggested a professional cleaning service come in once a month to clean. Motion by Dave seconded by Sandy. Motion carried. GS Laura asked what the scope of work would be for the cleaning contract. Discussed and will not include the RAM and GE offices, Library, or Storage rooms. Want a deep clean by company that steams carpets to start and then monthly of common areas. GS to get back to the companies with this info. Discussion that all rooms need to be clean free of the mold on furniture and belongings before having any cleaning company in. GS to inform Grand Encampment and Rebekah Assembly of this need. GS to get back to cleaning companies with this info. 12/13 GS provided quotes from 2 cleaning companies. Cleaning put on hold until cause of mold is determined. (see Temp/Humidity below) 1/10 Multicorp did onsite visit. No quote received yet.

**Heritage Room:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Brianna join the American Association of State, Local History \$98.00 & purchase software \$870.00 with 20% discount and multimedia upgrade, that we would need is \$308.00 for a total of \$1,102, Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow up to \$500.00 to purchase a laptop. 12/13 GS asked if purchases have been made. Sandy stated yes but not reimbursed yet. Laurel requested key cards for Joe Labuda and Ed Foreman. GS provided the keycards as requested. Laurel also stated she wanted to have the Board start meeting back in the previous board room so the heritage committee can use the current board room. GS Laura stated that the backroom tenants want to start lease on this room asap. (see new business item "Realestaged Lease"). 1/10 Sharon asked if the laptop is at Grand Lodge? Laurel stated at her home as she is working on getting software installed and running, but checks are at the GL. No reimbursed

**Committee Reports:** 12/13 Wildey Committee Chair Laura asked DGM Brianna about GM Brenda desire for the Wildey celebration in January, Laura suggested holding on same day as instruction day since many will be at GL already. DGM stated she would get back to her regarding the Wildey event. 1/10 Wildey Birthday Celebration scheduled for 1/18 7pm at GL.

#### **Rental Events Scheduled:**

**Temperature/Humidity in Building:** Sandy suggested that the entire building be set at 72 degrees at all times to help control the mold. 12/13 Chris Mergler HVAC consultant feels that doors should be left open for ventilation to help with mold. He stated he thinks the issue with mold may be bigger than just humidity and ventilation he thinks building may be "sick" and suggests getting a company in who specializes in mold and air quality. GS Laura stated she had been leaving rooms open and airing them out previously but this years Heritage Committee and GM wanted doors closed and locked and the mold has been increasing. Sandy stated that if HVAC is left in auto fan will circulate. Sandy questioned us looking in the ceilings for mold issues before calling out company. Motion George 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to have mold remediation company come in for consult. Questions Motion carried. 1/10 Had Hawkeye Inspections out to start the evaluation and waiting on MD HVAC to finish the inspection of ducts and coils in HVAC systems. Hawkeye advised that we should not use the HVAC in the library or the 2 storage rooms as that will spread the mold thru the systems. Recommends putting all books in plastic totes. Leave for a few days, wipe exterior of totes and remove to off site storage for cleaning. Clean /disinfect room and shelves before bringing cleaned books back. Same for Storage rooms. Sandy stated he will get in and clean Patriarch Militant room.

**Grand Treasurer Duties:** Laurel feels that she is not performing the duties of her office. She wants the checks, the bank statements for all accounts open and closed, and a backup copy of the Quick books file tonight after the meeting. Sandy stated that all invoices have to be submitted to the finance committee before being paid. GS Laura stated that budgeted line items do not need preapproval as they have been approved when budget gets accepted at session. Sandy stated the Constitution and Bylaws state otherwise. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow purchase of laptop and new quick books for GT to use. Motion carried. 12/13 GS asked if purchases have been made so it can be removed. GT stated yes. 1/10 Not reimbursed yet. GS asked for password to Banking info.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Payroll:** Sharon questioned why payroll has not been issued on time. Laurel stated that it was discussed earlier in meeting with GS, GT, Finance Chair and DGM. Will be done on time going forward. Sandy stated it is being taken care of.

GT Laurel questioned change in payroll during the year. Did not see pay increase discussed at BGLO meeting. Questioned how it was evaluated for raises. GT Laurel asked if bonus awarded to GS by BGLO was processed thru payroll with GL paying their portion of FICA or as non-compensation expense. GT stated unfortunately that once you are on payroll all compensation must be submitted thru payroll.

**Grand Master Expenses:** Sharon asked where money was being allocated from for the Grand Master expenses to Sovereign Session? Sandy stated they were still working on that. Discussed from membership if funds are available. Receipts to be emailed to GS Laura after meeting.

**Rental of additional rooms:** Sharon questioned why this board thinks it is ok to go against the agreement to allow Realestaged to rent the Friendship suite after it was approved by the board and approved by the members in the advance reports. DGM Brianna stated there is nothing in writing with Realestaged so we are not obligated and the members approve the report not the content of report. Sharon stated this is disgraceful that we are going back on our word to rent to them. Not what we should be doing and it would be terrible for word to get out that the Odd Fellows do not keep their word. Motion Sharon to rent the Friendship suite for \$14 sq ft. Was informed by Sandy she could not make the motion as it needed to be done at meeting the original motion was done. Motion Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura rent the Wildey suite for \$13 a sq ft. Much discussion regarding Realestaged signed new lease on their current spaced after being told the could rent the friendship suite later in the year. Sandy stated we would let them out of the current lease if they wanted. Motion failed.

**Odd Fellow Merchandise:** Cliff Koback #57 wants to offer logo merchandise for sale and the Grand Lodge would get percentage of the sales. Question asked would Cliff make a profit on the sales also. Stated he would. Question on conflict of interest as it has been discussed previously regarding members making money from services they offer. Laura asked if we would allow any member who wants to sell like items also do it. Len asked this be held over and discussed by the Board when there are no guest present

**Grand Master position:** George asked if a motion had been made to elevate DGM to the Grand Master position. Sandy stated it was automatic. George stated it was with approval of the Board. DGM agreed with Sandy that it was automatic. Sharon stated George was correct it was with vote of the Board. DGM Brianna looked in Code and confirmed what George said was correct. Motion George to install DGM as GM. Discussion and Brianna will be acting Grand Master and leave Brenda as the listed GM for remainder of term.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

**GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates:**

Feb 10 #32 Mt.Moriah 6pm food	Feb 12 #175 Upper Falls 6:30 Food	Feb 18 #116 TBD
Mar 3 #40 Centre TBD	Mar 11 #47 Oriole 6:30 appetizers after mtg	Mar 27 #97 6:00 PM Food
Apr 1 #17 Metropolis TBD	Apr 21 #16 Triumph TBD	May 5 Federal #35 6:30 PM Food
May 14 #57 Baltimore City TBD		

**GM requested Dates:** #1 Washington 4/14

**Instruction Day:** Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 10am at GL for all Secretaries, Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and DDGM's. 3 Lodges RSVP #79, #40, #102 1/10 Canceled

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 2/14/25 7 PM

Meeting Closed in Prayer

Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

#### Green Apple Cleaning

Initial Cleaning	\$850	includes mopping
Carpet Steaming	\$750	carpeted areas Monthly
No mopping	\$550	
With mopping	\$725	

No windows, just spot cleaning of fingerprints, no cleaning of glass in heritage room only dusting of ext of cases  
Event room \$225 includes hallway to & from room and exit and to bathrooms, and bathrooms

#### Capazzoli Cleaning

Initial Cleaning	\$790	includes mopping
Carpet Steaming	\$730	carpeted areas Monthly
No mopping	\$535	
With mopping	\$690	

No windows, just spot cleaning of fingerprints, no cleaning of glass in heritage room only dusting of ext of cases  
Event room \$200 includes hallway to & from room and exit and to bathrooms, and bathrooms

All common area windows cleaned quarterly \$100.00. Does not include offices

## BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS Meeting Minutes

Date: Feb 14, 2025 Time 7:30 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions made today, so they may align with your perfect plan for our Order. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:** RIP GM Brenda Hamilton \_\_\_\_\_ DGM Brianna Shuman \_\_\_\_\_ GW Dave Brown  
\_\_\_\_\_ GS Laura Teate \_\_\_\_\_ GT Laurel Shuman \_\_\_\_\_ SG Rep Len Taylor  
\_\_\_\_\_ A\_I PGM George Wills \_\_\_\_\_ CH Fin Sandy Shuman \_\_\_\_\_ CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

### Visitors:

#### Sick and Distressed:

George Wills PGM #4 Knee Surgery 2/20

Bob Foltz PG #32 Passed Away

Ed Forman PGM #102 Had pacemaker and defibrillator doing well

Lord, Look upon all our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**Jan 10, 2025 Minutes:** Layover of approval. Laurel questioned the minutes as written. Laurel to submit what she thinks should be in minutes regarding Payroll. On 3/14 minutes from January were approved.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Federal Lodge:** 2/12 Resubmitted claim form to state for monies held

**Mailbox:** Locks back ordered per Post Master. 12/5 still on back order. 1/10 new post master said will order and be in within about 2 weeks. 2/3 told still on order. Referred to Delegate to try and get this resolved

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes. Still working on changes. 1/10 Phone # and previous committee chairs need offers for position. Appeals committee can only have 1 member from a lodge on it.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy Asked GM to request reports for past 2 years. Continued discussions regarding meeting minutes from when bylaws were adopted in 2014. Sandy recalls being on the board but not the adoption of the bylaws. Would like to know who was at the meeting when adopted. Sharon to provide the requested financial reports for past 3 years. GM asked that Sharon ask for the minutes of meeting for adoption of current bylaws and for the financial reports. Sharon stated nothing new to report as she did not plan to be at this meeting. 12/10 Email sent asking again for minutes or for letter of refusal to request. Sandy stated that by virtue of the name the Grand Lodge is part of the Foundation. 12/13 Sandy stated that by virtue of the name the Grand Lodge is part of the Foundation. Sandy questioned the bylaws as there was no seal and a hand written date and noted the Foundation is in violation of bylaws as they state minimum of 7 members and only had 5 for some time. 1/10 Email from Pres of foundation they would discuss the request at next meeting end of Jan. 2/14 Discussion regarding GT wanting 990 and Finance Chair asking for Financial Statements. GT stated financial reports must be provided within 30 days if asked for in writing.

**REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried SGL expenses Brenda had receipts but decided to do them later. It was brought up that with things that are continuously left on the minutes under unfinished business maybe have the date when it was first brought up. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to reimburse GM Brenda \$1750.96 for expenses. Question by Sharon do we have receipts? Sandy stated Brenda has them and the will be reconciled once received. Motion carried. SG Rep Len is working on his receipts and will submit soon. 12/13 GT stated she has Brenda's receipts and has



## NEW BUSINESS

**Grand Secretary Duties:** Sharon discussed GS required to make deposits per GL Cons and Bylaws. (See 2/14 update under Grand Treasurer Duties)

**Response to Emails:** Grand Secretary does not get responses to majority of emails sent to Grand Treasurer. Would like to try and have better lines of communication to make sure all bills are getting paid in timely manner and or entered in check registry as needed. GT gave deposit info for 12/20 deposit. \$250 #102 GM Project, \$200 #79 GM project and \$160 raffle Halloween Party \$610 total. GS asked about SGL invoices and water bills, GT questioned why 2. GS stated 1 for water/sewer 1 for sprinkler line.

**Annual Reports:** Due back by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Question on how many are back. GS stated about ½ or more.

**Call for Audit:** Finance Chair Sandy stated he and GT Laurel would be meeting with Gross Mendelsohn and Associates for the audit. GS asked the cost of audit and how far back. Sandy said 3 years and cost not known yet.

**GM Visitation:** Sharon asked why officers are not being introduced in proper order. Grand Marshall Sandy stated did not realize they were not. Sharon stated at #102 not done properly. Order of line up was discussed. Sharon addressed DGM Brianna and resigned from position of Grand Instructor.

**Item of instruction:** GT stated she found book of instruction from England and will send out to the Board

**SGL Rep:** Sharon informed Board that member does not need to hold membership in all branches at election only at installation.

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

**GM Visitations: Confirmed Dates**

Feb 10 #32 Mt.Moriah 6pm food	Mar 3 #40 Centre 6pm	Mar 11 #47 Oriole 6:30 appetizers after mtg
Mar 26 #116 6:30	Mar 27 #97 6:00 PM Food	Apr 1 #17 Metropolis TBD
Apr 21 #16 Triumph TBD	May 5 Federal #35 6:30 Food	May 14 #57 Baltimore City TBD

**GM requested Dates:** #1 Washington 4/14

**Conclave:** March 28-29 Delaware. Info sent to lodge Secretaries to share

**NP #4:** Seeking donations OBO Viper Team for World Cheer Competition expenses.

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 3/14/25 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LE) Left Early

### Green Apple Cleaning

Initial Cleaning	\$850	includes mopping
Carpet Steaming	\$750	carpeted areas Monthly
No mopping	\$550	
With mopping	\$725	
No windows, just spot cleaning of fingerprints, no cleaning of glass in heritage room only dusting of ext of cases		
Event room	\$225	includes hallway to & from room and exit and to bathrooms, and bathrooms

### Capazzoli Cleaning

Initial Cleaning	\$790	includes mopping
Carpet Steaming	\$730	carpeted areas Monthly
No mopping	\$535	
With mopping	\$690	
No windows, just spot cleaning of fingerprints, no cleaning of glass in heritage room only dusting of ext of cases		
Event room	\$200	includes hallway to & from room and exit and to bathrooms, and bathrooms

All common area windows cleaned quarterly \$100.00. Does not include offices

## BOARD OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

### Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14, 2025      Time 7:18 PM

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this meeting today, we seek your divine guidance and wisdom. Bless the discussions and decisions made today, so they may align with your perfect plan for our Order. Grant us discernment to identify opportunities, courage to address challenges, and unity to work together harmoniously in Friendship, Love and Truth. Bring comfort to all in affliction and distress and keep our Country safe. AMEN

**Roll Call:**    RIP GM Brenda Hamilton    DGM Brianna Shuman    GW Dave Brown  
                     GS Laura Teate                    GT Laurel Shuman           SG Rep Len Taylor  
                     A\_I PGM George Wills           CH Fin Sandy Shuman           CH Trustee Sharon Thomas

**Visitors:** NONE

#### **Sick and Distressed:**

George Wills PGM #4 Knee Surgery 3/7

Joe Labuda PGM #4 Eye Surgery

Noah Rhoades PG #57 Heart Valve Replacement

Lord, Look upon all our brothers and sisters, whom we now remember in a special way. In the midst of illness and pain, may they find your presence comforting. In this life we ask you to embrace them with your tender love and in their death deliver them from evil and bid them eternal rest Amen

**Feb 14, 2025 Minutes:** Motion by Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> by Len approve as written. Motion Carried

Jan 10 2025 Layover for approval. Discussion and opportunity to view recording of the Jan meeting if desired. Motion by Len 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura to accepted as written in minutes passed out at this meeting. Motion carried.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Federal Lodge:** 2/12 Resubmitted claim form to state for monies held

**Mailbox:** Locks back ordered per Post Master. 12/5 still on back order. 1/10 new post master said will order and be in within about 2 weeks. 2/3 told still on order. Referred to Delegate to try and get this resolved

**Jefferson Lodge:** Requested copies of previous tax returns. Sent info to Israel Bonds regarding the bond.

**GM Program:** GM stated there are changes being made to the program and once finished copies will be provided. Still making final corrections/changes. Still working on changes. 1/10 Phone # and previous committee chairs need offers for position. Appeals committee can only have 1 member from a lodge on it.

**Grand Lodge Foundation:** Sandy Asked GM to request reports for past 2 years. Continued discussions regarding meeting minutes from when bylaws were adopted in 2014. Sandy recalls being on the board but not the adoption of the bylaws. Would like to know who was at the meeting when adopted. Sharon to provide the requested financial reports for past 3 years. GM asked that Sharon ask for the minutes of meeting for adoption of current bylaws and for the financial reports. Sharon stated nothing new to report as she did not plan to be at this meeting. 12/10 Email sent asking again for minutes or for letter of refusal to request. Sandy stated that by virtue of the name the Grand Lodge is part of the Foundation. 12/13. Sandy questioned the bylaws as there was no seal and a hand written date and noted the Foundation is in violation of bylaws as they state minimum of 7 members and only had 5 for some time. 1/10 Email from Pres of foundation they would discuss the request at next meeting end of Jan. 2/14 Discussion regarding GT wanting 990 and Finance Chair asking for Financial Statements. GT stated financial reports must be provided within 30 days if asked for in writing. 2/28 Received letter from Foundation stating they would give report requested at GL Session. Sharon reported resident agent is being changed, legal address changed and new Bylaws approved. Laurel asked if name was changed. Sharon stated no. Laurel asked what is the purpose of the foundation. Sharon stated to get donations for scholarships and a pass thru for other designated donations. Sandy asked about donations received for GM Brenda project. Who have they received from? Sharon stated did not have list with her. Sandy stated his father sent in check. Laurel stated that any recognition of the name IOOF they

must answer to the GL and the SGL as they are part of it. Sandy questioned why the Foundation would not work with Towson Lodge to set up a scholarship in memory of the PGM Darlene. Sharon stated that they wanted to put restrictions on the qualifications that may discriminate. Sandy asked who said that, he did hear that from Gene. Sharon was not sure. Sharon asked why Sandy is just now asking all these questions when he was on the Foundation Board for years and never questioned it. Sandy stated that is why he asked for the 2014 minutes of the meeting when bylaws were changed. He said he was on Board and not aware of meeting to change bylaws. Sharon stated that they now have 3 new members on the Board. Sandy questioned how when Bylaws say 1<sup>st</sup> day of session nominations for open slots. No session how can you nominate new members? Sharon stated you were complaining so much. Sandy stated "No No No you cannot violate bylaws because Sandy Shuman was complaining. Sandy Shuman is complaining that you are not following the bylaws. So that's it. End it right there. Make sure that is in there verbatim, don't add only the parts you think". Laurel said 1023/1024 is needed when the report is given. Dave questioned who is president? Sharon stated Stanley Labuda. Asked how and why the Foundation are separate? DGM Brianna stated per our bylaws and SGL they are under our directions as they bear our name. Dave asked if we have oversight we should bring it to the members at session for vote. Bring foundation Board before membership at session. Common sense should be used in matters of the Grand Lodge. We need to be running this Grand Lodge like the business it is. Laurel stated her Encampment received a letter from the foundation claiming "our lodges, our members" and affiliating with the GL. Why are there no notes in session journals about the separation of GL and foundation? Sharon asked if the reason this is going where it is "because it is the Labuda's. Sandy stated he has nicely asked time and time again for the info. Dave again stated this needs to be determined at session either remove the board or close the foundation. Sandy stated he thinks someone else should be going to the foundation with the requests and questions since Sharon has not asked for what we want. Sandy asked what was said when the minutes were requested, Sharon stated No. DGM Brianna asked did they give a reason? Sharon stated No. DGM stated You will all be removed from the Board. All of them. Sharon addressed Sandy and stated I went back with all your questions. Dave stated that Mr. Labuda should be here but he is not to answer questions. He is sure Sharon is asking for requested items and session is when this can be addressed. Len questioned will the report from foundation be given from floor or sent in for session. Sharon said to be given at session. Laurel stated we have a charitable organization soliciting our lodges and we can't say whether we they are a good foundation. DGM Brianna stated no financials provided, we are not comfortable with them asking lodge for money. Motion Len 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel send letter to lodges stating If correspondence is received from GL Foundation please ignore till further investigated. Laura asked if we are telling them Not to donate? Len said not telling them not to but informing them to wait as we need to investigate further before endorsing this request.

**REP Expenses:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover all expenses for meals & hotel not paid by SGL. Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy to cover lodging and meals for GM to attend SG Session. GS asked if funds would come from the publicity and membership committee budget. Sandy stated that was not determined yet. Motion carried SGL expenses Brenda had receipts but decided to do them later. It was brought up that with things that are continuously left on the minutes under unfinished business maybe have the date when it was first brought up. Motion Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel to reimburse GM Brenda \$1750.96 for expenses. Question by Sharon do we have receipts? Sandy stated Brenda has them and the will be reconciled once received. Motion carried. SG Rep Len is working on his receipts and will submit soon. 12/13 GT stated she has Brenda's receipts and has reconciled them. Offered to send Len copy of the reconciliation sheet she designed. 1/10 Len has not turned in his receipts yet. Working on submitting. Laura asked Laurel and Sandy for copy of Brenda's receipts to be provided to her. Laurel to email them. 2/14 SG Rep submitted receipts. Asked GS to email him copy. GS emailed SG Rep and GT at end of meeting. 2/20 Check issued to SG Rep. Sharon discussed that SGL session does not include the youth banquet and we should not be paying for that. Thinks motion should be made to cover required items for SGL session only. Legislation at session if desired.

**Building Issues:** Cleaning put on hold until cause of mold is determined. (see Temp/Humidity below) 1/10 Multicorp did onsite visit. No quote received yet. 2/14 Multi Corp came back to measure a few areas.

**Heritage Room:** Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Brianna join the American Association of State, Local History \$98.00 & purchase software \$870.00 with 20% discount and multimedia upgrade, that we would need is \$308.00 for a total of \$1,102, Motion carried. Motion Laurel 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to allow up to \$500.00 to purchase a laptop. 12/13 GS asked if purchases have been made. Sandy stated yes but not reimbursed yet. Laurel requested key cards for Joe Labuda and Ed Foreman. GS provided the keycards as requested. Laurel also stated she wanted to

have the Board start meeting back in the previous board room so the heritage committee can use the current board room. 1/10 Sharon asked if the laptop is at Grand Lodge? Laurel stated at her home as she is working on getting software installed and running, but checks are at the GL. Not reimbursed. Receipts turned in.

**Committee Reports:** Wreath for pilgrimage to be ordered by GT Laurel. Bylaw meeting 3/22. Membership committee approved \$675 for little league Mt Moriah.

**Rental Events Scheduled:**

**Temperature/Humidity in Building:** Committee and GM wanted doors closed and locked and the mold has been increasing. Sandy stated that if HVAC is left in auto fan will circulate. Sandy questioned us looking in the ceilings for mold issues before calling out company. Motion George 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave to have mold remediation company come in for consult. Questions Motion carried. 1/10 Had Hawkeye Inspections out to start the evaluation and waiting on MD HVAC to finish the inspection of ducts and coils in HVAC systems. Hawkeye advised that we should not use the HVAC in the library or the 2 storage rooms as that will spread the mold thru the systems. Recommends putting all books in plastic totes. Leave for a few days, wipe exterior of totes and remove to off site storage for cleaning. Clean /disinfect room and shelves before bringing cleaned books back. Same for Storage rooms. Sandy stated he will get in and clean Patriarch Militant room. 2/13 Scheduled inspection for March 4 cost of around \$2500 3/14 Onsite HVAC 3/6 for about 7 hours. See report.

Remediation Company out on 3/13 for about 5 hours. No report yet. Calling out 2<sup>nd</sup> HVAC company and getting price for both coil replacements on units needing repaired. Will try and make decision by end of April. Send out estimates and proposals and check with insurance company regarding mold remediation.

**Response to Emails:** Grand Secretary does not get responses to majority of emails sent to Grand Treasurer. Would like to try and have better lines of communication to make sure all bills are getting paid in timely manner and or entered in check registry as needed. GT gave deposit info for 12/20 deposit. \$250 #102 GM Project, \$200 #79 GM project and \$160 raffle Halloween Party \$610 total. GS asked about SGL invoices and water bills, GT questioned why 2. GS stated 1 for water/sewer 1 for sprinkler line. 3/14 Still need checks for water bills & SGL invoices. GT stated putting water bill on bill pay. Gave check for 1 of SGL invoices.

**Annual Reports:** Due back by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Question on how many are back. GS stated about ½ or more.

3/14 Still missing from #40 Centre, #50 King David, #57 Baltimore City (received at this meeting)

**Call for Audit:** Finance Chair Sandy stated he and GT Laurel would be meeting with Gross Mendelsohn and Associates for the audit. GS asked the cost of audit and how far back. Sandy said 3 years and cost not known yet. Sandy reported that Gross Mendelsohn recommended CE Scholtes for clean up of quickbooks first. Messages have been left waiting for response. Will send email also.

**NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

<b>GM Visitations:</b> Confirmed Dates	Mar 18 #116 7:00 Food	Mar 26 #175 6:30 Food
Mar 27 #97 6:00 PM Food	Apr 1 #17 Metropolis 6:30	Apr 14 #1 Washington 7Mtg lite fare after
Apr 21 #16 Triumph 7Mtg lite fare	May 5 Federal #35 6:30 Food	May 14 #57 Baltimore City TBD

**Conclave:** March 28-29 Delaware. Info sent to lodge Secretaries to share

**NP #4:** Seeking donations OBO Viper Team for World Cheer Competition expenses. Bull & Oyster roast April 19 call Mike Wagner at 443-635-5373 for tickets

May 18 Tea Party: Shifting Gears Foster care program \$34

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, grant us a peaceful farewell as we conclude this meeting. Let there be peace in our parting words, calming any lingering tensions or concerns. Let our parting be marked with kindness, and may the decisions made here lead to a future filled with harmony and prosperity. Amen

Next meeting 4/11/25 7 PM  
Prepared by: GS Laura Teate

Meeting Closed in Prayer  
(LA) Late Arrival (A) Absent (LB) Left Early

Report No 7  
Grand Treasurer's Report

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge:  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to express my gratitude for being elected to the position of Grand Treasurer. I recognize that many members may not be familiar with my background, so I would like to provide some context. I am originally from Baltimore. In 2013, I became a proud member of Baltimore City Lodge #57. My professional experience is rooted in the hospitality industry. In 2022, I concluded a 24-year tenure as a Corporate Controller for a hotel chain on the Eastern Shore. Currently, I am fully committed to my role as an Odd Fellow.

In June, I arrived at the Grand Lodge with a strong desire to learn and engage constructively. I took the initiative to observe the proceedings, pose relevant questions, and request specific reports. Regrettably, this approach inadvertently upset a board member, who perceived my inquiries as an affront to their integrity. I want to clarify that this was never my intention. As an elected representative of the members of this Grand Lodge, I am committed to executing my responsibilities to the best of my abilities.

I am navigating the complexities of accounting for a non-profit organization and actively enhancing my understanding of the subject. Upon reviewing reports generated by QuickBooks, I have identified several issues that warrant attention.

First, numerous unclear transactions are on the balance sheet, including closed bank accounts that still reflect balances. Additionally, expense accounts date back to 2004. Notably, the Frederick Home is still recorded as an asset, despite its sale in 2022. There is also an outstanding receivable from 2022, amounting to \$9,108.98, that has been classified as uncollectible but has not yet been written off. Furthermore, we have unclear checks dating back to 2018, which include donations, member reimbursements, and a payment to Ameriprise from 2020 totaling \$7,500. It is essential to investigate these unclear transactions, as they may involve posting errors or may have been lost in transit.

I have compared the QuickBooks reports and our IRS 990 filing. Unfortunately, several discrepancies have been reflected in our Form 990 filings with the IRS. We need to amend our 990 filings for 2021, 2022, and 2023. The 990 includes a questionnaire, and it appears that some responses were inaccurately provided. For instance, the IRS asks whether we issued 1099 forms; the response indicated 'no', whereas a review of the disbursements suggests we should have issued 1099 forms. I have been informed that

these forms were filed; however, we lack the necessary documentation to substantiate this claim. We must obtain copies of all tax information filed, the 1099 forms, and the 1096 summary. If the IRS were to conduct an audit and request our financial documents that validate our Form 990 submission, we would be unable to furnish the requisite documentation.

The Chairman of Finance has initiated a request for an audit. Before conducting the audit, it has been recommended that we rectify our financial accounts. We have been referred to Christopher Scholtes, CPA, specializing in non-profit organizations. His firm aids clients in correcting their general ledgers and will assist with filing the necessary amendments to the Form 990.

Our chart of accounts is aligned with for-profit reporting standards. In the future, we will transition to the non-profit format for our financial reports. Finance is presently awaiting a quote from Mr. Scholtes. In the interim, I am addressing what I can independently to minimize expenses. However, I do not possess the expertise of a CPA, and the importance of this task necessitates accurate execution. We must approach this matter with the utmost diligence.

Following last year's session, I was approached by Towson Lodge #79. Towson expressed an interest in establishing a \$20,000.00 scholarship in honor of PGM Darlene Parker. Towson Lodge sought guidance on how to proceed with this initiative. I recommended they consider the Grand Lodge of Maryland, I.O.O.F. Foundation Inc., as it aligns with the foundation's purpose. During our initial BGLO meeting, I inquired about the foundation's structure and requested any recent reports about its financial status and activities. Subsequently, I received information indicating that the foundation had separated from the Grand Lodge of Maryland and revised its bylaws. One of our current board members serves on the foundation's board and has acted as our liaison in efforts to address this matter. The Foundation stated they were not releasing information and were no longer affiliated with the GLMD. We have encountered challenges in obtaining pertinent information from the foundation, which, if requested, they are obligated to disclose by IRS standards. The Foundation is violating the SGL code. SGL states that any entity using the Grand Lodge name, address, and symbols of our order falls under the Grand Lodge of Maryland's authority. It has come to my attention that non-profit organizations, upon obtaining exempt status, are mandated to adhere strictly to the purposes for which their status was granted by the IRS. In February, the Foundation sent out a letter to some lodges and encampments soliciting donations. The letter references our order, our members, and our lodges. The BGLO sent out a letter of notification to all lodges and encampments that the BGLO does not recommend donating to the Foundation due to the lack of transparency, and that we couldn't verify their activities or financial status

at this time. This is the worst kind of behavior coming from Odd Fellows! We hope to have this issue resolved soon.

As Grand Lodge members, we are tasked each year with the responsibility of approving the budget for the upcoming fiscal period. I have observed that the budget approved in the prior year is not reconciled in a meaningful way. Although we receive reports indicating compliance with the budget, no detailed report is disseminated to the members. To address this gap, I have prepared a preliminary report that evaluates our performance against the budget for the period spanning from June 2024 to March 31, 2025. I anticipate providing a finalized version of this report to all members by May 17, 2025. I would like to highlight a few key points. The Investment Dividends typically encompass the third and fourth quarters of 2024, as well as the first and second quarters of 2025. I noted that last year's journal only recorded the first quarter of 2024; therefore, I have included the second quarter in this report. This report now reflects the Investment Dividends for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2024, along with the first quarter of 2025. Additionally, the Grand Treasurer was allocated a \$1,200 allowance, of which I have opted to donate my portion to Grand Master Brenda Hamilton's project. I miss her every day, I never imagined she wouldn't be here with us. It has been a tremendous loss for me and our order.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurel Shuman  
Grand Treasurer 2024-2025

#### Bank Accounts

M&T Checking - \$10,359.71 as of 3/31/2025  
M&T Money Market \$27,017.78 as of 3/31/2025  
M&T Cemeteries \$12,394.24 as of 3/31/2025  
First United \$164,374.32 as of 2/21/2025

	2024-2025	JUNE2024- MAR 2025	Balance Left on Budget
	Budget	Actual	To Spend
<b>Income</b>			
MONEY MARKET	20.00	22.50	0.00
JURISDICTIONAL DUES	0.00	0.00	
ROOM RENTAL	63900.00	47250.00	16650.00
TOTAL GOODS SOLD	1300.00	719.80	580.20
HANDLING	50.00	142.33	0.00
PRINTING CHARGE	50.00	49.30	0.70
INVESTMENT DIVIDENDS	51675.00	344770.97	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>116995.00</b>	<b>392954.90</b>	<b>275959.90</b>
COST OF GOODS SOLD	400.00	550.29	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>116595.00</b>	<b>392404.61</b>	
<b>CHARITABLE GIVINGS</b>			
ARTHRITIS	150.00	0.00	150.00
VISUAL RESEARCH	150.00	0.00	150.00
SGM PROJECT	150.00	0.00	150.00
GL/SGL PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
EDUCATIONAL PILGRIMAGE	200.00	0.00	200.00
GM PROJECT	200.00	0.00	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1850.00</b>
<b>COMMITTEES</b>			
CONCLAVE FULL AD	100.00	99.32	0.68
WILDEY (REFRESHMENTS)	200.00	0.00	200.00

Grand Treasurer's Report 2025  
Laurel Shuman



MEMBERSHIP	1200.00	118.99	1081.01
PUBLICITY/COMMUNICATIONS	1200.00	89.95	1110.05
ADVERTISING	10000.00	2913.56	7086.44
TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN	80.00	65.00	15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12780.00</b>	<b>3187.50</b>	<b>9592.50</b>
<b>SESSION EXPENSE</b>			
REFRESHMENTS	100.00		100.00
MILAGE & PER DIEM	1100.00		1100.00
COURTESIES EXTENDED	500.00		500.00
SUPPLIES	75.00		75.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1775.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1775.00</b>
<b>PAYROLL</b>			
GRAND SECRETARY	29460.00	23794.68	5665.32
TAX LIABILITY	2400.00	1972.29	427.71
PAYROLL SERVICES	600.00	300.00	300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32460.00</b>	<b>26066.97</b>	<b>6393.03</b>
		<b>GT donated allowance to the GM PROJECT.</b>	
<b>GT EXPENSE ALLOWANCE</b>	<b>1200.00</b>	<b>1200.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
INSURANCE PCKG POLICY	22200.00	18177.18	4022.82
D&O BOND	1900.00	1803.00	97.00
UMBRELLA	3600.00	2964.18	635.82
WORKMAN COMP	390.00	167.00	223.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28090.00</b>	<b>23111.36</b>	<b>4978.64</b>

Grand Treasurer's Report 2025  
Laurel Shuman

<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; GENERAL</b>			
SUNSHINE FUND	500.00	60.00	440.00
EQUIPMENT COPIER	2500.00	1708.55	791.45
COPIER PER COPY CHARGE	25.00		25.00
SOFTWARE	500.00	249.99	250.01
WEB PAGE	250.00	20.17	229.83
OFFICE SUPPLIES	250.00	56.65	193.35
POSTAGE	150.00	81.95	68.05
SHIPPING FROM SGL	65.00	6.44	58.56
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	5500.00	1500.00	4000.00
EQUIPMENT OFFICE	1600.00	740.98	859.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11340.00</b>	<b>4424.73</b>	<b>6915.27</b>
<b>REPAIRS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>			
BLDG REPAIR/EQUIPMENT	3500.00	3480.66	19.34
PROPERTY REPAIRS	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	150.00	150.00	0.00
HVAC MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	2400.00	2240.00	160.00
FIRE INSPECTION	50.00	50.00	0.00
SPRINKLER BACK FLOW CONTRACT	1150.00	1133.86	16.14
CLEANING SUPPLIES	125.00	112.69	12.31
PAPER PRODUCTS/TRASH BAG	150.00		150.00
TRASH REMOVAL	1300.00	1166.30	133.70
ALARM INSPECTION	525.00		525.00
ALARM MONITORING	1125.00		1125.00
MISC	500.00	360.03	139.97
EXTERMINATOR	45.00	25.67	19.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12020.00</b>	<b>9719.21</b>	<b>2300.79</b>

Grand Treasurer's Report 2025  
Laurel Shuman

<b>SEASONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>			
SNOW REMOVAL	1600.00	1050.00	550.00
GRASS CUTTING	2300.00	1000.00	1300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3900.00</b>	<b>2050.00</b>	<b>1850.00</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
PROPERTY WATER DISTRIBUTION	5400.00	5129.52	270.48
ELECTRIC & GAS	13200.00	5610.81	7589.19
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	1800.00	1290.33	509.67
WATER SPRINKLER ANNUAL	380.00	391.48	-11.48
WATER SEWAGE QTRLY BILL	400.00	406.80	-6.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21180.00</b>	<b>12828.94</b>	<b>8351.06</b>
<b>BUDGET TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>126995.00</b>	<b>83139.00</b>	<b>43856.00</b>

Grand Treasurer's Report 2025  
Laurel Shuman

## Report No 8 Grand Representative

### GRAND REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and also ALL Maryland Odd Fellows

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Once again, I want to thank you for the privilege to represent Maryland at the 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Sovereign Grand Lodge (SGL), held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 19-22, 2025. For those unfamiliar with the Annual session of the SGL, the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies (IARA), along with the General Military Council (GMC) also meet during this same week.

Though actual business didn't formally begin until Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>, many meetings, functions and general get togethers occur several days before and up to the Opening Ceremonies.

I arrived late Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>. So, first thing Saturday was to make sure to register and obtain the appropriate credentials. Then on to networking with Oddfellows from across the World. I attended the Welcome Dinner Saturday evening.

First thing Sunday morning was Orientation for the Grand Representatives. Following that in the afternoon were memorial services and also some tributes for recently departed members of the order. Closing out the evening was the formal Opening Ceremonies, where all of the flags of the participating bodies of the order were posted. It was my honor and privilege to be escorted by Representative Sister Sharon Thomas to the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from Maryland, and we both represented the State of Maryland.

On Monday morning, August 19<sup>th</sup>, I arrived to the meeting room early. I identified my assigned seat (shared with Maryland Grand Encampment Representative Stanley Labuda, PGP.) I served on the Rebekah Matters Committee and PGP Labuda served on the Drawing of Seats, along with Investigation of Grievances Committees.

The Business Session started promptly at 9:00 a.m. with Sovereign Grand Master John S. Cupp Jr. presiding. The Credentials Committee gave their report as follows:

#### Report No. 1

Grand Lodges	20 Holdovers
Grand Encampments	18 Holdovers
Grand Lodges	44 New Representatives
Grand Encampments	18 New Representatives
General Military Council	1 Representative
I.A.R.A.	1 Representative
Hawaii	1 Representative
Voting Representatives	103 (Absentees/Vacant 3)
Independent Representatives	1
<b>Total Representatives</b>	<b>101</b>

There were numerous Bills, Resolutions and Reports either held over from 2023, along with presented for 2024. The morning's business moved quickly with many items discussed and voted on. Monday's activities were concluded with my attendance at the Officer's Banquet. This is another opportunity to attempt to network with our Order's higher executives. Sometimes it is successful, often it is difficult. Many Odd Fellows desire an audience with one or more of our leaders. But we endure.

Each day's proceedings are recorded and all of the Representatives are provided printed copies of the prior days' minutes for review and reference. Normal business is similar to our Grand Lodge, but at a much faster pace. Depending on the day, items discussed are Bills, Resolutions, Scheduled Calendar dates, Elections, Announcements, etc. (Note: Those daily meeting minutes are maintained and if any member is curious as to the content, please see me and I will provide you a copy.)

On Tuesday, August 20, 2024, the Session was called to order promptly 9:00 a.m. the Roll call was taken and once again the business of the Order began, with much discussion and voting on Bills, Resolutions and Reports. In addition, the election for the Sovereign Grand Lodge Officers was held on Tuesday. Rules were established to include the following: Nominating speeches were limited to five minutes and seconding speeches were limited to one minute. The Sovereign Grand Master and Deputy Sovereign Grand Master ran unopposed. The nominees for Sovereign Grand Warden were: Rick Boyles, of California; Ron Hanson of Washington; and Dorian Sherman of Manitoba.

The Candidates nominated were asked to come forward for introduction to the Grand Representatives, were afforded three (3) minutes to address the Grand Representatives and to appoint tellers.

The Chair determined that there were 100 Grand Representatives present and eligible to vote and therefore requiring 51 votes for a majority.

#### **Results of the first ballot**

Boyles	10
Hanson	55
Sherman	33
Void	2

The Chair declared Brother Ron Hanson as Sovereign Grand Warden-elect.

The Sovereign Grand Secretary was not up for re-election. Harrel D. Ward Jr. was nominated as Sovereign Grand Treasurer, and ran unopposed.

For all unopposed nominees, the election was held by acclamation for each candidate and their position individually. Each acclamation was unanimous by the voting body.

The elected Sovereign Grand Lodge Officers for the term 2024-2025 are:

Sovereign Grand Master: Gerald B. Workman of West Virginia  
Deputy Sovereign Grand Master: Thomas J. Calabrese of New Jersey  
Sovereign Grand Warden: Ron Hanson of Washington  
Sovereign Grand Secretary: Terry L. Barrett of Illinois  
Sovereign Grand Treasurer: Harrell Ward of Tennessee

Grand Sire Morten Baun of Europe offered lengthy and very interesting remarks , along with a Power Point presentation, to the Session. Grand Sire Baun spoke on many important issues in Europe, of maintaining a relationship with the SGL and also of being equally independent. Here is a summary of the Odd Fellow membership across Europe.

Jurisdiction	Membership 2022	Membership 2023
Denmark	10299	9476
Finland	8314	8141
Germany	493	458
Iceland	3924	3966
Netherlands	2030	1944
Norway	19266	18881
Poland	433	445
Sweden	31452	30590
Switzerland	1642	1599
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77853</b>	<b>75500</b>
<b>Patriarch/Matriarch Militant</b>	<b>Membership 2022</b>	<b>Membership 2023</b>
Denmark	462	467*
Iceland	78	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>550</b>
*Two Matriarch Militants and 31 Patriarch Militants belong to other European Jurisdictions		

GS Baun's remarks are available to anyone upon request. Just let me know.

**Sovereign Grand Lodge Proposed 2024-2025 Budget**

Total Revenue: \$1,057,500.00  
Total Expenses: \$1,056,420.00  
Total Budget Net \$ 1,080.00

### Membership - 2023.

During the year ending December 31, 2023, 13 Odd Fellows, 5 Rebekah, 12 Encampment, 2 Ladies Encampment Auxiliary, 10 Patriarch Militant, 0 Junior Lodge, and 0 Theta Rho Girl' Club jurisdictions reporting showed an increase in membership.

The overall net decreases (**increases**) are as follows:

Odd Fellows	Brothers decreased	1,822	Sisters <b>increased</b>	19	Net Member Loss	1,803
Rebekahs	Sisters Decreased	1,605	Brothers decreased	8	Net member loss	1,613
Encampments	Patriarchs decreased	726	Matriarchs <b>increased</b>	12	Net member loss	714
L.E.A. - Matriarchs	Matriarchs decreased	263				263
Patriarch Militant	Chevaliers decreased	14	Ladies <b>increased</b>	23	Net member <b>increased</b>	9
Junior Odd Fellows	Brothers decreased	15				15
Theta Rho Girls' Club	Members decreased	2				2
<b>Total Loss</b>						<b>4,401</b>

The total membership at the close of the year 2023 for each branch is was as follows:

Odd Fellow Lodge	Brothers: 76,227	Sisters: 5,543	Total:	81,770
Rebekah Lodge	Sisters: 42,020	Brothers: 3,171	Total:	45,191
Encampment	Patriarchs: 25,554	Matriarchs: 518	Total:	26,072
L.E.A.			Total:	11,346
Junior Odd Fellows Lodge			Total:	13
Theta Rho Girls' Club			Total:	78
Patriarch Militant	Male: 2,143	Female: 677	Total:	2,820
<b>Total Members</b>				<b>167,290</b>

It is important for every lodge to report their increase in membership to both the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the SGL. Many lodges across the United States and beyond receive recognition with certificates from the SGL when they receive notice in an increase of membership. Every new member counts. In addition, many of our lodges are doing good work in their respective communities. This should also be reported to both our Grand Lodge and the SGL. The following Maryland Lodges received such recognition for an increase in membership during 2023:

North Point #4, Mount Moriah #32, Federal #35, Centre #40, Oriole #47, Baltimore City #57, Upper Falls #175. Good Job.

2024 Attendance Records provided by the Session Host Committee indicated the following:

Sovereign Grand Lodge 205

I.A.R.A.	198	Dinners/Banquets:	
		Youth Banquet	108
GMC	60	Welcome Dinner	144
Youth	24	Officer's Banquet	235
Guests	31	Installation Dinner	309
		Gateway ClipperCruise	175
Total Registered	518		

Continuing with daily business, at my last count there were in excess of 100 Bills, Resolutions, Appointments, Dispensations, Proclamations, Addresses and Reports discussed, voted on, approved, tabled, held over and withdrawn during the four days of business at the SGL Session.

Of interest to not only Maryland, but to all, one bill that was presented and held over to 2025.

Bill No. 17 – Holdover to 2025: Reps. Hillberry of West Virginia, Renninger of the District of Columbia, and Cupp of Florida from the Sub-committee on Finance presented the following Bill which was referred to the Committee(s) on: Legislation and Finance.

TITLE: A Bill to amend Chapter XXIV, Section 1 A (3) [Page XXIV – 1] of the Code of General Laws regarding Dues.

*Be it enacted by The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F.:*

That Chapter XXIV, Section 1, A, (3) be amended to read as follows:

Dues. Each Odd Fellow and Rebekah member currently pays to The Sovereign Grand Lodge annual dues of ~~eighteen and fifty one hundredths (\$18.50) twenty eight dollars and fifty one hundredths (\$28.50)~~ United States dollars. Each Patriarch, Chevalier, and L.E.A. member currently pays to The Sovereign Grand Lodge annual dues of sixteen United States dollars (U.S. \$16.00).

~~Dues amounts for Odd Fellow and Rebekah members shall be increased by five (\$5.00) United States dollars each year, for two (2) years beginning at the close of the 2017 session of The Sovereign Grand Lodge. The yearly increase shall not be assessed when in any year the dues paying membership from all branches of the Order shows a net gain from the previous year.~~

~~(As Bills do not become effective until January 1<sup>st</sup>, and no one came forward to move that this bill become effective at the close of the session it therefor becomes effective January 1, 2018; and the dues will increase with the reports of 31 December 2018; which was agreed to on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017 notwithstanding the year stated in the Bill.)~~

Annual Dues amounts for Odd Fellow, Rebekah, Patriarch, Chevalier, and L.E.A. members shall be increased by five (\$5.00) United States Dollars each year effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027, and the dues will increase with the reports of 31 December 2026, and 31 December 2027 respectively.



Each Grand Body shall collect the dues as of December 31 annually and pay to The Sovereign Grand Lodge with their Annual Report due April 1. Non-contributing and Associate members are exempt from these dues. Any proposal to increase these dues shall be laid over for one (1) year and the Sovereign Grand Secretary shall inform the Grand Bodies of the intent, amount and reason for raising said dues.

~~~~~

In looking forward, below are the scheduled locations for the upcoming Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions:

2025 Charleston, West Virginia

2026 Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

2027 Rapid City, South Dakota

Thursday August 22, 2025 brought the closing of the session in due form at approximately noon, and to reconvene on Monday August 18, 2025 in Charleston, West Virginia.

In closing, as always it is distinct honor and privilege to serve as your Grand Representative for this term. I sincerely appreciate having the opportunity to do so. Thank you for your support and friendship.

I would ask all members, if you have a question about the Sovereign Grand Lodge Session, please let me know. Or if there is something specific you would like to have more information on, just get my attention and I will do my best to get answers for you.

Never forget to keep in your thoughts and prayers your family, your friends and your fellow odd fellows who may be sick and in distress.

And when you are remembering why you are an Odd Fellow, keep this in mind,

*"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."* – Henry Ford

Submitted in Friendship, Love and Truth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leonard Taylor, - Grand Representative of Maryland, PGM, PGP

**Report No. 9**  
**Appeals Committee**  
Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

Greetings.

Your committee on Appeals reports that there were no appeals filed this year. In addition, the Committee wants to thank the Grand Master for her confidence in us and we wish him well in his session.

The Committee and  
Arlie Humphrey Chairperson

**Report No. 10**  
**Arthritis Committee**

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland,

We are sorry to report that there were no donations received this year. The Grand Lodge has in the budget for 2024-2025 a donation in the amount of \$150 if authorized by the Finance Committee. We encourage all Lodges to make donations if possible.

Respectfully Submitted Arthritis Committee

**Report No. 11**  
**Bylaws Committee**

The By-Laws Committee received By-Laws from King David Lodge #50 and Federal Lodge #36 at the end of the 2024 term.

The By Laws committee appointed for the 2023/2024 went over these two By-Laws and found King David #50 approved with one exception that will be corrected and Federal #35 was approved without exception.

We still have 3 lodges that have not sent their up to date by laws. Hopefully the new by-laws committee will address this.

As Chairman I will advise the new Chairman on these lodges.

Thank you to the Lodges that have forwarded their up to date by-laws.

Sharon Thomas, Chairman

## Report No.11A

### Report of Special Committee on Bylaws

Early in her term, Grand Master Brenda Hamilton requested that a special committee review the bylaws of the Grand Lodge, and make the necessary changes to bring the bylaws into conformance, and alignment, with the Code of General Laws. She appointed the Committee on Bylaws to also take on the role of the Special Committee. Unfortunately, a committee meeting was never called for this purpose, so two of us made the necessary changes, and presented it to the rest of the committee for review. At that time, the committee gave their approval of the changes.

Under Brenda's direction, the members of the committee obtained an editable copy of the model bylaws provided by the Sovereign Grand Lodge, and began to merge our existing bylaws into the model. The goal of this being to maintain the rules and procedures that had been previously adopted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Various changes still had to be made with the goal of either conformance to the SGL Code, or to conform to how the Grand Lodge of Maryland has been operating. Some of the remaining changes are a result of ideas that had been suggested by members over the years, or problems that have been encountered recently. Other changes resulted from tensions between members in recent years regarding gaps in the bylaws. While working through the merge process, many instances were encountered where the SGL instructed the Grand Lodge to create legislation, and rather than creating legislation, our bylaws simply stated the instruction to create it. These instances often left our members with no guidance regarding the issue. Our goal was to eliminate these situations, meaning that legislation had to be created and proposed. Throughout the year, the committee worked diligently to merge our bylaws into the model, respond to SGL instructions, and consolidate information into one place, where possible. It is our hope that the new proposed bylaws will simplify the process of finding information in the bylaws, and prevent further tension.

The modified bylaws with strikeouts and highlights can be found on the Grand Lodge website at the link provided. Items struck out are to be removed, and no longer appear in our bylaws. Items highlighted in yellow are merged from our current bylaws, meaning rules and procedure that have already been adopted in previous years. Items highlighted in blue are proposed changes, meaning spelling or grammatical corrections, new wording not changing intent, or new rules or procedures not previously adopted. Items highlighted in green are simply notes for clarity.

At the same link, we have provided a summary of the proposed rule and procedure changes. This document highlights only changes that would change an existing rule, or create a new rule. Spelling, grammar, and wording changes are not included on this document, but are shown on the marked-up document.

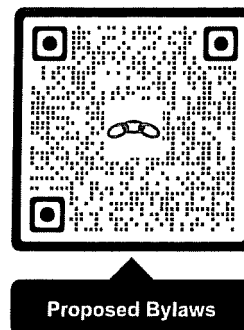
We have also provided links to our current bylaws, and a clean copy of the proposed bylaws.

Link: <https://www.marylandoddfellows.org/members-resources>

Signed by the Special Committee

Brianna Shuman, Acting Grand Master

Sandy Shuman, Past Grand Master



**Report No.11B**  
Bylaws Committee

From the Committee on Bylaws.

To the Grand Lodge of Maryland

In reference to Bill No.1 regarding the adoption of new bylaws, after proper review, the Committee on Bylaws met and discussed the changes being made, at the time those in attendance agreed to the changes. These were then forwarded directly to the Legislation Committee by the Acting Grand Master to go over each one and put all changes in proper format. We move for the adoption of this report.

Signed by the  
Committee Sharon  
Thomas (Chair)

## **Report No. 12**

### **Communications / Editorial Committee Odd Fellow Newsletter**

GM Brenda had hopes of bringing the newsletter back however this did not happen this term. She appointed a committee of 6 this year instead of 3 to help with the endeavor in hopes of making it easier. The website was updated and offered opportunity for lodges to upload events for all to view.

## **Report No. 13**

### **Conclave Committee**

The 2025 Mid Atlantic States Conclave was hosted by Delaware on March 29-30 in Rehoboth DE. Friday night started with flag presentation by Grand Secretary Laura Teate and Rebekah Secretary Sharon Thomas and the other 7 jurisdictions. It was a Mardi Gras themed fun night with DJ on Friday and a Jazz Band on Saturday. There was wonderful buffet dinners both nights and the dance floor was open after dinner Friday. They hosted a hospitality area both nights.

Saturday morning started with a business meeting followed by skits and drills. Delaware, New York and Virginia entertained us with skits this year.

Thank you to Triumph Lodge, Oriole Lodge and Federal Lodge members for being in attendance and to the lodges that purchased ad space in the program.

The Middle Atlantic States Conclave will be held in West Virginia in 2026 and information should be out soon. The conclave allows for a FUN weekend for all and we encourage you to attend and support this fundraising event.

Thank you Grand Master for appointing us to this committee.

Members of the Committee, Laura Teate Chairperson

## **Report No. 14**

### **Credentials**

The Following Lodge did not submit credentials for their Alternate Representative.

#32 Mt Moriah (Alt Rep)

#35 Federal

The Following Lodge did not place seal of the lodge on the credentials for Representative or Alternate Rep

#57 Baltimore City

The following credentials were received for Grand Lodge Degree

#4 Elise Airey

#40 Charlie Jones

#102 James Krause

#16 Tom Binns

#57 Larry Smith (no seal)

#175 Jill Brown

#35 Gerald Keene

#79 Ricky Parker

Respectfully Submitted

Report No.15

Distribution Committee

To The Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland  
Greetings:

We the Committee on Distribution have carefully reviewed the  
Advance Reports and we recommend distribution as follows:

State of the Order

|               |                          |       |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Report No. 1  | Grand Master             | 12-16 |
| Report No. 2  | Deputy Grand Master      | 18-20 |
| Report No. 3  | Grand Warden             | 21    |
| Report No. 9  | Appeals                  | 70    |
| Report No.12  | Communication/ Editorial | 73    |
| Report No.13  | Conclave                 | 73    |
| Report No.19  | Heritage & Library       | 77-79 |
| Report No.20* | Judiciary Committee      | 80-81 |
| Report No.24  | Membership & Education   | 82    |
| Report No.27* | Parliamentarians         | 86    |
| Report No.28  | Petitions                | 86    |
| Report No.29  | Pilgrimage to the Tomb   | 87    |
| Report No.30  | Planning Board           | 87    |
| Report No.31  | Publicity/Communications | 88    |
| Report No.32  | Rebekah Degree           | 89-91 |
| Report No.34  | State of the Order       | 91    |

State of the Order and Legislation

|              |                      |       |
|--------------|----------------------|-------|
| Report No. 8 | Grand Representative | 64-69 |
|--------------|----------------------|-------|

State of the Order and Finance

|              |                                     |       |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Report No. 4 | Grand Secretary                     | 22-23 |
| Report No. 5 | GS Quick Books P&L Annual Report GL | 24-29 |
| Report No. 6 | Board of Grand Lodge Officers       | 30-36 |
| Report No. 7 | Grand Treasurer                     | 57-63 |
| Report No.10 | Arthritis Committee                 | 70    |
| Report No.16 | Educational Youth Pilgrimage        | 76    |

### State of the Order and Finance

|               |                                |       |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Report No.17  | Finance Committee              | 76    |
| Report No.18  | Grand Lodge Building Committee | 77    |
| Report No.21  | Legislation Committee          | 81    |
| Report No.22  | Legislation Committee          | 81    |
| Report No .23 | Lodge Returns                  | 82    |
| Report No .26 | Mileage & Per-Diem Committee   | 85    |
| Report No.33  | Session and Banquets           | 91    |
| Report No.35  | Trustees                       | 91-93 |
| Report No.36  | Visual Research & Eye Bank     | 94    |
| Report No .37 | Ways and Means                 | 94    |
| Report No .38 | Wilkey Memorial                | 94    |

### Legislation

|                |                       |         |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Bill No. 1     | Constitution & Bylaws | 99      |
| Appendix No. 1 | Constitution & Bylaws | 100-141 |

No bills were laid over from 2024 Session

### Grand Body as a Whole

|                                |                    |       |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Report No.11-<br>No.11A-No.11B | By-Laws Committee  | 70-72 |
| Report No.14                   | Credentials        | 73    |
| Report No.15                   | Distribution       | 74-75 |
| Report No.25                   | Memorial Committee | 83-84 |

|                  |                           |         |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Resolution No. 1 | 2025-26 Budget            | 95-97   |
| Resolution No. 2 | PGM Title Brenda Hamilton | 98      |
| Bill No. 1       | Constitution & Bylaws     | 99      |
| Appendix No. 1   | Constitution & Bylaws     | 100-141 |

**Report No. 16**  
Educational Pilgrimage for Youth

Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

The Education and Pilgrimage Committee did not receive any request for sponsoring a Student for the Sovereign Grand Lodge Education and Pilgrimage this year. Unfortunately it has been a while since we have done that. Hopefully the Finance Committee this year can put something in the budget to allow for the Grand Lodge to sponsor a youth and possibly some of our lodges will consider doing the same. This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth and in some cases some have become members of the Odd Fellows.

Sharon Thomas Chairman

**Report No. 17**  
Finance Committee

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge:

It is with great honor, and was our sincere pleasure to serve on this committee for Grand Master Brenda Hamilton. The tasks of the Finance committee are to provide an audit of the books of the Grand Lodge for the previous year and to produce a budget for the upcoming year.

Upon looking through the books it was noticed that there were a lot of old accounts still being carried that should have been closed out in past years and that we were still carrying balances on them. Some of these included old bank accounts we no longer have and accounts for the home in Frederick that was sold years ago. Upon trying to resolve some of these issues to get a better understanding of where we were it became apparent that the committee needed help to try and perform this internal audit. Knowing that the Grand Treasurer is very familiar with the software being used by the Grand Lodge, she was asked to take a look at our accounts to try and make sense of what we were seeing. After many discussions and lots of questions to try to fix this internally, it was decided that we needed to do an audit that would go back several years and that we should hire an outside firm to perform this task. Unfortunately, it has been a challenge and has taken some time to get to this point, so as of the time this report was written the audit has not yet been completed and will continue into next term.

The committee's second task was to come up with a budget for the operation of the Grand Lodge and to consult with the incoming Grand Master to get a sense of what she wants to accomplish and what funds would be needed to help her be successful this upcoming year. Based on the information and goals provided the committee is pleased to offer the budget submitted in Resolution #1 as the operating budget for the term June 2025-May 2026. It was our pleasure to serve on this committee and we thank the Grand Master for having the confidence in us to serve her and the entire Order in this important role.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,  
The Committee Sandy Shuman, Chair



**Report No. 18**  
Grand Lodge Building

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge:

We had 1 rental of the Wildey Suite this term. Profit from the rentals was \$280.05

We are again starting to have leaks in the ceiling at the back hallway.

We had the front windows closed in with corrugated metal.

We have repairs coming up on the HVAC systems and need mold remediation in the building.

The Committee

**Report No. 19**  
Heritage Room Joint Committee

See following pages

Report No. 19

## Heritage Committee Report

To the Brothers and Sisters of the Grand Lodge of Maryland:

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Grand Master, Brenda Hamilton, for appointing me as Chairperson of the Heritage Committee. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the Grand Master for appointing Ed Forman Jr. and Joseph Labuda as committee members. Additionally, I am grateful to Gene Leasure for graciously accepting my invitation to join our committee. I could not have envisioned a more exemplary group of individuals with whom to embark on this significant journey.

The Grand Master has entrusted our committee with the vital task of developing an inventory of our artifacts. Each storeroom within the Grand Lodge contains a diverse array of items, and we aim to sort these storerooms by branch. Our committee is responsible for creating a comprehensive inventory system for all items, including those in the library.

During our first committee meeting in July, an intriguing mystery was resolved. Ed Foreman inquired about the crocodile depicted on the front of Thomas Wildey's chair. The history of this symbol dates to the original American Odd Fellows Hall, established in Baltimore at 30 North Gay St. The top floor served as the lodge room, which, prior to the establishment of formal ritual practices, was decorated in an Egyptian style and named the Egyptian Saloon. An article from The Baltimore Sun covering the grand opening of the Odd Fellow Hall provides a thorough description of both the exterior and interior of the building. If anyone is interested in reading this article, please let us know, and we would be happy to send a copy.

In August, we welcomed two visitors from Denmark to our museum. They expressed immense excitement and admiration for our beautiful artifacts and displays, sharing insights about lodges in their country. To commemorate their visit, we presented them with a few souvenirs. As they prepared to call an Uber to the train station, we offered to drive them to Penn Station. During our journey, we passed Greenmount Cemetery and asked if they would like to visit Wildey's Tomb. Their enthusiasm was palpable, and fortunately, the cemetery was open, creating an unexpected highlight of their trip that I'm sure they will share with their Odd Fellow members back home.

In early September, a visit was conducted to Harlem Park to evaluate the condition of the James L. Ridgley Monument. I am pleased to report that the

monument remains in good condition, with all inscriptions legible. No restoration efforts are currently needed.

On September 25th, PGM Foreman and PGM Leasure, both members of the Masons, invited me to the Masonic Grand Lodge for a tour of the museum and library, as well as to review our inventory software options. I was truly impressed by what I saw during our visit. We met Roger, who demonstrated his system software, Past Perfect. After researching several inventory systems, we determined that Past Perfect would best meet our needs, as it encompasses artifacts, books, and biographies and is utilized by the largest museums across the country. We also secured a membership with the American Association of State and Local History, granting us access to valuable resources and training for our committee members. I presented a motion to the BGLO to acquire a laptop, Past Perfect software, and the AASLH membership, which was subsequently approved.

In a notable development, PGM Joe Labuda was contacted by Brother Steindor Gunnlaugsson from Iceland. The Grand Lodge of Iceland requested a gavel used in an Odd Fellows Lodge from the Mother Jurisdiction for their Grand Lodge Sessions. We have a variety of such gavels available! We identified the engraved gavel presented to Memorial Lodge #44 at its institution, featuring painted carved wood adorned with the symbols of our order. We also provided copies of the GL Journal documenting the lodge's petition and institution, accompanied by pictures of a GL visitation and their degree wall. Additionally, we purchased a wooden box, with a cushion, covered in Odd Fellow fabric supplied by PGM Joe Labuda, for the Grand Lodge of Iceland to store the gavel when not in use. They expressed their honor in receiving this gavel and are excited to utilize it at their upcoming annual session.

Unfortunately, due to issues with the Grand Lodge building, our project for sorting items has experienced delays. However, we have managed to make some progress in organizing the library and the museum office, and we have a few surprises in store for everyone! Stay tuned for "Mystery at the Museum," as there is more history to come your way!

Signed by the Committee

Laurel Shuman (Chair) 2024-2025

PGM Edward Addison Foreman Jr

PGM Joseph Labuda

PGM Gene Leasure

## Judiciary Actions 2024-2025

The following dispensations or proclamations were granted by Grand Master Brenda Hamilton and Acting Grand Master Brianna Shuman.

|            |                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07/20/2024 | Proclamation PG Frank Racznik #4                                                  |
| 08/30/2024 | Dispensation Triumph #16 install officers without holding previous chairs         |
| 09/17/2024 | Dispensation Blenheim #102 change meeting location                                |
| 10/07/2024 | Dispensation Mt. Moriah #32 change meeting location                               |
| 10/23/2024 | Dispensation request from North Point #4 confer multiple degrees at meeting       |
| 12/02/2024 | Proclamation GM Brenda Hamilton #57                                               |
| 01/10/2025 | Dispensation North Point #4 Confer multiple degrees                               |
| 01/25/2025 | Dispensation Upper Falls #175 install officer without holding previous chairs     |
| 03/03/2025 | Dispensation Triumph #16 change meeting location for month of March               |
| 03/18/2025 | Dispensation Centre Lodge #40 install officer with without holding previous chair |
| 04/21/2025 | Dispensation Triumph Lodge #16 change meeting date to 4/28                        |

The following actions were performed in addition to the above

|            |                                        |
|------------|----------------------------------------|
| 09/03/2024 | Remote meeting notice sent to lodges   |
| 09/30/2024 | Towson Lodge #79 emergency roof repair |

Above items provided by GS from records on file at the Grand Lodge

Report No. 20  
Judiciary Committee

Brothers and Sisters of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

RE: Judiciary Report 4/25/2025

The Judiciary committee did not receive the necessary documents to perform a proper review of the actions taken by the Grand Master for this term.

The actions that the committee is aware of were found to be in compliance with the constitution and Bylaws of the grand Lodge, and the Sovereign Grand Lodge Code of General Laws.

In Friendship, Love and Truth

Cliff Koback PG Judiciary Committee

Report No. 21  
Legislation Committee

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year, the Committee has reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws submitted for consideration. We recommend that the bill be approved. No other bills were received this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Coberly Chairman

Report No. 22  
Legislation Committee

To the Grand Lodge of Maryland

In reference to Bill No.1 regarding the adoption of new bylaws, after proper review, the Committee on Legislation finds the Bill, and proposed changes in proper form and conformance to the Code of General Laws.

The Committee moves for its passage. Signed by the Committee Rob Coberly (Chair)

Report No. 23  
Lodge Returns Committee

The Lodge Returns Committee is happy to report that all lodges have submitted their annual reports to the Grand Lodge, have paid their SGL per capita dues, and all are also in good standing in the state.

Due to not receiving the rosters or information (report) on the Jurisdictional Lodge from the Grand Lodge, we were not able to accurately check the number of members in each lodge or across the state.

There are still a lot of mistakes being made. Some of these mistakes are due to simple addition and subtraction errors, some related to inaccurate starting information supplied by the Grand Lodge, some due to the neglect of the Lodges to fill out certain required information and some just because of the lack of clarity of where certain items are to be reported on the forms.

It is the recommendation of the Lodge Returns committee that the Grand Lodge update the report to include smart technology and that they provide electronic versions of the forms for the lodges to fill out on the computer or online. It is also recommended that the membership count be confirmed between the lodge reports and the rosters.

Faithfully submitted,  
The Committee  
Jim Humphrey, Chair

**Report No. 24**

Membership

To The Officers And Members Of The Grand Lodge;

Congratulations to North Point Lodge #4 for the most new members in 2024. They initiated 8 new members.

We had 4 other lodges bring in new members this year also. This is 1/3 of the lodges bringing in new members

Congratulations to Triumph Lodge #16 for the largest % increase in new members. They had a 20% increase in their membership.

Please reach out to the committee for help with membership events or promotional giveaways for your membership events.

Membership is the life line of our Order. We hope all lodges are able to gain membership in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee, Scott Diehl Chair

Report No. 25  
**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**  
By  
Dr. Howard G. Malin, PGM, Chair  
Grand Chaplain

To: The Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

**Greetings:**

Once again, we pause to pay tribute to those who have lifted the veil that hides the mystery of eternal life. Our lives have been enriched by their presence and their passing has brought to us a deeper and more lasting assurance of G-d's love.

**"To everything there is a season and a time to every  
purpose under Heaven; a time to be born, a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted."  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)**

Time means everything while on earth --- a time to learn, love, and work --- but our time on earth is relatively just a snap of the fingers. Death is not the enemy but its friend; for it is the knowledge that our years are limited that makes them so precious. It is the truth that time is but lent to us, which makes us, at our best, look upon ours as a trust, handed into our temporary keeping.

During the past year, our Creator has called the following Brothers and Sisters to their final home:

| NAME                    | LODGE              | RANK | AGE | DATE     |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------|-----|----------|
| Joseph Ciesla           | Washington #1      | PG   | 70  | 3/14/24  |
| Doris Tabron            | Towson #79         | ?    | 93  | 5/17/24  |
| Frank Raczniak          | North Point #4     | PGM  | 78  | 6/30/24  |
| Eugene Pool             | Triumph #16        | PG   | 102 | 9/6/24   |
| David Goldberg          | Jefferson #9       | ?    | ?   | 10/31/24 |
| Manual Fram             | Jefferson #9       | ?    | ?   | 11/8/24  |
| Lady Brenda G. Hamilton | Baltimore City #57 | GM   | 72  | 11/14/24 |
| Robert Beatty           | Oriole #47         | PGS  | ?   | 11/30/24 |

“The L-rd is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
 He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
 He restoreth my soul;  
 He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.  
 Yet, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;  
 Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me;  
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
 Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over;  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
 And I will dwell in the house of the L-rd forever.” (Psalm XXIII)

AMEN

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ The Committe



Report No. 26  
Mileage and Per Diem

| Roll Call              |                       |     |     |  |         |        |         |          |          |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|--|---------|--------|---------|----------|----------|
| Grand Lodge Officers   | Name                  | 1st | 2nd |  | Mileage |        |         | per diem | total    |
| Grand Master           | Brianna Shuman (57)   | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97  | \$30.00  | \$36.97  |
| Deputy Grand Master    |                       | P   |     |  |         | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Grand Warden           | Dave Brown (4)        | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Grand Secretary        | Laura Teate (16)      | P   |     |  | 22      | \$0.41 | \$9.02  | \$30.00  | \$39.02  |
| Grand Treasurer        | Laurel Shuman (57)    | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97  | \$30.00  | \$36.97  |
| Grand Representative   | Len Taylor (4) *      | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Jr. Past Grand Master  | George Wills (4)      | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Grand Marshal          | Sandy Shuman (57) *   | P   |     |  |         | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Grand Conductor        | Cliff Koback (57)     | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97  | \$30.00  | \$36.97  |
| Grand Chaplain         | Howard Malin (4)      | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Grand Guardian         | Don Hamilton (57)*    | P   |     |  |         | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Grand Herald           | Mike Rose (40)        | P   |     |  | 9       | \$0.41 | \$3.69  | \$30.00  | \$33.69  |
| Grand Color Bearer     | Sheila Rose (40)      | P   |     |  | 9       | \$0.41 | \$3.69  | \$30.00  | \$33.69  |
| Grand Instructor       |                       | N/A |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Ambassador Good Will   | Donna Lynn Koback(57) | NE  | P   |  |         |        |         |          | \$0.00   |
| Grand Chaplin Emeritus | Howard Malin (4)      | NE  | P   |  |         |        |         |          |          |
| Board Members          |                       |     |     |  |         |        |         |          |          |
| Char Fin               | Sandy Shuman (57)     | NE  | P   |  |         |        |         |          |          |
| Char Trustees          | Sharon Thomas (47)    | NE  | P   |  |         |        |         |          |          |
|                        |                       |     |     |  |         |        | \$37.31 | \$240.00 | \$277.31 |

| Past Grand Masters      |                          | 1st | 2nd |  | Mileage | Rate   | Total Paid | per diem | total    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|--|---------|--------|------------|----------|----------|
| Past Grand Master       | Stanley Labuda (1)       | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Past Grand Master 17mi  | Donald Hamilton (57)     | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97     | \$30.00  | \$36.97  |
| Past Grand Master       | Howard Malin (4)         | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Past Grand Master 9mi   | Richard Humbert (40) 9mi | P   |     |  | 9       | \$0.41 | \$3.69     | \$30.00  | \$33.69  |
| Past Grand Master       | Joseph A. Labuda (4)     | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Past Grand Master 26 mi | Edward Foreman 102       | P   |     |  | 26      | \$0.41 | \$10.66    | \$30.00  | \$40.66  |
| Past Grand Master 99mi  | Thomas Dillingham (97)   | P   |     |  | 99      | \$0.41 | \$40.59    | \$30.00  | \$70.59  |
| Past Grand Master 17mi  | Arlie Humphrey (57)      | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97     | \$30.00  | \$36.97  |
| Past Grand Master 17mi  | Sandy Shuman (57)        | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97     | \$30.00  | \$36.97  |
| Past Grand Master 51mi  | Sharon Thomas (47)       | P   |     |  | 51      | \$0.41 | \$20.91    | \$30.00  | \$50.91  |
| Past Grand Master       | Leonard Taylor (4)       | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Past Grand Master       | Gene Leasure (79)        | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Past Grand Master       | Beverly Labuda (1)       | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00  |
| Past Grand Master       | Jeff Teate (16)          |     |     |  | 22      | \$0.41 | \$9.02     | \$30.00  | \$39.02  |
| Past Grand Master       |                          | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
|                         |                          |     |     |  |         |        | \$105.78   | \$420.00 | \$525.78 |

| Lodge Representatives     |                 | 1st | 2nd |  | Mileage | Rate   | Total Paid | per diem | total      |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|--|---------|--------|------------|----------|------------|
| Washington # 1            | Beverly Labuda  | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00    |
| North Point # 4           | Dave Brown      | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00    |
| Triumph # 16 22 mi        | Tom Binns       | P   |     |  | 22      | \$0.41 | \$9.02     | \$30.00  | \$39.02    |
| Metropolis # 17 27 mi     | John Insley     | P   |     |  | 27      | \$0.41 | \$11.07    | \$30.00  | \$41.07    |
| Mount Moriah #32 152 mi   | Linda Humbert   | P   |     |  | 152     | \$0.41 | \$62.32    | \$0.00   | \$62.32    |
| Federal # 35 138 mi       | Walt Abrams     | P   |     |  | 138     | \$0.41 | \$56.58    | \$30.00  | \$86.58    |
| Centre # 40 9 mi          | Charlie Jones   | P   |     |  | 9       | \$0.41 | \$3.69     | \$30.00  | \$33.69    |
| Oriole # 47 51 mi         | Sharon Thomas   | P   |     |  | 51      | \$0.41 | \$20.91    | \$0.00   | \$20.91    |
| King David # 50 90 mi     | Sharon Botkin   | P   |     |  | 90      | \$0.41 | \$36.90    | \$0.00   | \$36.90    |
| Baltimore City # 57 17 mi | Larry Smith     | P   |     |  | 17      | \$0.41 | \$6.97     | \$30.00  | \$36.97    |
| Towson # 79               | Gene Leasure *  | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     |          | \$0.00     |
| Poolesville # 97 95 mi    | Richard Norwood | A   |     |  | 95      | \$0.41 | \$38.95    | \$30.00  | \$68.95    |
| Blenheim # 102 19 mi      | Joe Sumpter     | P   |     |  | 19      | \$0.41 | \$7.79     | \$30.00  | \$37.79    |
| Providence # 116 4 mi     | Bill Canter     | P   |     |  | 4       | \$0.41 | \$1.64     | \$30.00  | \$31.64    |
| Upper Falls # 175 2 mi    | Michael Milan   | P   |     |  | 0       | \$0.41 | \$0.00     | \$30.00  | \$30.00    |
|                           |                 |     |     |  |         |        | \$255.84   | \$330.00 | \$585.84   |
|                           |                 |     |     |  |         |        |            |          | \$1,388.93 |
| NE = Non-Eligible         |                 |     |     |  |         |        |            |          |            |
| * = Paid elsewhere        |                 |     |     |  |         |        |            |          |            |
| PT= Pro Tem               |                 |     |     |  |         |        |            |          |            |

Report No.27  
Parliamentarian

**Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Greetings.

Your committee of Parliamentarians reports they were not called upon to interpret the body's rules, Constitution and By-Laws, nor questions of procedure in transacting the business of the Grand Lodge in Session or out.

The Committee wants to thank the Grand Master Brenda for appointing us and we stand ready to assist Acting Grand Master Brianna until the end of session.

Respectfully Submitted

Report No. 28  
Petitions

To the Officer's & Members of the Grand Lodge

Greetings:

I'm sorry to report that we again had no Petitions for new charters.

Respectfully,  
The Committee and Chairperson Joe Labuda

Report No. 29  
Pilgrimage to the Tomb Committee

**Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Greetings.

The Maryland wreath has been ordered and will be presented by PGM Don Hamilton and PNG Donna Lynn Koback on behalf of Grand Master Brenda Hamilton along with Grand Patriarch George Wills and Rebekah President Gene Leasure.

All members are encouraged to attend this great opportunity we are afforded .

The Committee wants to thank the Grand Master for our appointment.

Report No. 30  
Planning Board

To the Officer and Members of the Grand Lodge

The Board did not have any need for meetings this year

Respectfully,

The Committee

Report No. 31  
Publicity and Community Relations

Report of the Committee on Publicity.

To the Brothers and Sisters of the Grand Lodge of Maryland,

The Committee on Publicity worked diligently through the year to gather ideas from around the state. Many lodges were able to provide some feedback on ways that they would like to promote Odd Fellowship in their area. We were also able to revisit some ideas that had been presented in the past, but were never pursued. Although we were not able to secure any means for publicity during this term, we look forward to taking the next steps in the upcoming term.

Several lodges were able to promote our Order in their local community this year. North Point #4 was able to collect funds from around the state to support a local cheer team on their trip to World Championships. They will display a banner promoting Odd Fellowship at their event. Mount Moriah #32 has chosen to sponsor a Little League team in their area, which will also promote the Order.

Some lodges have expressed plans to promote their lodge in the upcoming months. Centre Lodge #40 has looked into setting up a table during Ellicott City's SpringFest, which happens to occur on our Founder's Day. King David #50 has expressed interest in setting up a table at local events in Downtown Frederick.

The committee has, and continues to offer support to all lodges looking to promote Odd Fellowship in their community. If any lodge needs supplies, funding, or members to assist at a promotional event, we ask that you reach out to our committee. We are here to support you!

Signed by the Committee  
Laurel Shuman  
Mike Milan (Chair)

# 2024 Annual Report of Rebekah Lodges of Maryland

Commencing January 1, 2024 and Ending December 31, 2024

5

| Number of Units in last report                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | Bro.       |    | Sis.       |    | Total      |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------|----|------------|----|------------|--|
| -Do not count Jurisdictional Lodge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | 17         | 27 | 19         | 30 | 49         |  |
| Number of Units this report                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | 4          |    | 0          |    | 0          |  |
| Number of members as per last report                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | 44         |    | 0          |    | 0          |  |
| <p>TO WHICH ADD:</p> <p>Add error in last report</p> <p>Initiated during year</p> <p>Admitted by card</p> <p>Reinstated</p>                                                                                                                          |  |            |    |            |    |            |  |
| TOTAL ADDITIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | 5          | 15 | 20         |    |            |  |
| SUB - TOTAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | 22         | 42 | 64         |    |            |  |
| <p>FROM WHICH DEDUCT:</p> <p>Error in last report</p> <p>Withdrawn by card</p> <p>Suspended for cause</p> <p>Dropped for non-payment of dues</p> <p>Expelled</p> <p>Deceased</p>                                                                     |  |            |    |            |    |            |  |
| TOTAL DEDUCTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | 1          | 4  | 15         |    |            |  |
| TOTAL MEMBERS, * Membership 12/31/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | 19         | 30 | 49         |    |            |  |
| <p>* Must include all members, including Associate and Non-Contributing. Total transfers to Column 3.</p>                                                                                                                                            |  |            |    |            |    |            |  |
| Past Noble Grands                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 12         | 13 | 25         |    |            |  |
| Number of members relieved                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | 0          |    | 0          |    | 0          |  |
| Number of families relieved                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | 0          |    | 0          |    | 0          |  |
| Number of members buried                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | 0          |    | 0          |    | 0          |  |
| AMOUNT PAID FOR:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | AMOUNT     |    | AMOUNT     |    | AMOUNT     |  |
| Relief of Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Relief of widowed families                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Relief and Education of orphans                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Burying the Dead                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Operating Homes for the Aged and Orphans                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Special relief / Donations                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | 1,567.89   |    | 1,567.89   |    | 1,567.89   |  |
| TOTAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | 1,567.89   |    | 1,567.89   |    | 1,567.89   |  |
| RECEIPTS:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | RECEIPTS   |    | RECEIPTS   |    | RECEIPTS   |  |
| From dues                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | 1,611.00   |    | 1,611.00   |    | 1,611.00   |  |
| From admissions and Degrees                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | 50.00      |    | 50.00      |    | 50.00      |  |
| From rents and interest                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| From all other sources                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | 9,005.85   |    | 9,005.85   |    | 9,005.85   |  |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | 10,666.85  |    | 10,666.85  |    | 10,666.85  |  |
| Number of weeks sick benefits paid                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Lodge Expenses.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | 6,482.20   |    | 6,482.20   |    | 6,482.20   |  |
| Lodge invested funds.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | 2,500.00   |    | 2,500.00   |    | 2,500.00   |  |
| RA income.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | 6,139.30   |    | 6,139.30   |    | 6,139.30   |  |
| RA expenses.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | 7,902.18   |    | 7,902.18   |    | 7,902.18   |  |
| Grand Body paid Special Relief/Donations                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Invested funds of the Grand Body                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | 200,878.21 |    | 200,878.21 |    | 200,878.21 |  |
| Amount paid for operating Homes                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Homes funds invested                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Amount invested in Homes                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |    | 0.00       |  |
| Annual Dues @ \$28.50 per Member                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | 1,168.50   |    | 1,168.50   |    | 1,168.50   |  |
| Amount of check enclosed                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |            |    |            |    |            |  |
| <p>IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seal of the Grand Body of Maryland</p> <p>This 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025</p> <p>SEAL</p> <p><i>Rw Jm</i></p> <p><i>Laura Teale</i></p> <p>Grand Master</p> <p>Grand Secretary</p> |  |            |    |            |    |            |  |

[illegible]

Report 33  
Sessions and Banquet

The Grand Lodge will be providing snacks and lunch to all in attendance at session this year.

Info should be coming out to the lodge soon.

**Report No. 34**  
State of the Order Committee

We would like to remind the Lodges that when the Grand Lodge sends request for information from them with a specific date for the return of the information it is imperative that the information be returned by that date.

Lack of returning the required info causes issues for the lodge, the Grand Lodge and possibly our SG Rep being seated at the SGL session.

We brought in a total of 15 new members in 2024 . Please reach out to the membership committee to utilize their help with membership drives or suggestions or possible funds for drives. The publicity committee is always looking for ideas for advertising statewide and in the local communities.

We also lost 30 members total from our roster this year. 7 to death and 2 for Non Payment and 21 withdraws

Thank you Grand Master for allowing us to serve on this Committee.  
The Committee

**Report No. 35**  
Trustee Committee

The Trustees met with our Financial Advisor July 12, 2024, November 07,2024 and February 2025. These meetings were to go over our investments and receive suggestions on making changes to our portfolio.  
These suggestions were discussed by the trustees and agreed upon.

Please see the attached statements received from Ameriprise from last quarter 2024 and 1st quarter 2025.  
We thank the Grand Lodge members for their confidence in us to make sound decisions with the advice of our advisor.

Chairman Sharon P. Thomas, PGM, 2023-2026, Robert Sparks, PG, 2022-2025 , Stanley Labuda, PGM, 2022-2025 Dave Brown, PG, 2023-2026, Jeff Teate, PGM, 2024 –2027



## Your Ameriprise statement

for March 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025

PREPARED FOR GRAND LODGE OF MD ODD FELLOWS

### Your personal advisor

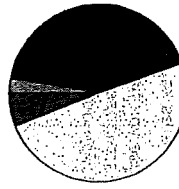
**Kristopher Johannssen CFP®**  
303 International Cir Ste 490  
Hunt Valley, MD 21030-1444  
410.308.6104  
kjohannssen@ampf.com  
www.ameripriseadvisors.com/kristopher.a.johannssen

### Value of your investment accounts

|                              | This month            | This year             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Beginning value              | \$9,896,122.60        | \$9,706,625.71        |
| Net deposits & withdrawals   | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| Dividends, interest & income | \$32,126.87           | \$60,136.17           |
| Change in value              | -\$269,934.20         | -\$108,446.61         |
| <b>Ending value</b>          | <b>\$9,658,315.27</b> | <b>\$9,658,315.27</b> |

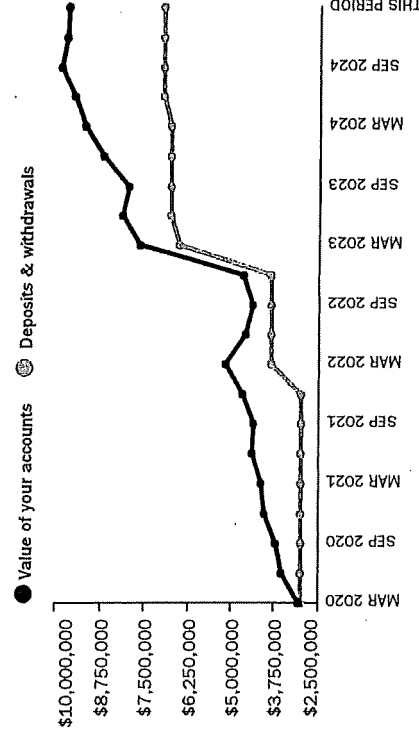
### Your asset allocation

| Asset class                | Value on              | Percent of  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|                            | Mar 31, 2025          | assets      |
| ● Cash & cash investments* | \$252,000.39          | 2.6%        |
| ● Fixed income             | \$4,056,373.13        | 42.0%       |
| ○ Equities                 | \$4,759,566.65        | 49.3%       |
| ● Alternatives             | \$587,337.35          | 6.1%        |
| Other assets               | \$3,037.75            | 0.0%        |
| <b>Total assets</b>        | <b>\$9,658,315.27</b> | <b>100%</b> |



\*Cash investments includes cash held inside pooled investments (e.g. mutual funds), as part of a manager's investment strategy, and is not directly accessible unless you sell some of that investment. For details visit [ameriprise.com/allocation](http://ameriprise.com/allocation).

### Value of your investment accounts over time



This chart provides a five-year view of your account values. The black line shows the value of your accounts, while the gray line shows your net contributions (deposits less withdrawals).

Get all the details online at [ameriprise.com](http://ameriprise.com). Click the Portfolio tab to find your latest account value, activity and asset allocation.

#### Looking for your Form 5498?

Reminder: your Dec 31 fair market value "FMV" was provided in your December month-end and annual statement. If you had only FMV, no contributions, RMD requirements, or any other qualified account tax documents, you did not receive another copy apart from your statement.





**Kristopher Johannssen CFP®**  
303 International Cir Ste 490  
Hunt Valley, MD 21030-1444  
410.308.6104  
kjohannssen@ampf.com  
[www.ameriprisedvisors.com/kristopher](http://www.ameriprisedvisors.com/kristopher)

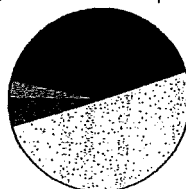
## for December 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

PREPARED FOR GRAND LODGE OF MD ODD FELLOWS

## Value of your investment accounts

|                              | This month            | This year             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Beginning value              | \$9,982,891.14        | \$8,687,632.43        |
| Net deposits & withdrawals   | \$0.00                | \$210,000.00          |
| Dividends, interest & income | \$30,400.28           | \$276,894.28          |
| Change in value              | -\$306,665.71         | \$532,099.00          |
| <b>Ending value</b>          | <b>\$9,706,625.71</b> | <b>\$9,706,625.71</b> |

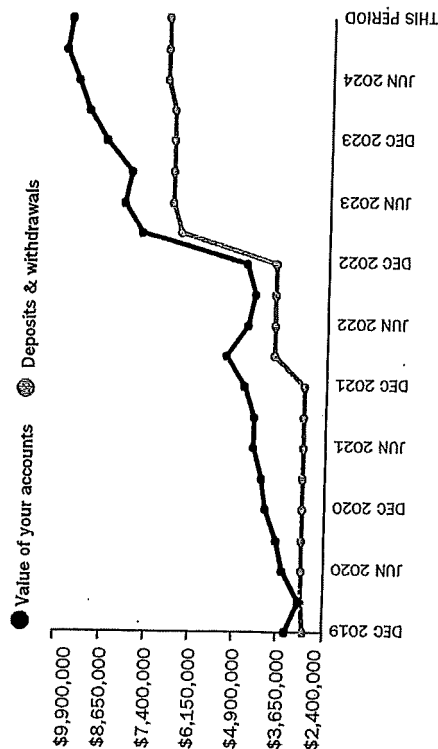
## Your asset allocation




| Asset class                | Value on Dec 31, 2024 | Percent of assets |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ☞ Cash & cash investments* | \$320,080.09          | 3.3%              |
| ● Fixed income             | \$4,017,928.70        | 41.4%             |
| ☺ Equities                 | \$4,887,886.03        | 50.4%             |
| ● Alternatives             | \$469,705.16          | 4.8%              |
| ○ Other assets             | \$11,025.73           | 0.1%              |
| <b>Total assets</b>        | <b>\$9,706,625.71</b> | <b>100%</b>       |

\*Cash investments includes cash held inside pooled investments (e.g. mutual funds), as part of a manager's investment strategy, and is not directly accessible unless you sell some of that investment. For details visit [ameriprise.com/allocation](http://ameriprise.com/allocation).

## Value of your investment accounts over time



This chart provides a five-year view of your account values. The black line shows the value of your accounts, while the gray line shows your net contributions (deposits less withdrawals).

 Get all the details online at [ameriprise.com](http://ameriprise.com). Click the Portfolio tab to find your latest account value, activity and asset allocation.

Taxes can impact your financial investments and savings outcomes, even outside of tax filing. Visit our Tax Center at [ameriprise.com/financial-goals/priorities/taxes](http://ameriprise.com/financial-goals/priorities/taxes) for helpful articles, FAQs and other resources.

**Report No. 36**  
Visual Research and Eye Bank Committee

Greeting Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland,

The Grand Lodge of Maryland had a budget of \$150 for a donation to Visual Research Eye Bank

The Committee

**Report No. 37**  
Ways & Means Committee

To the Members of the Grand Lodge:

Nothing to report this term

The Committee

**Report No. 38**  
Wilkey Memorial

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

A celebration was held at the Grand Lodge hosted by DGM Brianna in place of a Memorial this year due to GM Brenda's passing and plans not getting arranged for a graveside visit.

**Resolution No. 1**  
2025-2026 Budget

**Budget Summary**

|                      | <u>Current</u><br><u>2024-2025</u> | <u>Proposed</u><br><u>2025-2026</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Income</u></b> |                                    |                                     |
| Money Market         | \$20.00                            | \$20.00                             |
| Jurisdictional Dues  | \$0.00                             | \$0.00                              |
| Back Room Rental     | \$63,900.00                        | \$63,900.00                         |
| Total Goods Sold     | \$1,300.00                         | \$600.00                            |
| Handling             | \$50.00                            | \$100.00                            |
| Printing Charge      | \$50.00                            | \$0.00                              |
| Investment Dividends | <u>\$61,675.00</u>                 | <u>\$63,465.00</u>                  |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>\$126,995.00</b>                | <b>\$128,085.00</b>                 |

**Expenses**

|                         |                     |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bldg Property Contracts | \$11,420.00         |                     |
| Bldg Property Repair    | \$4,500.00          |                     |
| Building Maintenance    |                     | \$11,365.00         |
| Seasonal Maintenance    |                     | \$4,000.00          |
| Utilities               | \$21,180.00         | \$27,800.00         |
| Committees              | \$12,780.00         | \$11,935.00         |
| Charitable Givings      | \$1,850.00          | \$500.00            |
| Adnin&General           | \$11,340.00         | \$8,675.00          |
| Insurance               | \$28,090.00         | \$27,950.00         |
| Mileage Per Diem        | \$1,775.00          | included below      |
| Sessions Expense        |                     | \$1,800.00          |
| Payroll                 | \$33,660.00         | \$33,660.00         |
| Cogs                    | <u>\$400.00</u>     | <u>\$400.00</u>     |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$126,995.00</b> | <b>\$128,085.00</b> |

| <u>Budget Detail</u>                 | <u>Current</u>     | <u>Proposed</u>    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>2024-2025</u>                     | <u>2025-2026</u>   |                    |
| <u>Building Maintenance</u>          |                    |                    |
| Fire Extinguishers                   | \$150.00           | \$150.00           |
| Hvac Maintenance Contract            | \$2,400.00         | \$2,300.00         |
| Fire Inspection                      | \$50.00            | \$50.00            |
| Sprinkler Back Flow Contract         | \$1,150.00         | \$1,150.00         |
| Cleaning Supplies                    | \$125.00           | \$100.00           |
| Paper Products/Trash Bag             | \$150.00           | \$100.00           |
| Trash Removal                        | \$1,300.00         | \$1,800.00         |
| Alarm Inspection                     | \$525.00           | \$525.00           |
| Alarm Monitoring                     | \$1,125.00         | \$1,125.00         |
| Misc                                 | \$500.00           | \$0.00             |
| R&M & Equip                          | \$4,500.00         | \$4,000.00         |
| Exterminator                         | \$45.00            | \$65.00            |
|                                      | <u>\$12,020.00</u> | <u>\$11,365.00</u> |
| <u>Seasonal Property Maintenance</u> |                    |                    |
| Snow Removal                         | \$1,600.00         | \$1,600.00         |
| Grass Cutting                        | \$2,300.00         | \$2,400.00         |
|                                      | <u>\$3,900.00</u>  | <u>\$4,000.00</u>  |
| <u>Utilities</u>                     |                    |                    |
| Property Water Distribution          | \$5,400.00         | \$5,500.00         |
| Electric & Gas                       | \$13,200.00        | \$20,000.00        |
| Telephone/Internet                   | \$1,800.00         | \$1,500.00         |
| Water Sprinkler Annual               | \$380.00           | \$400.00           |
| Water Sewage Qtrly Bill              | \$400.00           | \$400.00           |
|                                      | <u>\$21,180.00</u> | <u>\$27,800.00</u> |
| <u>Committees</u>                    |                    |                    |
| Conclave Full Ad                     | \$100.00           | \$65.00            |
| Wilkey (Refreshments)                | \$200.00           | \$200.00           |
| Publicity/Commun/Membership          | \$12,400.00        | \$10,000.00        |
| Arthritis                            | \$0.00             | \$250.00           |
| Visual Research                      | \$0.00             | \$250.00           |
| Ways And Means                       | \$0.00             | \$300.00           |
| Heritage                             | \$0.00             | \$250.00           |
| Youth Pilgrimage                     | \$0.00             | \$250.00           |
| Tomb Of The Unknown                  | \$80.00            | \$370.00           |
|                                      | <u>\$12,780.00</u> | <u>\$11,935.00</u> |
| <u>Charitable Givings</u>            |                    |                    |
| Arthritis                            | \$150.00           | \$0.00             |
| Visual Research                      | \$150.00           | \$0.00             |
| Sgm Project                          | \$150.00           | \$500.00           |
| Gl/Sgl Project Scholarship           | \$1,000.00         | \$0.00             |
| Educational Pilgrimage               | \$200.00           | \$0.00             |
| Gm Project                           | \$200.00           | \$0.00             |
|                                      | <u>\$1,850.00</u>  | <u>\$500.00</u>    |

| <u>Administration &amp; General</u> | <u>Current<br/>2024-2025</u> | <u>Proposed<br/>2025-2026</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunshine Fund                       | \$500.00                     | \$250.00                      |
| Equipment Copier                    | \$2,500.00                   | \$2,200.00                    |
| Copier Per Copy Charge              | \$25.00                      | \$25.00                       |
| Software                            | \$500.00                     | \$250.00                      |
| Web Page                            | \$250.00                     | \$250.00                      |
| Office Supplies                     | \$250.00                     | \$100.00                      |
| Postage                             | \$150.00                     | \$100.00                      |
| Shipping From Sgl                   | \$65.00                      | \$0.00                        |
| Professional Services               | \$5,500.00                   | \$5,500.00                    |
| Equipment Office                    | \$1,600.00                   | \$0.00                        |
|                                     | <u>\$11,340.00</u>           | <u>\$8,675.00</u>             |
| <br><u>Insurance</u>                |                              |                               |
| Insurance Pckg Policy               | \$22,200.00                  | \$22,200.00                   |
| D&O Bond                            | \$1,900.00                   | \$1,900.00                    |
| Umbrella                            | \$3,600.00                   | \$3,600.00                    |
| Workman Comp                        | \$390.00                     | \$250.00                      |
|                                     | <u>\$28,090.00</u>           | <u>\$27,950.00</u>            |
| <br><u>Session Expense</u>          |                              |                               |
| Refreshments                        | \$100.00                     | \$200.00                      |
| Mileage & Per Diem                  | \$1,100.00                   | \$1,100.00                    |
| Courtesies Extended                 | \$500.00                     | \$500.00                      |
| Supplies                            | \$75.00                      | \$0.00                        |
|                                     | <u>\$1,775.00</u>            | <u>\$1,800.00</u>             |
| <br><u>Payroll</u>                  |                              |                               |
| Grand Secretary                     | \$29,460.00                  | \$29,460.00                   |
| Grand Treasurer Expense             | \$1,200.00                   | \$1,200.00                    |
| Tax Liability                       | \$2,400.00                   | \$2,400.00                    |
| Payroll Service                     | \$600.00                     | \$600.00                      |
|                                     | <u>\$33,660.00</u>           | <u>\$33,660.00</u>            |
| <br><u>Cost Of Goods Sold</u>       | <u>\$400.00</u>              | <u>\$400.00</u>               |
| <br><b>Total Expenses</b>           | <b>\$126,995.00</b>          | <b>\$128,085.00</b>           |

Resolution No. 2

PGM Sandy Shuman, GT Laurel Shuman, and Acting GM Brianna Shuman move the following:

*WHEREAS;* Brenda G. Hamilton was elected in proper form at the 2024 Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Maryland to the exalted Office of Grand Master, and

*WHEREAS;* Brenda G Hamilton served diligently in her office through times of sickness showing her continued dedication to the Order, and

*WHEREAS;* Brenda G. Hamilton, after terminal diagnosis, continued to perform the duties of her office, and expressed direction as to her wishes for the remainder of her term.

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT;* Brenda G. Hamilton be awarded the title and regalia of Past Grand Master.

Bill No. 1

Proposed by Acting GM Brianna Shuman and PGM Sandy Shuman from the Committee on Bylaws, with approval of the committee.

TITLE: A Bill to adopt new Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, which will bring conformance to the Code of General Laws.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND:

That the Bylaws proposed in Appendix 1, be adopted and replace the existing Bylaws.

Constitution and Bylaws  
of the  
Grand Lodge of Maryland  
Independent Order of  
Odd Fellows  
Baltimore, Maryland  
February 22, 1825



## Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

### **Preface**

This revision of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland has been prepared by Acting Grand Master Brianna Shuman and Past Grand Master Sandy Shuman, by direction of Grand Master Brenda Hamilton, and submitted with the approval of the Committee on Bylaws for approval at the Annual Session on 5/17/2025.

SEC 1.

- A. The name, style and title of this Grand Lodge, by virtue of the Charter hearing on February 22, 1825 by the Grand Lodge of the United States, now the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, shall be acknowledged and respected as: Grand Lodge of Maryland, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Inc., and shall be hereafter governed by the following laws.
- (1) The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F. shall maintain reversionary interest of the Order within the jurisdiction.
  - (2) A Grand Lodge may be restructured upon petition by five (5) or more Lodges (Odd Fellows and/or Rebekah), having an aggregate of seven (7) or more Past Grands and/or Past Noble Grands, within the jurisdiction of Maryland. No more than one Grand Lodge may be chartered in the State of Maryland.

SEC 2. **Authority, Objects, and Purposes**

A. **Authority**

- (1) The authority of the Grand Lodge is derived from The Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), to which it shall be accountable.
  - (a) The Grand Lodge of Maryland, instituted in Baltimore, Maryland, on February 22, 1825, maintains jurisdiction over all lodges within the State of Maryland.
  - (b) This Grand Lodge is authorized and empowered to direct, supervise and control all matters pertaining to the Lodges (Odd Fellows and Rebekahs) of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows within its Jurisdiction. No Lodge can exist therein without its sanction. It possesses the right of granting charters to a Rebekah Assembly, [Rebekah Lodges, Theta Rho Girls' Clubs and Theta Rho Assembly where and when there is no Rebekah Assembly], Odd Fellows Lodges, a Grand Junior Lodge, Junior Lodges and United Youth Groups within the Jurisdiction; of suspending or taking away the same for proper cause; to receive, determine and hear appeals; redress grievances and complaints arising in the several Lodges; to originate and regulate means for its support; to grant dispensations; to enact any law not contravening the customs and usages of the Order, as from time to time declared by The Sovereign Grand Lodge, not altering the work of the Order or any of the several degrees belonging thereto, not in conflict with the constitutional authority of The Sovereign Grand Lodge or violating any enactments in pursuance thereof, and not conflicting with the laws of the land, and do all such other acts to promote the interest of the Order or that appertain thereto by ancient usage or custom.
    - (i) The Grand Lodge shall enact a uniform Constitution, to provide for the governance of the Odd Fellow Lodges under its jurisdiction.
    - (ii) Each Odd Fellow Lodge shall enact By-Laws not in conflict with its Constitution, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge and the General Laws of the Order, which shall take effect when approved by the Grand Lodge.
  - (c) The Grand Lodge shall exist as long as it meets the provisions of The Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, Chapter II – Issuance of Charter(s).

(d) Laws To Be Liberally Construed.

- (i) The rules and regulations as set forth in the Constitution and By-laws shall be liberally construed. The chief concern shall be following the spirit of the law and the good of Odd Fellowship rather than harshly enforcing rules to the letter of the law.

**B. Objects**

- (1) To promote the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.
- (2) Seek to improve and elevate the character of man.

**C. Purpose**

- (1) To have general supervision over the Odd Fellows Lodges, the Rebekah Assembly, [Rebekah Lodges, Theta Rho Girls' Clubs and Theta Rho Assemblies, where there is no Rebekah Assembly], the Grand Junior Lodge, Junior Lodges and United Youth Groups within the jurisdiction;  
and:
  - (a) Homes/Housing Projects
  - (b) Camps/Parks
  - (c) Cemeteries
  - (d) Building Associations, lodge hall, property
  - (e) District Associations, Athletic Associations, et cetera
  - (f) Any such entity as may use: Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Odd Fellows, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, and/or any of the emblems of the Order i.e. the three links.
- (2) The Grand Lodge may authorize the organization of Past Grand's Associations, Veterans Associations, Past Grand Masters Associations, and other kindred and auxiliary organizations, including building or Temple Associations, authorized by the General Laws of the Order, for the promotion of the principles of the Order. The Rules and Regulations governing such organizations, and all amendments thereto shall be submitted to and be approved by the Committee on By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, before becoming effective, after report to, and approval by the Grand Lodge.
- (3) To make recommendations to The Sovereign Grand Lodge for legislation and such other matters that will improve the Order.

**SEC 3. Jurisdiction**

- A. This Grand Lodge shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all local concerns of Odd Fellows Lodges within the jurisdiction and shall have and exercise all power and authority not reserved to itself by The Sovereign Grand Lodge. This Grand Lodge shall adopt legislation concerning minimum fees, dues and assessments necessary to meet fraternal obligations.
- B. This Grand Lodge's authority shall not be interfered with by The Sovereign Grand Lodge or the Sovereign Grand Master. If the Grand Lodge fails in its responsibilities in supervising local lodges, The Sovereign Grand Lodge or Sovereign Grand Master shall take corrective action against the Grand Lodge, but not the local lodge.
  - (1) This Grand Lodges shall enforce strict adherence to the work of the Order. Neither a the Grand Lodge or Rebekah Assembly nor an Odd Fellows Lodge or Rebekah Lodge

- may adopt or use any charges, lectures, degrees, ceremonies or regalia other than those prescribed by The Sovereign Grand Lodge.
- (2) Lodges may not exhibit in their halls or anteroom any symbols that pertain to any particular faith or creed; but may use music that is generally regarded as religious if it does not cause controversy.
  - (3) Ritualistic work shall not be presented in public meetings.
- C. The Rebekah Assembly of Maryland derives its authority, rights and powers by virtue of its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Maryland and is subject thereto. It shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its government, which shall become effective upon approval by the Grand Lodge, subject to further review by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
- (1) The Rebekah Assembly of Maryland shall possess all the rights, powers and privilege accorded a Rebekah Assembly under the General Laws of the Order and not denied to it by the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Lodge. It shall exercise the same authority and powers with respect to Rebekah Lodges as this Grand Lodge exercises over Odd fellow Lodges.
  - (2) The Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly shall, within thirty days after the close of the Assembly session, submit to the Grand Master and Committee on Rebekah Lodges a preliminary report of the acts of the Assembly. This report shall include copy of all legislation adopted as well as a report of the financial and membership records of the Assembly and all bodies subordinate there to. The Board of Grand Officers shall promptly review such preliminary report and shall declare suspended any act which is contrary to the General Laws of the Order, the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Lodge or which may not be for the Good of the Order, which decision shall be reviewed by this Grand Lodge at its next Annual Session.
  - (3) Associations of Past Noble Grand's and others as included in Section 2 C (2) of this Constitution may be authorized by the Rebekah Assembly in accordance with the same regulations as prescribed in said Section 2 C (2).
- SEC 4. **Headquarters:** The headquarters of the Grand Lodge, (office of the Grand Secretary), shall be at such location as the Grand Lodge may direct. Change of location can only be decided by the body as a whole in regular or special session.
- SEC 5. **Members:** The Officers and members of the Grand Lodge shall be all Past Grands and Past Noble Grands who have attained the Third Degree of an active Lodge, and who have received the Grand Lodge Degree. All members of the Grand Lodge shall have the right to submit legislation, make motions, debate and vote.
- A. To entitle a Past Grand to membership, satisfactory evidence that he or she has served a regular term as Noble Grand of an Odd Fellows or Rebekah Lodge, and is a member in good standing, must be submitted to the Grand Secretary.
- SEC 6. **Representation:** Each active Lodge shall be entitled to one (1) representative, to be elected by each lodge during their regular election.
- SEC 7. **Officers.**
- A. **Elective Officers.**
    - (1) The elective officers of the Grand Lodge shall be those specified in the Grand Lodge Ritual; selected from the Past Grands of an active regularly chartered lodges in good

- standing: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Representative(s), and Alternate Grand Representative(s).
- (a) The term of office for Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Warden shall be one (1) year. The term of office for Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall be three (3) years, not to be run concurrently.
    - (i) Grand Representative(s) terms shall be as set by The Sovereign Grand Lodge.
  - (b) The Grand Master shall not hold another elective office in the Grand Lodge, or hold the office of President of the Rebekah Assembly, or Grand Patriarch or Matriarch in the Grand Encampment within the jurisdiction.
- (2) The Board of Trustees shall be composed of three members who shall be elected in the manner provided for the election of Officers.
- (a) The term of office for Trustees shall be three (3) years, the term of one expiring at each Annual Session of the Grand Lodge.
  - (b) The Trustee may serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses authorized by the Executive Board of Grand Lodge Officers and the Finance Committee.
  - (c) Not more than 50% of the Trustees shall be from the same Lodge.
  - (d) Shall elect from their number, a Chairman, within forty-five (45) days of the close of the annual session.
  - (e) Shall keep a record of their proceedings. Shall submit a report showing all investments and monies held by them and the income received to be included in the Advance Report each year.
- (3) The following Officers of the Grand Lodge: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Junior Past Grand Master, Grand Representative, Chairman of Trustees, Chairman of Finance; shall compose the Board of Grand Lodge Officers
- (a) The Grand Master shall serve as chairman/president of the Board and the Grand Secretary shall serve as Secretary of the Board.
  - (b) The Board shall direct and promote the operations and general welfare, consistent with the laws, customs and usages of the Order, within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge during the interim of the Grand Lodge Sessions.
  - (c) Shall promulgate plans and programs and work with the officers of all bodies under the immediate supervision of the Grand Lodge for the development and expansion of the Order.
- (4) Joint Executive Board. The Board of Grand Officers and the Executive Committee of the Rebekah Assembly shall constitute the Joint Executive Board. The Executive Committee of the Rebekah Assembly shall be the President, Vice President, Warden, Secretary, Treasurer, and Junior Past President, and the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies Representative. The Joint Executive Board shall meet at least once every four months and act for the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly during the interim between sessions that affect both units, reserving to the Grand Lodge in session for Approval of their action. The Grand Master shall be the chairman, the

President shall be the Vice Chairman, and the Grand Secretary shall be the Secretary of this Joint Executive Board.

**B. Appointive Officers.**

- (1) The appointive officers of the Grand Lodge shall be those officers noted in the Grand Lodge Ritual; selected from the Past Grands of active regularly chartered lodges: Grand Marshal, Grand Conductor, Grand Chaplain, Grand Musician, Grand Guardian, Grand Color Bearer, Grand Instructor, and Grand Herald who shall be appointed by the Grand Master.
  - (a) Assistant Grand Secretary, who may be appointed by the Grand Secretary at the annual session with the approval of the Grand Lodge, to hold office for one year.

**C. Additional Officers.**

- (1) The Grand Master may appoint additional officers such as Ambassador of Goodwill, etc. The appointed officer must be approved by the Board if not approved in session.

**D. Qualifications for Office:**

- (1) Officers:
  - (a) Elective: A Past Grand in good standing in an active Odd Fellows Lodge and a member of an active Rebekah Lodge, and in possession of the Grand Lodge Degree is eligible to hold any office.
  - (b) Appointive: A Past Grand in good standing in an active Odd Fellows Lodge and in possession of the Grand Lodge Degree is eligible to hold any appointive office.
- (2) An officer must maintain membership in the jurisdiction to hold office.
  - (a) A member must be a resident in the Jurisdiction, either with home membership, or by falling under the definition of sojourner.

**E. Nominations and Elections:**

- (1) The Grand Master shall call for nominations, at the annual session, under the regular order of business.
  - (a) Nominations shall be made by members of the Grand Lodge, with exception being that a member may ask for the Noble Grand of the nominee's Lodge, a nominee's family member or close friend – who may be a member of the Order, but not yet a member of the Grand Lodge to address the Grand Lodge and make a nomination.
    - (i) The Deputy Grand Master will automatically rise to the position of Grand Master, at the annual session following the completion of their term.  
Therefore, there shall be no nomination or election for the office of Grand Master.
  - (b) Before each nomination can be closed, the call for nominations must be made three (3) times, out loud, before the body, with no further nominations being made.
  - (c) All nominees must be present to accept their nomination, or provide written acceptance of the nomination in advance of the session. Written acceptance must be specific to the office to which they will be nominated.

- (2) The order of nominations shall be:
  - (a) Deputy Grand Master
  - (b) Grand Warden
  - (c) Grand Secretary/Grand Treasurer, if needed
  - (d) Grand Representative
  - (e) Alternate Grand Representative
  - (f) Trustee(s)
  - (g) Any other officers as needed
- (3) Elections shall follow, at the annual session, in the general course of business.
  - (a) Ballots shall be tallied immediately and out loud, in the session, before the body, by the tellers.
    - (i) Balloting. All elections shall be by ballot (written or electronic), unless there be but one nominee, in which event the Grand Master shall declare the nominee elected. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. Should no candidate receive a majority on the first ballot, the candidate having the least number of votes shall be dropped at the next ballot, and so on until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
    - (ii) Tellers. The nominees and the Grand Master shall each name one teller at the time of elections, who shall call, aloud, the votes cast. The Teller appointed by the Grand Master shall keep the official count, and declare the result to the Grand Master, by whom it shall be announced to the Grand Lodge.

F. Installation:

- (1) Grand Lodge officers shall be installed immediately following the annual session in which they were elected. The incoming Grand Master shall decide, at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Session, the Form of Installation (Public or Closed), and inform the incoming staff.
- (2) Officers who are not present for installation, and who have not been installed by the first meeting of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, shall be installed at that time. If any Officer has not installed by the close of the first meeting of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, the office will be declared vacant, and filled according to “Section 9. Vacancies in Office of”.
- (3) The Sovereign Grand Master, or a qualified person designated by the Sovereign Grand Master, may install Grand Lodge officers or the Grand Lodge may designate a Past Grand Master or Grand Representative to install them. Installation by proxy is prohibited.
  - (a) Installing Staff shall be chosen by the incoming Grand Master prior to the Annual Session.

G. Officer Emeritus – is an honorary title which may allow one to advance for presentation; but is not entitled to Honors of the Order or the Degree where extended.

- (1) A member is eligible for Emeritus status after serving four (4) terms in any single office, demonstrating exemplary service to the Jurisdiction through that Office.
- (2) A resolution outlining the special achievements relating to the office, during their time in office, must be submitted and adopted at the Annual Session by majority vote.

- (a) The resolution must be signed by at least five (5) Past Grand Masters within the jurisdiction in order to be presented.
- (3) There shall be no limit on Emeritus statuses bestowed upon any one member.

**SEC 8. Duties of the Officers**

**A. Grand Master. (In Session.)**

The Grand Master shall appoint committees. Only members of the Grand Lodge shall serve on committees, except on Joint Committees – with the Rebekah Assembly or other Grand Bodies – e.g. museum, D.A.R.E., scholarship, etc.

- (1) At the conclusion of sessions, the Grand Master MAY appoint any or all of the following committees:
  - (a) Appeals and Petitions.
  - (b) By-laws.
  - (c) Communications.
  - (d) Courtesies Extended.
  - (e) Credentials.
  - (f) Distribution of Officers' Reports.
  - (g) Finance.
  - (h) Instruction & Membership.
  - (i) Investigation of Grievances.
  - (j) GL/RA Joint Youth.
  - (k) Judiciary.
  - (l) Legislation.
  - (m) Memorials.
  - (n) Mileage and Per Diem.
  - (o) Miscellaneous Business.
  - (p) Odd Fellow Property.
  - (q) Rebekah Matters.
  - (r) Relief.
  - (s) State of the Order.
  - (t) Pilgrimage for Youth (PforY).
  - (u) Drawing of Seats.
  - (v) Other Committees as authorized.
- (2) At sessions, the Grand Master shall:
  - (a) Preside at all meetings of the Grand Lodge, preserve order and enforce the laws or cause the same to be done during a temporary absence.
  - (b) Cast a vote only when the Grand Lodge is equally divided, except on a ballot for officers, or on a secret ballot.
  - (c) Fill vacancies in office for the remainder of the term.
- (3) **Passwords.** Immediately following Installation, the Grand Master shall select and communicate the Term Password to the Grand Secretary, who shall in turn, communicate the password, by cypher, to the District Deputies, for those units under the direct supervision of the Grand Lodge. The District Deputies shall then



communicate the password to the Noble Grand of each lodge under their commission in proper form.

B. Other duties of the Grand Master. (Not in session.)

(1) **Generally.**

- (a) To have supervision over the affairs of the Odd Fellows Lodges, Grand Junior Lodges, Junior Lodges, United Youth Groups and Rebekah Assembly within the jurisdiction.
  - (i) Where there is no Rebekah Assembly, the Rebekah Lodges, Theta Rho Assembly and Theta Rho Girls' Clubs shall fall under the Grand Lodge.
- (b) To require all members to conform to the laws and customs of the Order.
- (c) To remove from office any officer of a Lodge, Board, Committee, or Association who is found to be physically or mentally incapable or is willfully failing to perform the prescribed duties, but only after due notice and hearing and concurrence of the Board.
- (d) To make any recommendations considered necessary for amendment of the By-laws.
- (e) To execute all legal documents which shall be attested and acknowledged as required.
- (f) To instruct, with approval of the Board, the Committee on Investigation of Grievances to make a thorough investigation when of the opinion that the laws and customs of the Order have been violated and no proper action is being taken.
  - (i) The Grand Master may, with the approval of the Board, suspend a member or members for up to ninety (90) days while an investigation is conducted to determine if the member or members should be charged with violating the laws and/or customs of the Order.
  - (ii) The committee shall make a full report to the Grand Master who:
    - (a) If the findings are unfounded – no further action is required.
    - (b) If findings are founded – the Grand Master shall refer the case to the Committee on Judiciary, who shall proceed to act as a Trial Committee, working under the guidance of the provisions in the Trial Code.
    - (c) The Grand Master shall determine venue of the trial.
    - (d) If the Committee on Judiciary finds that the, member(s), officer(s), or component body has violated the laws of the Order, the Grand Master may, with approval of the Board, admonish, reprimand, fine, suspend, or expel the member, or may arrest or suspend the charter of the component body.
    - (e) The accused has all the rights provided by the Trial Code, to receive a copy of all charges and specifications, to present witnesses, to give testimony, and to cross-examine adverse witnesses.
    - (f) Any action taken must be reported in detail and in writing to the next regular session of the Grand Lodge.
    - (g) If an appeal is filed the action taken shall remain in force until reversed by the Grand Lodge.

- (g) Shall visit or cause to be visited by some other elective Officer each Odd Fellow Lodge in the Jurisdiction during the term of office.
- (h) Shall in person or by a District Deputy Grand Master or other qualified Past Grand install the Officers Elect in all Odd Fellow Lodges.
- (2) **Special Representatives.** The Grand Master may commission:
  - (a) A Special Deputy over any lodge under the supervision of the Grand Lodge to perform all the duties specifically designated in the commission. Upon completion of the duty, the Deputy shall report in writing the action taken with recommendations.
  - (b) A Special Deputy to take control and supervision over the affairs of any component body under the supervision of the Grand Lodge which is acting in violation of law, failing to meet its responsibilities, or unlawfully dissipating its assets. The officers of the component involved may continue to perform their duties under the supervision of the Deputy and to the extent allowed. When the situation has been alleviated the Deputy shall be relieved and commission terminated.
  - (c) A Special Deputy to take charge of the property, funds, and affairs of a component under the supervision of the Grand Lodge whose charter has been arrested, suspended, or forfeited. If the charter of a Lodge is arrested, suspended, or forfeited, it shall come under the immediate supervision of the Grand Lodge and remain until the charter is restored.
  - (d) District Deputy Grand Masters. The Grand Master shall appoint a District Deputy Grand Master for each District. The Grand Master may also appoint a Lodge Deputy for each Odd Fellow Lodge in the Jurisdiction. Such District Deputy shall be a Past Grand in good standing. The term of a District Deputy Grand Master shall commence at the end of the annual session and end at the next annual session. The District Deputy shall be the special agent and representative of the Grand Master, shall supervise the affairs of the Order in said district, and perform other duties as the Grand Master may direct. May receive reimbursement for expenses from appropriated funds when approved by the Grand Master. At the expiration of the term shall be entitled to the rank of Past District Deputy Grand Master and may acquire an appropriate jewel.
  - (e) Forms for commissions. They shall be supplied by the Grand Secretary, signed by the Grand Master, and attested by the Grand Secretary.
  - (f) Special Deputies: may be reimbursed for expenses on itemized statements, from budgeted funds, approved by the Grand Master.
- (3) **Expansion and Development – Instruction and Membership.**
  - (a) The Grand Master may appoint: Special Deputies to organize a lodge in a particular area or lodges throughout a District under the Grand Master's direct supervision or in any District or area.
  - (b) Shall visit lodges within the jurisdiction and shall instruct and assist them in all matters for the welfare and business of the Order.

**(4) Decisions.**

- (a) Decisions shall be rendered in writing by the Grand Master only when requested in writing by a Lodge.
- (b) All decisions of the Grand Master are binding until the Grand Lodge meets. Decisions shall be reviewed by the Committee on Judiciary; their report being acted upon by the voting members of the Grand Lodge. Unless reversed, they become law after being presented in Bill form and adopted by the voting members.
- (c) Render decisions concerning interpretation of the Laws of the Order. All decisions are subject to review by the Committee on Judiciary prior to or at the annual session concluding the Grand Master's term.

**(5) Other Responsibilities.**

- (a) Enforce the laws of the Order and may not suspend them.
- (b) May not delegate the vested powers except as provided in the Code.
- (c) Has no authority to interfere with the affairs of a Lodge or its Presiding Officer so long as it is in good standing and complying with the laws of the Order.
- (d) May, or upon the request of a majority of the voting members of the Grand Lodge, call special sessions of the Grand Lodge. Notice thereof shall be given at least thirty (30) days, prior to the Special Session, stating the time, purpose, and place of meeting, and no business shall be transacted except as specified in the notice. In the event of an emergency when it is not financially feasible to hold a special session, the Representatives may be polled by mail as to their vote upon the proposition or propositions, not exceeding two (2) in number, with the pros and cons to be disclosed in full.
- (e) May, with written consent of a majority of the Representatives, in the event of war, grave emergency, or other like cause omit the holding of a regular session or may change the regular time and place.
- (f) May receive petitions and grant charters as per sub-section (f) below.
- (g) Shall perform other duties as required of the Grand Lodge.
- (h) May fill vacancies in office, if required, until adjournment of the next session, with approval of the Board.
- (i) Shall issue proclamations and directives requesting observances by appropriate ceremonies of the Anniversary of the Order, Wildey's Birthday, and such other anniversaries and events as deemed necessary.
- (j) May grant dispensations as authorized by the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge, which do not violate the laws of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.
- (k) The Grand Master may grant dispensations to dispense with regular meetings for a period not to exceed two consecutive months in any one calendar year.
- (l) Shall, by request of a Noble Grand, install the officers elect of any Odd Fellows lodge within the jurisdiction.
- (m) Shall be responsible for ensuring existence of a bond for any officers permitted to sign for or distribute the funds of the Grand Lodge.
- (n) May not compel uniform fee for initiation and degrees.

**(6) Issuance of Charter(s).**

- (a) An Odd Fellows Lodge may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by minimum of five (5) or more members of the Third Degree or a minimum of fifteen (15) persons qualified to become Odd Fellows in a community within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the proper withdrawal cards and applications for membership.
- (b) A Junior Lodge may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by minimum of five (5) or more members of the Junior Lodge Degree or a minimum of fifteen (15) persons qualified to become Junior Odd Fellows in a community within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the proper withdrawal cards and applications for membership.
- (c) A Grand Junior Lodge may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by seven (7) or more Past Chief Rulers of the Junior Lodge Degree from not less than three (3) Junior Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the sealed letters from the lodges certifying the rank of the Past Chief Rulers.
- (d) A United Youth Group may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by minimum of five (5) or more applicants qualified to become a member of the United Youth Group in a community within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the proper applications for membership.
- (e) A Rebekah Assembly may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by seven (7) or more Past Noble Grand members of the Rebekah Degree from not less than five (5) Rebekah Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the sealed letters from the lodges certifying the rank of the Past Noble Grands.
- (f) A Rebekah Lodge – when there is no Rebekah Assembly a Rebekah Lodge may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by five (5) or more members of the Rebekah Degree or fifteen (15) persons qualified to become Rebekah Degree members in a community within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the proper withdrawal cards and applications for membership.
- (g) A Theta Rho Assembly – when there is no Rebekah Assembly a Theta Rho Assembly may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by seven (7) or more Past President members of the Theta Rho Girls' Club Degree from not less than three (3) Theta Rho Girls' Club Degree within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the sealed letters from the lodges certifying the rank of the Past Presidents.
- (h) A Theta Rho Girls' Club – when there is no Rebekah Assembly a Theta Rho Girls' Club may be organized upon receipt of signed petition for a charter by five (5) or more members of a Theta Rho Girls' Club or fifteen (15) persons qualified to become Theta Rho Girls' Club members in a community within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by the proper withdrawal cards and applications for membership.

## Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

- (i) No more than two-fifths (2/5) [forty percent (40%)] of the members may be associate members, all must be in good standing to keep a Lodge charter active.
  - (j) Petitions for charter shall be on forms supplied by the Grand Secretary.
  - (k) The petition for the charter shall be sent to the Grand Secretary who shall make a copy for the permanent file and then forward the petition to the Grand Master. If satisfied, the Grand Master may issue the charter or reserve action and present it to the Grand Lodge in regular session. The application shall be accompanied by a fee as determined by the Grand Lodge, which shall be refunded if the petition is not granted.
  - (l) In practice – the Grand Master may issue Dispensations/ Warrants in the recess of the Grand Lodge, with the approval of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, resolving at the Grand Lodge session to issue the Charter.
  - (m) Five (5) regular members must be maintained in good standing to keep a Lodge charter active.
  - (n) The Charter issued by the Grand Lodge shall be inviolate and may not be altered or amended without the consent of the Grand Lodge, except that a photocopy of the Charter may be used for special sessions held outside of the regular meeting place, be at least a minimum of eight and one-half inches by eleven inches (8 ½” x 11”), a copy of which must be furnished to the Grand Lodge for its archives.
  - (o) Charters and dispensations for the institution of Odd Fellows lodges shall be signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary.
- (7) Institution.**
- (a) The Grand Master, or one designated by the Grand Master in writing, shall institute a Lodge or other unit when the charter/warrant/dispensation is issued.
  - (b) Surrendered, arrested, or forfeited charters may be restored by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.
  - (c) Assets of Lodges whose charters are surrendered or revoked vest in the Grand Lodge, which has discretion to return them if the charter is restored, and must return them if an appeal is sustained.
- (8) Sovereign Grand Lodge Session**
- (a) Shall be reimbursed for attendance at Sovereign Grand Lodge Session.
    - (i) Must attend, at minimum, Welcome Dinner, Officers’ Banquet, and Installation Dinner.
    - (ii) Expenses incurred for registration, travel, parking, lodging, and banquets shall be reimbursed for the Grand Master only, by the Grand Lodge, with receipts provided.
    - (iii) Lodging will be covered up to the session hotel rate, and for the dates necessary to attend required events.
    - (iv) Travel and non-banquet meal expenses will be reimbursed at the federal government daily per diem of the location of the session.
    - (v) Airfare must be pre-approved by the Board of Grand Lodge Officers.

**C. Duties of the Deputy Grand Master.**

(1) Generally.

- (a) To perform the duties of the DGM as stated in the Grand Lodge Ritual and preside in the absence of the Grand Master.
- (b) To perform all duties assigned by the Grand Lodge, perform the duties and make visitations as may be directed by the Grand Master or the Board.
- (c) To act for the Grand Master in case of the latter's continuing disability to such an extent of being physically or mentally unable to perform the duties as determined by the Board.
- (d) To oversee the District Deputy Grand Masters and be responsible for their effective services.
- (e) Shall instruct the District Deputy Grand Masters to complete a semi-annual report on the status of the lodge(s) assigned to them.
- (f) Shall not serve as a Lodge Representative or Alternate Lodge Representative in this Grand Lodge.

**D. Duties of the Grand Warden.**

(1) Generally.

- (a) To have charge of the doors, and through the Grand Marshal and Grand Conductor examine and ascertain that all members and visitors are qualified to sit in the session prior to opening. The Grand Lodge shall be the sole judge of qualifications and validity of credentials of Representatives.
- (b) To have charge of the diagrams and unwritten work of the Order during the session of the Grand Lodge. To confer the Grand Lodge Degree upon all Past Grands presenting proper credentials.
- (c) To make visitations and perform such duties as the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge, or the Board may direct.
- (d) To study the programs and projects of all lodges and report and make recommendations concerning them to the Board.
- (e) To assist the Grand Master, and in the event of the absence of both the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, officiates for them.
- (f) Shall not serve as a Lodge Representative or Alternate Lodge Representative in this Grand Lodge.

**E. Duties of the Grand Secretary.**

(1) Generally

- (a) To ensure a bond is executed by the Grand Lodge with corporate surety, to be approved by the Committee on Finance, to account for all funds and property that come into possession of the Grand Secretary's office.
- (b) To employ assistants and others to serve and to be compensated from funds appropriated.
- (c) To have custody of the Seal of the Grand Lodge, attesting necessary documents.
  - (i) A copy of the impression or print of the Seal shall be placed in the archives of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

- (ii) The design of the Seal shall contain the name and date of institution; and any fraternal emblem or logo as agreed upon by the Grand Lodge.
- (d) To prepare, for use of the Committee on Mileage and Per Diem, a table of mileage of the officers of the Grand Lodge, Past Grand Masters, and a numerical list by Lodge of Representatives expected to attend the session, with any other information deemed necessary for examination and correction by the Committee; where Mileage and/or Per Diem are paid.
- (e) To close the books of the Grand Lodge at the end of the fiscal year, and make proper report thereon at each Annual Session.
- (f) To keep all accounts in accordance with approved accounting methods, keeping a separate account for each appropriation. Payments shall not exceed specific appropriations and no transfers from one appropriation account to another may be made without specific approval of the Grand Lodge. Appropriations shall be made for the fiscal year. All books and accounts shall be promptly posted.
  - (i) Shall draw and attest all orders on the Grand Treasurer for monies appropriated or expended by the Grand Lodge only after approval by the committee on finance.
- (g) To sell copies of the Journal of Proceedings, Code of General Laws and Supplements thereto, and other supplies for cash, on consignment, or for credit not exceeding sixty (60) days, as deemed for the best interest of the Order.
- (h) To transmit to the Grand Treasurer all moneys collected for various funds and obtain receipts.
- (i) To prepare a complete Journal of Proceedings of each session containing statistical and other information directed by the Grand Lodge, properly indexed, to be printed and bound; and distributed within two (2) months from adjournment of the Annual Session and transmit one (1) copy to each lodge, officer of the Grand Lodge, Lodge Representative, Past Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Master, and the Sovereign Grand Secretary.
  - (i) A hard copy shall be kept at the Grand Lodge, and distributed to each Lodge. All others may be distributed electronically.
- (j) To keep a library of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. To archive all paraphernalia that may come into possession of the Grand Lodge.
- (k) To transmit all appeal papers to the Chairman of the Committee on Appeals and Petitions so as to arrive prior to the annual session.
- (l) To prepare and attest all official papers, documents, and charters of the Grand Lodge and distribute appropriately.
- (m) To prepare forms for annual reports of the Lodges containing information required by The Sovereign Grand Lodge, to be delivered to lodges by December 1. Reports shall be returned to the Grand Secretary by February 28, along with such other information as may be necessary for tax purposes that may be required.
- (n) To require payment of all fees and dues with the reports set forth in sub-paragraph (m) above. Failure to comply shall give the Grand Secretary sufficient reason to take the following actions: (a) Notify the Lodge of its Representative(s) loss of

## Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

accreditation; (b) Require monetary penalties of ten percent (10%) as of date stated in the by-laws, based on dues payable and an additional one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) interest per month thereafter until paid. If all dues and penalties are not received, the Representatives may be seated with only the right of debate and to make motions but not permitted to vote. If mileage and per diem are paid, the Lodge shall be billed for mileage and per diem, unless good cause for such failure can be shown to the satisfaction of the Grand Lodge.

- (o) To keep an adequate supply of jewels and items of supply for sale.
- (p) To keep accounts between the Grand Lodge and all components under its jurisdiction and that all accounts to the Grand Lodge which becomes delinquent sixty (60) days shall bear a penalty of one and one-half percent (1 1/2 %) per month which shall be collected on the gross amount of the invoice.
  - (i) Shall transmit quarterly, to each odd fellow lodge, a statement of all monies due to the grand lodge.
  - (ii) Shall submit to the Finance Committee and the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, at the close of each quarter, a statement of accounts in arrears.
- (q) To notify all members of the date, time, and location of any and all sessions of the Grand Lodge.
- (r) Make a full report of the proceedings of the Board to the Grand Lodge at its annual session.
- (s) Receive from the Secretaries, in triplicate, amendments to their respective by-laws together with three (3) certified copies of their current laws. Amendments shall be forwarded to the Committee on By-laws, or appropriate member for review and reporting on at the Grand Lodge Session. The files shall be forwarded within thirty (30) days of receipt.
- (t) Shall not serve as a lodge representative, or alternate lodge representative in this Grand Lodge.

### (2) Information.

- (a) The local units of the Order shall annually furnish to their Grand Body, who will in turn annually furnish the same to The Sovereign Grand Lodge, the following:
  - (i) The most current mailing address for the Unit.
  - (ii) The physical location of their meeting facilities.
  - (iii) The Meeting dates and times as reflected in their by-laws.
  - (iv) The full name, date of birth, current mailing address, physical address of residence, telephone number, and e-mail address of each member whether regular, associate, or non-contributing. Said information is to include the member's status of membership.
  - (v) The Grand Lodge shall NOT sell or distribute for any purpose outside the fraternity, any of the member rosters, mailing lists, including personal information held by the Grand Lodge or its local lodges, to any person or persons, institutions or agencies for sales promotions, or for other purposes within or without the Grand Lodge, without the expressed permission of the member. Further any distribution must have the expressed permission of the



voting members of the Grand Lodge present and voting at any regular annual or called special session.

- (b) Each unit of the Order shall furnish to their Grand Body a complete legal description of all real property owned, including property owned by a hall association and any other property that may be owned outright or in cooperation with others, which includes cemeteries. This information shall be furnished by the Grand Body to The Sovereign Grand Lodge upon request.
  - (c) Each Grand Body shall furnish to The Sovereign Grand Lodge a complete legal description of all real property owned including Homes, Camps, Cemeteries or other property that may be owned outright or in cooperation with others.
  - (d) Shall keep a record of all the Lodges in the State with the date of their Institution, keep a register of all the members of this Grand Lodge, the time of their admission into and withdrawal there from, and the Lodge to which they belong. Shall likewise keep a register of all members duly initiated, admitted, or transferred to the Odd Fellow Lodges located in Maryland, together with a record of their withdrawal, transfer, suspension, expulsion or decease.
- (3) When the Grand Lodge is in session:**
- (a) Attend all sessions of the Grand Lodge, keep a record of all proceedings and handle correspondence and business pertaining to the office or as may be delegated.
  - (b) At the opening of each session report to the Grand Master in writing the names of Lodges that are delinquent in reporting, paying dues and fees, or that are indebted for supplies as of sixty (60) days before the session. This report shall be delivered to the Committee on Credentials immediately upon its appointment.
  - (c) Make a detailed financial report of all accounts.
  - (d) Provide for use of committees and Representatives an adequate supply of Codes of General Law, Journals of Proceedings, Robert's Rules of Order, and necessary forms and stationery.
  - (e) Appoint such Assistants as required.
  - (f) Keep a record of the proceedings of each session.
  - (g) In compiling the Journal, to number every bill, resolution, petition and document. At the end of each item, indicate by number the committee report and disposition.
  - (h) Format and print the reports of officers of the Grand Lodge for use by the Committee on Distribution of Officers' Reports; this to include minutes of the Board.
  - (i) Cause to be printed in the Journal, all legislation including those Bills laid over for the next session to be printed in the Advance report of the following Session.
  - (j) Shall include, in an appendix to the journal, all statistical tables and such other information that may be called for by this body.
- (4) Reporting of Lawsuits against the Grand Lodge.**
- (a) Whenever a Grand Lodge is named as a defendant in a civil lawsuit, the Grand Secretary of that jurisdiction shall notify The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

- (b) Such notice and information of the lawsuit, not to include privileged or case sensitive content, shall be provided to The Sovereign Grand Lodge immediately prior to filing an answer to the plaintiff's complaint.

**F. Duties of the Grand Treasurer.**

**(1) Generally.**

- (a) To ensure a bond is executed by the Grand Lodge with corporate surety, to be approved by the Committee on Finance, to account for all funds and property that come into possession of the Grand Treasurer's office.
- (b) Attend all sessions of the Grand Lodge and perform the duties of the office and those assigned.
- (c) Keep all monies, securities, and evidence of indebtedness of the Grand Lodge, pay all orders drawn by the Grand Secretary, and submit an annual statement of all accounts forty (40) days prior to the annual session.
- (d) Receive receipts for all monies collected and deposited by the Grand Secretary.
- (e) Sign all checks drawn by the Grand Secretary and duly approved by the Committee on Finance. The Grand Secretary or the Grand Master shall countersign checks.
- (f) Disburse funds collected for General Relief, keeping a proper record thereof.
- (g) Shall keep their accounts duly posted, which shall show the amounts and purpose of all receipts and disbursements, and be ready at all time for examination and audit. Shall keep a report of their receipts and disbursements, and place the same in the hands of the Grand Secretary thirty days prior to annual session. Report shall show the receipts and expenditures of the Temple, the Grand Lodge and all other funds under their control. Shall preserve all vouchers and papers appertaining to their office and ready to submit the same to the Grand Lodge or Committee on Finance when required.
- (h) Shall not serve as a lodge representative, or alternate lodge representative in this Grand Lodge.

**G. Duties of Grand Representatives**

- (1) Shall attend the meetings of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, the meetings of this Grand Lodge, and the Board of Grand Lodge Officers.
  - (a) Must attend all meetings and sessions required by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
  - (b) Must attend, at minimum, Welcome Dinner, Officers' Banquet, and Installation Dinner.
  - (c) Expenses incurred for registration, travel, parking, lodging, and banquets shall be reimbursed for the Representative only, by the Grand Lodge, with receipts provided.
    - (i) Lodging will be covered up to the session hotel rate, and for the dates necessary to attend required events.
    - (ii) Travel and non-banquet meal expenses will be reimbursed at the federal government daily per diem of the location of the session, and only for reimbursement not covered by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
    - (iii) Airfare must be pre-approved by the Board of Grand Lodge Officers.

- (d) Shall be reimbursed for the cost of purchase of the required Representative regalia, which will be kept by the representative at the conclusion of their term.
  - (2) Shall prepare a report of the enactments of the Sovereign Grand Lodge at its previous session, to be submitted for inclusion in the Advance Report.
  - (3) Shall introduce the Official Representative of the Sovereign Grand Lodge at the Annual Session.
- H. Duties of the Grand Chaplain
  - (1) Shall open and close each meeting of the Annual Session with the prayer used in Odd Fellow Lodge opening and closing ceremonies.
    - (a) Additional prayers or services may be added at the discretion of the Grand Chaplain, or by request of the Grand Master.
  - (2) Perform such other duties as are appropriate for the office.
- I. Duties of the Grand Marshal
  - (1) Shall introduce all official Representatives from visiting jurisdictions, with the exception of the Sovereign Grand Representative, and assist the Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge.
  - (2) Shall attend all of the Grand Master's official visits within this jurisdiction.
  - (3) Shall present Officers-Elect for installation under the direction of the Grand Master.
  - (4) Shall have superintendence of all processions sanctioned by the Grand Lodge.
- J. Duties of the Grand Conductor
  - (1) Shall assist the Grand Marshal in the performance of their duties.
  - (2) Shall attend to the needs of the Grand Lodge during the Sessions.
  - (3) Shall serve all notices that may be delivered to them by the Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, during the Session.
  - (4) Shall perform such other duties as the Grand Master and Grand Secretary direct.
- K. Duties of the Grand Guardian
  - (1) Shall attend the inner door of the Grand Lodge Room, and shall permit no one to enter or depart without the consent of the Grand Master or Grand Warden.
- L. Duties of the Grand Herald
  - (1) Shall attend the outer door of the Grand Lodge Room.
  - (2) Shall receive cards of visiting Brothers and Sisters and deliver them to the Grand Guardian.
  - (3) Shall assist the Grand Conductor.
  - (4) Shall have charge of and arrange the Grand Lodge Room.
  - (5) Shall, under direction of the Grand Master, perform such other duties as may be appropriate to this office.
- M. Duties of the Grand Musician
  - (1) Shall provide appropriate music at the visitations to Lodges, during Grand Lodge Sessions and at all other official Grand Lodge functions provided a suitable instrument is present.
- N. Duties of the Grand Instructor

- (1) Shall have responsibility of the instructions of the Unwritten Work. The Instructor, with the approval of the Grand Master, appoint Deputy Instructors to assist ~~him~~ in the duties of this office.
  - O. Duties of the Assistant Grand Secretary
    - (1) Shall be subordinate to the Grand Secretary.
    - (2) Shall discharge such duties as the Grand Secretary may prescribe and perform their duties when they are absent.
  - P. Duties of District Deputy Grand Masters
    - (1) The District Deputy Grand Masters are the representatives of the Grand Master. They shall have general supervision of the Lodges in their respective districts.
    - (2) The District Deputy Grand Master also serves as an agent of the Grand Secretary with regards to the completion of the Annual Reports, and submission of per-capita dues.
    - (3) Shall visit the Lodges ~~under his jurisdiction~~ assigned as often as possible; see that the laws, customs, and usages of the Order are observed and adhered to, and that the work of the Order is performed uniformly, providing assistance and education as needed.
    - (4) Shall, at the beginning of each term, in the absence of the Grand Master, install or cause to be installed by a qualified Past Grand, the regularly elected Officers of the Lodge.
    - (5) ~~and~~ Shall report immediately to the Grand Master any condition or violation of Law or usage that should receive prompt attention.
    - (6) Shall semi-annually, complete and return the report provided by the Deputy Grand Master on the conditions and needs of the lodge. Urgent needs of the lodge should be reported immediately to the Deputy Grand Master, or other appropriate officer.
    - (7) District Deputy Grand Masters may hold office in their respective Lodges.
- SEC 9. Vacancy in office of:**
- A. The Grand Master. In case of death, resignation, or impeachment of the Grand Master, or should the office be vacated by continued physical or mental incapacity of extreme nature, then the office shall be filled by the Deputy Grand Master, who may, having served a majority of and to the end of the term, be ranked as a Past Grand Master, or has the option to continue for a regular term as Grand Master.
  - B. The Deputy Grand Master. In case of death, resignation, or impeachment of the Deputy Grand Master, or should the office be vacated by reason of continued physical or mental incapacity of extreme nature, then the office shall be filled by the Grand Warden, and the Grand Warden, who may, having served a majority of and to the end of the term, be ranked as a Past Deputy Grand Master.
  - C. The Grand Warden. In case of death, resignation, or impeachment of the Grand Warden, or should the office be vacated by reason of continued physical or mental incapacity of extreme nature, then the office with approval of the Board shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master. The appointee who may, having served a majority of and to the end of the term, be ranked as Past Grand Warden.
  - D. The Grand Secretary. In case of death, resignation, or impeachment of the Grand Secretary, or should the office be vacated by reason of continued physical or mental

incapacity of extreme nature, then the office with approval of the Board shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master. The appointee shall be entitled to rank as a Past Grand Secretary.

(1) Should the term be for more than one year, the appointment shall be to the next session of the Grand Lodge. If there be additional time in the term, there shall be an election to fulfill the remainder of the term.

E. The Grand Treasurer. In case of death, resignation, or impeachment of the Grand Treasurer, or should the office be vacated by reason of continued physical or mental incapacity of extreme nature, then the office with approval of the Board shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master. The appointee shall be entitled to rank as a Past Grand Treasurer at the close of the term.

(1) Should the term be for more than one year, the appointment shall be to the next session of the Grand Lodge. If there be additional time in the term, there shall be an election to fulfill the remainder of the term.

F. Grand Representative. In case of death, resignation, or impeachment of the Grand Representative, or should the office be vacated by reason of continued physical or mental incapacity of extreme nature, then the office shall be filled by the Alternate Grand Representative. The Alternate Grand Representative shall be entitled to rank as a Past Grand Representative at the close of the term.

G. In the event that the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, be unable to perform the duties of his the office because of sickness, or other incapacity, the Board of Grand Lodge Officers may appoint an Officer pro-temp to perform the duties until the Elected Officer can resume their duties, or the term ends, whichever is sooner.

H. If an Officer fails to attend a Session of the Grand Lodge, the office may be declared vacant and filled by appointment of the Grand Master.

I. Officers impeached or resigning for reasons other than continued physical or mental incapacity of extreme nature, shall not receive the rank of Past Officer of that office under any circumstances.

#### **SEC 10. Reports of Elective and Appointive Officers.**

A. All elective officers, and committee chairs shall, at least forty (4) days prior to the annual session of the Grand Lodge, submit to the Grand Secretary a report of their activities during the preceding year.

(1) Appointive Officers can, or may be required, either by the Grand Master or majority vote of the board, to submit a report.

(2) Any Elected or Appointed Officer or Committee Chair who does not submit their report to the Grand Secretary by the deadline, must read, or cause to be read, the report, on the floor, at the Annual Session.

B. Minutes of the Board shall be a matter of record in the advance reports unless previously distributed.

C. The reports shall be printed for distribution at the annual session and inclusion in the Journal of Proceedings.

- (1) The Advance report shall be sent to each Grand Lodge Officer, Lodge Representative, Representative-Elect, Past Grand Master, Lodge Secretary, and District Deputy Grand Master thirty (30) days prior to the annual session.

D. The Grand Master may submit a supplemental report to be printed in the Daily Journal.

SEC 11. **Impeachment:** An officer, member or Representative may be impeached and removed from office, suspended or expelled from membership in the Grand Lodge. A motion to impeach requires a majority vote for passage. Charges with specifications may be filed with the Grand Secretary at any time but no action to impeach shall be taken until the accused has received three (3) days prior written notice. A member under impeachment shall be afforded the opportunity to be heard and present evidence. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Representatives present is required for conviction and punishment.

SEC 12. **Sessions:**

- Exceptional Sessions shall be formatted in similar sequence as designated in Chapter I – Constitution of The Sovereign Grand Lodge, Article VII Sessions.

A. **Annual Sessions**

- (1) There shall be one annual session of the Grand Lodge held on a Saturday in the month of May, at the Grand Lodge building. The incoming Grand Master shall select at a time and date for the next annual session, to be voted on prior to the close of the current annual session.
- (2) Regular sessions should be held each day until the business of the session is completed.
- (3) In the event that any existing conditions make a meeting at the time given inadvisable, the Grand Master, with the approval of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, shall have the authority to postpone the annual session to a Saturday within the thirty (30) days following the original session date.
- (4) Request for change of the date of the next annual session shall be submitted to the Board of Grand Lodge Officers within ninety (90) days of the close of the annual session, and receive majority vote of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers at the next Board meeting, or within forty-five (45) days, whichever is sooner.

B. **Special Sessions.**

- (1) The Grand Master may call Special Sessions of the Grand Lodge at any time, or when petitioned by at least seven (7) Past Grands representing at least three (3) lodges.
- (2) Notice thereof shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior; stating the time; place and purpose of the meeting, and no business shall be transacted except as specified in the notice.
- (3) In the event of an emergency when it is not financially feasible to hold a special session, the Representatives/lodge (members) [Past Grands] may be polled ~~by mail~~ as to their vote upon the proposition or propositions, not exceeding two (2) in number, with the pros and cons to be disclosed in full.

C. **Special Sessions Limited**

- (1) The Grand Master may call Special Session Limited to meet at any time and place for the admission of Past Grands for instruction in the principles and work of the Order.

- (2) No cost shall be incurred by this body for such meeting except the actual expenses of the elective Officers of the Grand Lodge.

**D. Quorum.**

- (1) **Annual and Special Sessions.** A quorum of the Grand Lodge shall consist of the attendance of at least seven (7) Past Grands who are in good standing from not less than three (3) or a majority of the lodges in good standing.
- (2) **Special Sessions Limited.** A quorum of a Special Sessions Limited shall consist of the Grand Master, or a Past Grand Master designated by the Grand Master to fill the role of Grand Master, and at least two Grand Lodge Members to fill the roles of Grand Warden and Grand Marshal.

**SEC 13. Rules and Practices.**

- A. All questions before the Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast by members present, except as otherwise provided by this Constitution and Bylaws, or upon a Roll Call vote, which vote may be called by the Representatives from two-thirds (2/3) of the Lodges.
  - (1) No Roll Call vote shall be taken upon any appeal from the decision of the presiding Officer, or upon any report of the Committee on Appeals, or upon any call for the previous question, or upon any dilatory motion.
  - (2) When a Roll Call vote is taken, the vote of each individual shall be entered in the minutes.
- B. Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail on any parliamentary procedure not addressed in these bylaws.

**SEC 14. Revenues.**

- A. Revenues shall be from charter fees, per capita dues, assessments adopted in regular session, profit from the sale of supplies, investment income, rent, fundraising activities, devises and bequest and income from any lawful source.
- B. The per capita dues shall be fixed by the Grand Lodge at the Annual Session and shall be calculated and paid with the annual report.
- C. The revenue of the Grand Lodge shall be raised and expended only for such purposes as may be authorized by the General Laws of the Order and by the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge.
- D. No part of the funds shall be loaned to any Grand or Odd Fellow Lodge of the Order.
- E. All funds of the Grand Lodge, which are not invested, shall be deposited and held in approved banking institutions, in which deposits are insured, and funds for different purposes should be accurately accounted for.
- F. Invested funds
  - (1) All Endowment and Trust Funds provided for shall be invested in the name of the Grand Lodge under rules approved by the Grand Lodge and managed by the trustees. Such rules must meet the requirements provided for investments of Trust Funds under control of the courts of Baltimore, Maryland. The investment of different funds shall be kept separate and distinct. No part of any Fund or Income therefrom shall be loaned to this or any other Grand or Subordinate Body or any member of the Order, unless the fund be created and maintained for such specific purpose.

- (2) The income from investments, if requested by the Grand Treasurer, and approved by the Board, should be collected by the trustee and paid to the Grand Treasurer or other persons authorized to receive the same, to be used for the purpose for which designated. Withdraws require the signature of two Trustees.

**SEC 15. Authority Over Lodges.**

- A. Grand Lodges have sole power to grant charters or dispensations for lodges in their jurisdiction and shall adopt legislation prescribing the methods and procedures.
  - (1) Grand Lodges may designate a local unit or units which have historical and traditional significance as an historical unit.
- B. Lodges may conduct their business in any language authorized by the Grand Lodge if rituals are available.
- C. Grand Lodges shall require all lodges to adopt Constitutions and By-laws which shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge for referral to the proper officer or committee for approval before becoming effective upon vote of the Grand Lodge.
- D. Grand Lodges shall see that by-laws are enforced unless repealed.
- E. Grand Lodges shall require that by-laws provide for fees and dues sufficient to meet fraternal obligations.
- F. The charter of a lodge may be arrested, suspended, or revoked by the Grand Lodge Board after notice and hearing. The charter of a Lodge may be arrested upon request by the Lodge after an investigation by the Board.
- G. It shall be the duty of a Grand Lodge to see that its lodges conform to law, both fraternal and civil and do not dissipate their property and funds.
- H. When a Grand Lodge arrests, suspends, or revokes a charter, the assets and records of the lodge shall be taken by it, and be placed in escrow. After hearing the Grand Lodge may restore the charter and assets. Should the lodge not be reinstated the assets shall be placed in escrow for a minimum of three (3) years. If no petition for reinstatement is received and approved, the assets, etc. shall become the property of the Grand Lodge.
- I. Grand Lodges have no right to compel lodges to elect persons to membership, or restore expelled members, unless the decision to expel is reversed. Its officers cannot grant dispensation to re-ballot on rejected applications for membership. Grand Lodges may not prohibit lodges from receiving members because of advanced age. Grand Lodges shall not compel lodges to accept members by transfer.
- J. Grand Lodges may not designate or select lodge officers but may appoint committees to investigate the actions, books, papers, and records of lodges.
- K. Grand Lodges may permit consolidation of lodges within their jurisdiction under the following regulations, except when five (5) members wish to keep the lodge.
  - (1) The request for such consolidation shall be submitted to each lodge interested, in writing, signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the membership of each lodge, giving the name and number of the lodge under which the proposed consolidated Lodge shall work, which may be the name and number of either lodge, or the charter name of one and the number of another, or an entirely new name and such number as the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may award them, together with any other agreements desired between such lodges.



- (2) A written or printed copy of the proposed provisions for such consolidation shall be mailed within three days to the last known address, as shown on the books of the lodge, to all members of each lodge by the Secretary thereof, stating that a vote will be taken on such provisions on the date specified within four (4) weeks.
- (3) At such time as may then and there be fixed, a vote by secret ballot shall be taken, the result duly recorded, and a certified transcript of the entire action taken shall be sent, under seal immediately to the Grand Lodge; office of the Grand Secretary, who shall forward copy to the Grand Master.
- (4) The Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge, may grant and issue the necessary dispensation provided that a majority of the members present and voting in each lodge approve such consolidation.
- (5) The consolidation, if authorized, shall be effected by the Grand Master, or a duly authorized Deputy, whose duty it shall be to receive from each lodge its charter, rituals, books, assets and liabilities. The secretary of each affected lodge shall provide a list of members including dropped, suspended, expelled and deceased since the last report.
- (6) On receiving such property and lists of membership, the Grand Master or his Deputy shall proclaim the lodges duly consolidated, and proceed forthwith to the election and installation of duly qualified members to the various offices.
- (7) All lodge assets and liabilities shall be transferred to the new consolidated lodge.
- (8) Lodges going into consolidation must take the following steps before consolidation can begin:
  - (a) Annual reports must be in
  - (b) Lodge must be paid up and in good standing with their debts and per capita dues
  - (c) All assets (funds and property) must be inventoried and listed
  - (d) Any benefits and membership, escrowed, accounts and death benefits must be listed and presented
  - (e) Benefits to members, if any, must be set aside in escrowed accounts to cover same
  - (f) Resolutions for consolidation must be presented and approved at the next Annual Session
- (9) Day of consolidation. At time of Consolidation all members of both Lodges should be present
  - (a) Merge and revise By-Laws of both Lodges
  - (b) New cards are to be issued for the period of time that the merging Members dues cards show.
  - (c) All members of the closing lodge will sign the register of the remaining lodge. If a new lodge is formed, all members will sign the register of the new lodge.
- L. Procedures for charges regarding offenses, the method of trial, punishment and appeal shall be as set forth in "Chapter XXXVIII" of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

**SEC 16. Funds of the Grand Lodge.**

- A. Excess funds of the Grand Lodge shall be invested by the Grand Treasurer and the Finance Committee or such other committee appointed to confer with the Grand

Treasurer. This officer and Committee shall also determine the amount that constitutes excess funds.

- B. The Board may borrow funds, not exceeding the amount previously approved by the Grand Lodge, as may be necessary to meet expenses and appropriations, and to pledge the credit of the Grand Lodge. The chairman of the Committee on Finance shall also attest evidence of the indebtedness. Real or personal property may be mortgaged or pledged if necessary. Funds derived therefrom shall be delivered to the Grand Treasurer. Funds to be borrowed if in excess of the approved amount must be authorized by special resolution adopted at a session of the Grand Lodge.
- C. A complete list of all securities shall be currently maintained by the Grand Treasurer and delivered to the Grand Master. Securities shall be kept in safe deposit boxes. Access shall be limited to any two (2) of the Board.
- D. The raising of funds for particular purposes, by contributions or other legal money-raising activities, must be approved by Grand Master.
  - (1) No unit, officer, or member may petition funds outside the jurisdiction without written approval of the Sovereign Grand Master.
- E. If at any time any Lodge, its Officers, or its members, shall propose, plan, attempt or undertake to dissipate, divest or divide any of its funds so as to prevent or jeopardize their use for the trust purposes provided by the Laws of the Order. It shall be the duty of the grand Master forthwith to take such steps and to institute such proceedings, in the courts or otherwise, as may be deemed necessary or advisable to enforce the Laws of the Order and to prevent the violation thereof, or to follow such funds and recover the same
  - (1) There shall be no sale or transfer of any Grand Lodge Real Property, other than property acquired through closing a defunct Lodge, unless said sale be approved by the Grand Lodge of Maryland meeting in either regular or Special Session. Any proposal for sale of Home Property will be studied by the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, prior to calling a Special Session. The Board will determine whether the proposal warrants a Special Session.

#### **SEC 17. Representatives.**

- A. Election, Qualifications and Terms of Office
  - (1) An active Lodge shall be entitled to a Representative for its Charter and the first fifty (50) members; those Lodges with more than fifty (50) members shall be entitled to an additional Representative for each fifty (50) members.
  - (2) An alternate Representative shall be elected at the same time as the Representative to serve in the event that the elected Representative cannot attend the upcoming session.
  - (3) A Representative and an Alternate Representative, elected the first meeting in December, shall be duly certified by the Grand Secretary. Representatives shall not be recognized as such, nor entitled to its rights and privileges, until the credentials have been received and approved by the Grand Secretary. Terms of Representatives commence at the beginning of the Grand Lodge Session for which elected.
  - (4) The Grand Lodge is the sole judge of the qualifications of Representatives.
    - (a) A Representative may be elected to any number of terms.
    - (b) Cannot be seated unless the Representative and the Lodge are in good standing.

- (c) A Representative may hold any other office in the Lodge.
  - (d) Contested elections shall be determined solely by the Grand Lodge.
  - (5) If a Lodge becomes entitled to an additional Representative after the date to certify Representatives to the Grand Lodge Office, the presiding officer may appoint an additional Representative certifying the increase in membership to the Grand Secretary. If a decrease in membership deprives a Lodge of a Representative, then each Representative elected by it shall serve out the elected term and the Lodge shall elect one (1) less Representative.
  - (6) Each Representative and alternate Representative must be a Past Grand, a member in good standing of an Odd Fellows Lodge in good standing; provided that residence is within its own or an adjoining jurisdiction; and further providing that the one elected may qualify after election by obtaining the Grand Lodge Degree at a Regular or Special Session of the Grand Lodge. The Lodge shall furnish the Representative with a certificate of election with a duplicate under seal to the Grand Secretary.
  - (7) If a Representative is prevented from attending one (1) session, the seat is not thereby vacated, but may serve the remainder of the term.
  - (8) If a Representative or Representative-elect becomes disqualified, it shall be the duty of the Lodge to immediately notify the Grand Secretary.
  - (9) Representatives shall not be recognized as such, nor entitled to its rights and privileges, until the credentials have been received and approved.
    - (a) A Lodge that fails or refuses to properly certify its Representative to the Grand Secretary two (2) weeks prior to the Session, shall be billed for mileage and per diem of such uncertified Representatives, if seated by the Grand Lodge, and if the Grand Lodge pays miles and per diem to its representatives.
    - (b) This penalty shall not apply in cases of death or serious illness and the Grand Lodge may rule that the delay was caused by other unavoidable circumstances.
  - (10) When a Representative shall be installed in an elective office of the Grand Lodge, the office, as Lodge Representative shall be vacated.
    - (a) A Representative shall represent only one (1) Lodge.
      - (i) There shall not be proxy representation, nor vote by proxy; one (1) person – one (1) vote.
  - (11) In case of a vacancy occurring in such representation for any cause, not filled according to the prescribed procedure, the Past Grand's of said Lodge present at the session of the Grand Lodge shall by a vote of the majority of them appoint one of their members to fill such vacancy.
- B. The Duties of a Representative are:
- (1) To attend sessions of the Grand Lodge, represent the Lodge and report all legislation and other matters that occurred at the session pertaining to the Lodge.
  - (2) To vote on every roll-call vote. If any member shall be temporarily absent from the hall, the other Representative from the Lodge shall be allowed to cast the vote of such temporarily absent member, in which event the Grand Secretary shall place the word "absent" opposite the name of the absent Representative and thereafter such vote cannot be changed.

(3) To vote on all matters except on personal qualifications to be seated.

(4) To serve on all committees to which appointed unless excused by the Grand Lodge.

**SEC 18. COMMITTEES.**

A. The following are **STANDING COMMITTEES** consisting of not less than 3 members each and their duties. The first named shall be the chairman. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

(1) **Appeals and Petitions.** If authorized by the Grand Master, it meets prior to the Annual Session. The Committee shall consider no appeal unless the record has been filed with the Grand Secretary in the manner and for the length of time prescribed by law, or unless directed to do so by the Grand Lodge. All appeals and petitions of petitioners shall be referred to it.

(2) **Banquet and Sessions.** (Combined Drawing of Seats and Courtesies Extended).

(a) Shall arrange the meeting place and see that it is properly set up before each daily session, and assign Representative tables, in accordance with plans provided by the Grand Master or Board.

(b) Shall invite and coordinate travel and lodging arrangements for guests from other jurisdictions.

(c) Plan all activities of the Annual Session, including scheduling of refreshments, Memorial Service, Installation of Officers, Banquet if requested, and help with any special activities

(d) The Committee shall submit a report to the Grand Secretary-to be printed in the Journal, no later than twenty (20) days following the close of the Annual Session.

(3) **By-laws and Legislation.** Shall receive from the Grand Secretary, on a rotating basis, amendments to and revised by-laws. This committee shall:

(a) Review all by-laws and amendments thereto of all Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

(b) Every six (6) years, the committee shall complete a review of all Lodges, doing one-sixth (1/6) of these each year. The Grand Secretary shall notify each Lodge to be examined that year to send three (3) copies of its laws for review. If a Lodge fails to comply, the Grand Secretary shall notify it that its Representative(s) shall be deprived of voice, vote, mileage and per diem.

(c) The committee shall not only see that the Lodge laws comply with the laws of The Sovereign Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge, but it shall also point out to the Lodge any failure to take advantage of its rights and privileges available to the Lodge.

(d) The committee shall not approve any By-laws or part thereof which may impair the financial strength of the Unit, or which may be contrary to the good of the Order.

(e) All By-laws or Amendments submitted need approval of adoption by the Noble Grand and the Secretary, under the seal of the Lodge. One copy, if approved, shall be properly endorsed by the Committee and returned to the Lodge and another copy shall be similarly endorsed and filed in the office of the Grand Secretary. The Committee shall notify the Grand Secretary of change in time or place of

meeting. By-Laws or amendments thereto do not take effect until approved by the committee.

- (f) Examine all legislation proposed and make recommendations with reference thereto, as well as such matters as may be referred to it. If legislation has been submitted for inclusion in the Advance Report, the committee must meet and review, no later than forty (40) days prior to session, any legislation submitted, providing a report, to be included in the Advance Report, “in favor” or “against” adoption of each piece of legislation.
- (4) **Credentials and Lodge Returns.** Shall pass upon the qualifications of Representatives and Members (Past Grands to receive the Grand Lodge Degree). Should any certificate prove informal or incorrect, the Committee shall report wherein the defect lies and whether it affects the validity thereof. Shall examine and report upon the Annual Reports of the Odd Fellow Lodges and see that they are correct. They shall attend to such other business as may be referred to the by the Board of Grand Lodge Officers. Shall communicate to the Committee on Digital Media/Website any changes in a Lodge’s meeting time and address, mailing address, and/or Secretary/Lodge contact information, and any information appropriately requested by the committee. Shall communicate to the Committee on Memorials a list of all deceased members reported on the Annual Reports, including their lodge, highest rank achieved, and the date of passing.
- (5) **Distribution.** Shall recommend reference to appropriate committees of the several parts and recommendations of all reports.
  - (a) Reports submitted for the Advance Report. Shall meet and review reports submitted. Shall prepare their report and submit it to the Grand Secretary at least forty (40) days prior to the Annual Session for inclusion in the Advance Report.
  - (b) Reports submitted on the floor. Shall be distributed, at time of submission, to the appropriate committee(s) to be reviewed during a recess. Shall prepare an addendum to their report, within twenty (20) days following the Annual Session, to be included in the Journal of Proceedings.
- (6) **Finance.** Prepares and submits for consideration a proposed budget, setting out expected revenues and expenditures for the next fiscal year. After approval no appropriation shall be exceeded. This budget shall be submitted for inclusion in the Advance report, and presented at the annual session, in detail, explaining all changes, additions, and subtractions from the previous year’s budget. If the proposed budget results in a deficit, it shall only be adopted by roll-call vote with two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present voting in favor. All matters pertaining to finance and appropriations of money shall be referred to it.
  - (a) Committee on Finance shall secure the CPA for the audit of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and any additional books of entities of the Grand Lodge.
  - (b) The committee shall pass upon all claim and accounts (except for mileage and per diem and line budget items), against the Grand Lodge, their approval being necessary before payments by the Grand Treasurer.

- (7) **Judiciary.** If authorized by the Grand Master, it meets prior to the annual session. This committee shall review the decisions of the Grand Master and report thereon to the Grand Lodge. Interpretations of the Laws of the Order on other matters shall be reported on at any time during the session.
  - (a) This committee shall serve as a Trial Committee when so directed under Chapter XXXVIII of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
  - (b) The Committee shall be qualified in the laws and usages of the Order and shall advise the Grand Master.
- (8) **Mileage and Per Diem.** Prepare the table of mileage and per diem as outlined under Sec. 22 – Compensation of Officers and Representatives. Prepare and distribute payments to eligible members.
  - (a) Shall be chaired by the Grand Treasurer, and include the Grand Secretary and Chair of Finance.
- (9) **Miscellaneous Business.** Shall be referred matters not herein specified for reference to any other committee.
- (10) **Odd Fellows Property.** Shall be referred matters pertaining to the Homes, Camps, Cemeteries and Odd Fellows Lodge owned/sponsored Property of the Order.
- (11) **Rebekah Matters.** Shall be referred matters relating to the Rebekah Degree, and other activities of the Rebekah Branch of the Order.
  - (a) Shall work in conjunction with the Rebekah Assembly Secretary to prepare a report on the workings of the Rebekah Assembly and Rebekah Lodges, to be included in the Journal of Proceedings of the Annual Session, to be turned in no later than twenty (20) days following the closing of the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge.
  - (b) When requested to do so, this committee shall consider recommendations from the Rebekah Assembly and shall prepare the necessary Committee Bills or Resolutions for submission to the Grand Lodge.
- (12) **Relief.** Shall be referred matters pertaining to relief and relief projects, or otherwise involving the interests of the Order. The funds for this Committee will be derived from funds budgeted by the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.-The final approval for expenditure of funds shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, who shall determine how those funds will be distributed.
- (13) **State of the Order.** Shall be referred all matters and questions in relation to the general welfare and activities of the Order. Shall report on the progress and conditions of the order in this jurisdiction, recommending any measures that they may deem fitting for the good of the Order.
- (14) **Instruction.** Shall be responsible to provide instruction in the unwritten work, rituals, laws, customs and history of the Order. Shall have charge of the Degree Team. Its services shall be available to all lodges, District Deputies, Degree Captains and Staffs. The committee may conduct such schools of instruction as appropriations permit.

B. SPECIAL COMMITTEES and their duties are:

- (1) **Newsletter/Maryland Odd Fellow.** Shall compile information, news articles, etc. into a regularly published newsletter (The Maryland Odd Fellow), the schedule to be determined by the committee. Any article submitted by an Elected or Appointed Officer of the Grand Lodge, pertaining to their office, must be published in the next Newsletter.
- (2) **Digital Media/Website.** Shall maintain and update the website of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.
  - (a) Shall post/update the following:
    - (i) Lodge Directory Updates
    - (ii) The programs of the Heads of the Order including Elected and Appointed Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, Project information, Visitations, Board Meetings, and Session dates
    - (iii) Upcoming events within the jurisdiction including date, time and location of the event, and associated flyers.
    - (iv) Photos from recent events submitted by members and approved by the committee
    - (v) Resources that may be beneficial to members. Any resources containing secrets of the Order shall be in a Members-only area, accessible by the Password of the Current Term.
  - (b) Shall be responsible to respond to or forward any messages received on the website to the appropriate person or committee in a timely fashion.
  - (c) Shall obtain from the Committee on Lodge Returns, any changes to meeting time and address, mailing address, and/or Secretary/Lodge contact information.
  - (d) Shall monitor and address any violations of **Chapter XLVI of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge** made on websites and/or social media maintained by a Lodge within this jurisdiction.
  - (e) The Chair shall turn over the login information to their successor immediately following the annual session.
- (3) **GL/RA Joint Youth Committee** Should a Youth Branch be established in the jurisdiction, a committee will be formed following the guidelines set forth in the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, until such time that the By-laws can be updated.
- (4) **Pilgrimage for Youth.** The term of the Committee shall commence at the close of the Annual Session at which they were appointed, and follow that year's students through the end of their tour. Shall be responsible for:
  - (a) distribution to all lodges, information from the Sovereign Grand Lodge pertaining to the Tour (available on Sovereign Grand Lodge website).
  - (b) Distribution and submission of completed student application and fees by the deadline specified by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
  - (c) Communicate to students and parents any information regarding the Tour.
  - (d) Coordinate transportation of students to and from drop-off and pick-up locations designated by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

- (e) Coordinate with Lodges wanting to participate in Tour activities.
- (f) Coordinate other activities within the Jurisdiction during the Tour as desired by the committee.
- (5) **Investigation of Grievances.** At least one (1) member shall be a Past Grand Master. Whenever any situation arises that may be detrimental to the welfare of the Order, the Grand Master shall take necessary action as authorized by the laws of the Order. Members shall be reimbursed as authorized by the Grand Master within the Budget.
- (6) **Publicity and Membership.** It will be the responsibility of this committee to obtain local media contacts and assist the Lodges in preparing press releases to these local media contacts. They will also provide printed and promotional material to the Lodges as requested and provide assistance to the Lodge in participating in Community affairs to aide in the promotion of membership.
- (7) **Memorials.** Shall be referred all matters of commemorating the memory of deceased members of the Grand Body who died in good standing. It shall be their duty to secure any available statistics from the Committee on Lodge Returns, The Grand Secretary, and The Rebekah Assembly Secretary, in regard to death and report on same. Shall perform a memorial service at the Annual Session honoring any members who passed away since the previous Session. Past Grand Masters, Past Presidents, and higher ranked officers, shall be honored by a red flower. Past Grands and Past Noble Grands shall be honored by a white flower. All other members shall be honored with any other color. If a Lodge or member requests permission to honor their deceased member, the Committee will do their best to accommodate their wishes.
- (8) **Ways and Means.** The ways and Means Committee shall report to the Grand Lodge Ways and Means of providing financial income for the Grand Lodge. Any deficit budget submitted to the Grand Lodge shall be referred to this Committee and the Committee shall, after proper study, report to the Grand Lodge a balanced budget with supporting data on how the budget may properly funded; if the budget cannot be balanced the Committee will recommend those deletion and or/reductions to the Grand Lodge that would bring the budget into balance. The Ways and Means Committee shall, with the approval of the Grand Lodge, raise funds for the benefit of the Grand Lodge.
- (9) **Arthritis.** The Committee shall assist in raising funds for the National Arthritis Foundation; give council and advice to the Lodges; obtain and maintain records of all donations.
- (10) **Joint Heritage.** The Joint Heritage Committee shall consist of a minimum of 6 members, three of those members shall be the Grand Lodge Heritage Committee and three of those members shall be the Rebekah Assembly Heritage Committee. This Committee shall be charged with maintaining and securing all articles, memorabilia, and assets belonging to the Heritage Room and Library. They shall maintain and keep an accurate inventory of all assets, they shall record all new items received to include the source and ownership, if there be one. As the custodians of the Heritage Room and Library and the assets thereof, they shall not be denied access to either the articles or the Heritage room and Library nor shall they allow or participate in any



disbursement of any assets of the Heritage Room and Library nor shall they allow or participate in any disbursement of any assets of the Heritage Room and Library without the written consent of the Executive Boards of the Grand Lodge and the Rebekah Assembly. The Keys to the Heritage Room and Library shall be under the control of the chairman and the co chairman of the Heritage committee. The location of the Heritage Room and Library shall be at the Grand Lodge of Maryland Building.

C. Duties and responsibilities of committees:

- (1) Only Grand Lodge Members may serve on standing committees. No person shall, simultaneously, serve as chairman of more than one (1) standing committee.
    - (a) All committees shall serve until the close of the annual session following their appointment (except Pilgrimage for Youth, which will serve until the close of that committee's Tour).
    - (b) Third Degree members may serve on any Special Committees, but may not hold the position of Chair.
    - (c) The Chairperson of the previous year's committee shall be offered a position on that same committee for the current term for the purpose of continuity. Any exception shall be with the approval of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers.
  - (2) Committees are to perform the duties prescribed by law, special assignments by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge and other duties pertaining to such committees as have been customarily performed in the past.
  - (3) A committee chairman is not an officer of the Grand Lodge, but may upon occasion become its agent with the approval of the Board of Grand Lodge Officers.
  - (4) Any committee may request from the Grand Master, the appointment of a Past Grand Master to act in an advisory capacity.
  - (5) Any expenditures must be approved by the Board of Grand Lodge Officers.
  - (6) The chairman of each committee shall submit a report summarizing their activities through the year, in the manner outlined under Section 10.
    - (a) Reports must be signed by the Chairperson, and list all members of the committee. Should any member other than the Chairperson author and sign the report, the Chairperson must attest.
- D. Emergency meetings of committees. The Grand Master may appoint any committee prior to session to serve and act at any time and place that in the opinion of the Grand Master is necessary to preserve the interests of the Order.
- E. The Grand Master shall be privileged to attend the meetings of all committees, but without the right to vote.
- F. Prior to the Annual session, the incoming Grand Master shall appoint eligible members to all committee positions, and obtain their acceptance.

**SEC 19. Defunct Lodges.**

- A. If a lodge desires to surrender its charter, a regular or special meeting will be called and all members urged to attend, particularly those whose dues are paid or those who may pay the same. Five members in good standing, one of whom is qualified to preside, will serve as a committee, and this committee will receive all the books, papers, effects, funds and property of the lodge. The committee will select one of its members as acting Noble

Grand and one as acting Secretary and will proceed to issue withdrawal cards to all other members of the lodge who request and who are entitled to receive same; those who are paid to date one-year in advance. The committee will promptly ship all movable effects of the lodge to the Grand Secretary, with all books, papers, funds and deeds to property, or will deliver same to the Grand Master or deputy. Prior to delivery of property and funds, the committee will, if possible, settle all debts of the lodge. After so doing, the members of the committee will each remit \$1.00 of their own funds to the Grand Secretary, and the Grand Secretary will issue withdrawal cards to each member of the committee.

- B. If a lodge continually fails to meet for a period of six months, the Board may, when the Grand Lodge is not in session, arrest the charter of a lodge; and unless the lodge can be revived, they will forward its books, funds and effects to the Grand Secretary. The Board of the Grand Lodge is authorized to sell the personal property of defunct lodges for such price and on such terms as they deem best and funds accruing there from will be delivered to the Grand Secretary, marked for the lodge, to be held for a period of three (3) years.
- C. If a member in good standing of a defunct lodge fails to receive a withdrawal card from their lodge, they may apply to the Grand Secretary therefore. If a member, not in good standing, desires to do so, they may apply to the Grand Secretary for a defunct certificate, which does not confer any rights except the right to apply for membership. Defunct certificates issued in other jurisdictions have the same force and effect as those issued in this jurisdiction. No member expelled or suspended for cause may receive a defunct certificate.
- D. If a lodge, on or before surrendering its charter or having its charter arrested, diverts the property or funds of the lodge from the designated objects and purposes, or divides the same among the members, or uses them for a purpose not recognized by the Order, any member participating therein will be reported to all lodges in the jurisdiction as having acted dishonorably and is forever barred from membership in the Order.
- E. **Property. See Chapter XXXVII – Property** of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

#### SEC 20. **Revival of Lodge**

- A. If five or more members who were in good standing when their lodge became defunct shall petition for revival of their lodge, the Grand Master may, if satisfied and if the name or number of the lodge has not been assigned to some other lodge, restore the charter and effects of the lodge, but the funds, securities, and real estate of the lodge may only be returned by the Grand Lodge in regular session. If the name or number of the defunct lodge has been assigned to another lodge, then the lodge cannot be revived, and the members may only petition for a charter for a new lodge.
- B. If the lodge is revived, the Grand Secretary will endorse on the margin or elsewhere on the charter the names of the petitioners for revival and the date the lodge was revived. No fee will be charged for returning the charter of a revived lodge.

**SEC 21. Grand Jurisdictional Lodge.**

- A. The Grand Lodges shall operate a Grand Jurisdictional Lodge for members of defunct lodges. The Grand Secretary shall transfer the members from a closed Lodge to the Grand Jurisdictional Lodge, so that their membership will be retained. The Grand Jurisdictional Lodge is a non-working lodge.
  - (1) It is not counted in the total of five (5) Lodges being required to hold the charter.
  - (2) It is not entitled to representation at Grand Lodge.
  - (3) The Grand Master shall serve as Noble Grand, the Grand Treasurer as Treasurer, the Grand Secretary as Secretary keeping financial and other records, making reports and returns.
- B. Membership is a matter of right for those whose lodge charters have been surrendered or forfeited and they shall maintain good standing and be entitled to pecuniary benefits if provided by their former lodge; adequate moneys shall be deposited in the Grand Lodge jurisdictional lodge fund upon surrender of the charter to cover such pecuniary benefits. The members may attend Grand Lodge.
  - (1) Dues in the Grand Jurisdictional Lodge shall be ten dollars per year, plus current Sovereign Grand Lodge per capita, payable in advance.
- C. Members must make application for membership in an active lodge within two (2) years.

**SEC 22. Compensation of Officers and Representatives.**

- A. Elective officers, Appointed Officers, Special Representatives of the Grand Master, Immediate Past Grand Master while on the Board, and Committees shall receive such allowances for expenses from appropriated funds on vouchers accompanied by receipts whenever possible, when performing official duties during recess of the Grand Lodge.
- B. Only the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer shall receive such salaries as may be appropriated.
  - (1) Salaries must be established by the Board of Grand Lodge Officers, and cannot be changed without approval of the Board, and must be presented in the budget, and approved by the body as a whole, at the Annual Session.
- C. Elected and Appointed Officers, Representatives, Alternate Representatives, and Past Grand Masters, attending all meetings of an Annual or Special Session of the Grand Lodge, shall receive such mileage and per diem as may be computed
  - (1) Mileage to be calculated from the member's home residence listed on file with Grand Secretary, to the place of meeting, for one (1) round trip.
- D. All salaries, expense allowances, mileage, and per diem shall be paid from funds appropriated.
- E. Mileage and per diem shall be computed in accordance with the Federal mileage and breakfast and lunch per diem rate for Baltimore, Maryland.

**SEC 23. Rules of Order.**

- A. A quorum is required for the transaction of business and consists of a majority of the elected Representatives.
- B. Generally.
  - (1) The Grand Lodge shall be opened and closed in the Grand Lodge Degree according to the Grand Lodge Ritual.

- (2) Business of the Grand Lodge shall be conducted in the Third Degree.
- (3) The business sessions of the Grand Lodge shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - (a) The Grand Master shall call the members to order, ascertain by roll call that a quorum is present, direct the Deputy Grand Master to proclaim the Grand Lodge duly opened, require all members to be in proper regalia, and ascertain from the Grand Secretary if all reports have been printed and distributed.
  - (b) The Grand Master shall cause the previous session's journal to be read, or may declare them approved as printed except for corrections that may be brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge.
  - (c) The Grand Master shall preserve order and decorum.

C. Voting, Motions.

The Grand Master shall:

- (1) Permit a member to speak but once until every member who chooses has spoken. No member shall speak more than twice on a question without unanimous consent of the members present.
- (2) Voting for officers shall be by ballot. All other voting shall be by the voting sign, except that two-thirds (2/3) of the Representatives present may demand a roll call vote. Except as otherwise provided, a majority of a quorum shall prevail.
- (3) Upon request of any member, require a motion to be placed in writing.
- (4) Put the motion to defer a particular item to a time certain. This shall be determined without debate.
- (5) Not permit a motion to be entertained during balloting.
- (6) Grant any member the right to protest and have the protest entered in the Journal.
- (7) The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum during the sessions, pronounce the decision on all questions, except on an appeal of their decision, and decide questions of order without debate, subject to appeal.
- (8) A member who voted on the prevailing side may move for the reconsideration of the vote at the same or next meeting, but no discussion of the main question may be allowed.
- (9) Every member present shall vote on all questions unless excused by the Grand Lodge or otherwise provided for in these laws, and all questions (unless otherwise provided) shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

D. Bills, Resolutions, and Reports.

- (1) When a committee reports favorably upon a bill the vote shall be upon passage of the bill. Amendments shall be voted upon first, and then the bill or bill as amended.
- (2) Majority reports will normally be considered first, unless there is a motion to adopt the minority report.
- (3) Motions to table, lay-over, indefinitely postpone, or subsidiary motions are always in order.
- (4) When a Committee submits an adverse Report on a subject (Bill, Resolution or Report) referred to it, the subject shall be placed before the Grand Lodge as a committee of the whole. A proponent of the subject shall have five (5) minutes to

speaking to the subject. A vote shall then be taken to place the subject upon passage. If the vote is favorable, then the subject shall be open to debate. After debate the vote shall be upon the subject.

- (5) A bill, resolution, or other proposition that is to be referred to a standing committee shall be submitted in triplicate, on standard letter or legal-size paper, either printed or typewritten.
- (6) Resolutions involving appropriation of funds must be referred to the Committee on Finance.
- (7) The proponent of a bill, resolution, or report is privileged to speak for three (3) minutes in explanation thereof, prior to final action.
- (8) The adoption of an officer's report containing recommendations or proposed expenditures must be implemented by a resolution approved by the Grand Lodge, following a committee report.

E. Order of Business.

- (1) The order of business shall be set forth in the ceremony for opening and closing the Grand Lodge.
  - (a) Prior to the formal opening, the Committee on Credentials shall report to the Grand Secretary, any members eligible for the Grand Lodge Degree.
  - (b) Before proceeding with the Order of Business, as outlined in the ritual, the Committee on Credentials shall make their formal report.
- (2) The Grand Lodge shall recess for lunch only after all reports, bills, resolutions, etc. have been distributed in order to provide committees time to review items and report back after the Grand Lodge has reconvened.
  - (a) Any reports or legislation not submitted in the Advance Report shall be read on the floor and distributed prior to addressing items in the Advance Report.
- (3) Any procedure not provided for herein shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

F. Members in Debate

- (1) A member desiring to speak or deliver any matter to the Grand Lodge shall rise and respectfully address the presiding officer and on being recognized may address the Grand Lodge. Members shall confine themselves to the question under discussion.
- (2) When two or more members rise to speak the presiding officer shall name the member who is entitled to the floor.
- (3) While a vote is being held, no member shall leave the room. While the Presiding Officer is addressing the Lodge, no member shall walk across the room or engage in private discourse. When a member is speaking, no member shall pass between them and the Presiding Officer.
- (4) If a member, while speaking, is called to order, they shall take their seat until called on.

**SEC 24. Laws of the Grand Lodge.**

A. Laws to be passed by Bills/Notice of Motions – Bills and Notices of Motion shall be deemed to be one in the same – (congressional style vs parliamentary style).

- (1) Form. Bills proposed by one (1) or more members shall begin with a title followed by the enacting clause, "Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge", and contain only one (1)

subject. The Bill shall reference the chapter number, Article and/or Section of the chapter and if applicable, the subsection(s) and/or paragraph(s) and page number (i.e., II-25 of the By-laws to be enacted, amended or repealed).

- (a) Striking through that portion to be deleted and underlining the portion being added.
- (2) Amendments. Bills may be amended but no amendment shall be considered which changes the original purpose of the Bill.
- (3) Bills must be referred to the Committee on Legislation and any additional Committee(s) as essential before action can be taken.
- (4) Bills held over from the previous annual session may be acted upon on the reading of the Committee(s) Report.
- (5) Voting. The vote shall be taken and the number for and against entered upon the Journal. No Bill shall become law unless two-thirds (2/3) present and voting shall vote in its favor.
- (6) Roll Call Vote. On demand of two-thirds (2/3) of the Representatives present, a roll call vote shall be had with the yeases and noes recorded. Only Representatives, Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters shall vote on a roll call vote. No vote by Lodges shall be permitted.
- (7) Effective Date. Bills become effective upon ratification by The Sovereign Grand Lodge.
- (8) When and How Submitted. Bills must be submitted in triplicate, typewritten or printed, in the form stated in Sec. 24 (A) (1) above and mailed to the Grand Secretary a minimum of forty-five (45) days prior to the annual session.
- (9) Procedure. The Grand Secretary shall reproduce the bills after review by the Committee on Legislation and send copies to each Representative, Representative-elect, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officer, and to the Secretarial Officer of each Lodge, in the Advance Report, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual session.
- (10) Bill Introduced at Session. A Grand Lodge member may introduce a bill at the session if two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members agree. The bill must be presented in triplicate.
- (11) Hearings. The Chairman of the Committee on Legislation shall announce the time and place of the meeting of the committee each day. Anyone may appear before the committee and be heard for or against a Bill.
- (12) Legislative functions of a Grand Lodge cannot be delegated to a committee.
  - (a) Code changes adopted by The Sovereign Grand Lodge shall be edited into the Grand Lodge Constitution and By-laws as mandated without layover.
- (13) Any bill presented as an emergency bill shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority to be considered. If heard, shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority for passage.
- (14) Fiscal Years. The fiscal year for the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Rebekah Assembly of Maryland, all Odd Fellow Lodge, all Rebekah Lodges, and other Associations, Board, committees or other organizations subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Maryland shall be that of the calendar year June 1 through May 31.

**B. Judicial Powers.**

- (1) A Grand Lodge shall construe and interpret its laws, for the good of the Order, and its decisions shall be final unless appealed. A Grand Lodge is best qualified to interpret its laws, which interpretation shall not be reversed unless there is a violation of justice.
- (2) A member may form an interpretation of the laws, but only the following have official authority to interpret the laws of the Order: the Noble Grand, whose rulings may be appealed to the lodge, and a District Deputy Grand Master, whose rulings must be adhered to until the will of the Grand Master is known. The Grand Master's decisions must be adhered to unless reversed by the Grand Lodge, the Sovereign Grand Master, or The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

**SEC 25. Visiting the Grand Lodge Sessions.**

- A. A member in good standing in an Odd Fellows Lodge may visit Sessions of the Grand Lodge upon being vouched for by a Representative of the lodge or by presenting an Official Certificate to the Grand Guardian or Committee on Credentials showing dues paid up-to-date.
- B. A Third Degree member in good standing may visit Sessions provided:
  - (1) The member presents an Official Certificate showing dues paid in advance.
  - (2) A Third Degree Member of an active Lodge will have voice when recognized by the presiding officer but is not entitled to present Bills, make Motions nor be entitled to vote during the Sessions of the Grand Lodge.

**SEC 26. Term of Office.**

- A. The term of officers shall be one (1) year, unless otherwise specified.
- B. The terms of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall not run concurrently.
- C. Trustees as deemed necessary in the By-laws shall be elected for a term of not more than three (3) years. (The Trustees are not entitled to receive the Honors of the Order or Honors of the Degree.)

**SEC 27. Archives.** The Grand Secretary and the Joint Heritage Committee shall maintain the archives of the jurisdiction, reporting to the Board, when the Grand Lodge is not in session, informing the completed action and progress.

**SEC 28. Property – See Chapter XXXVII** of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

**SEC 29. Privacy Policy.** The Grand Lodge shall NOT sell or distribute for any purpose outside the fraternity, any of the member rosters, mailing lists, including personal information held by the Grand Lodge or its local lodges, to any person or persons, institutions or agencies for sales promotions, or for other purposes within or without the Grand Lodge; without the expressed permission of the member. Further, any distribution must have the expressed permission of the voting members of the Grand Lodge present and voting at any regular annual or called special session.

**SEC 30. Amendments.**

- A. Any member of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, or lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge can submit amendments for consideration.

- B. Any proposition to alter, amend, or repeal must be submitted to the Grand Secretary in writing more than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Session to be distributed and included in the Advance Report. Any submitted proposition shall be voted on at the Annual Session to which it was submitted, after proper review and report from the appropriate committees.
    - (1) No Bill shall become law unless two-thirds (2/3) present and voting shall vote in its favor.
  - C. Any proposition, to alter, amend, or repeal that is submitted on the floor at the Session, will be distributed to the appropriate committees, and acted on at the next Annual Session.
  - D. Any amendment that does not alter the original intent, and does not conflict with the Code General Laws, can be acted on at the same Session, with a majority in favor needed to amend. The bill shall require two-thirds (2/3) present and voting to be adopted.
  - E. Code changes adopted by The Sovereign Grand Lodge shall be edited into the Grand Lodge Constitution and By-laws as mandated without layover.
    - (1) Should any part of this Constitution and By-laws become in violation of the Code of General Laws, it must be struck, amended, or changed, immediately, without vote of the membership.
      - (a) If any change requires creation of a new law, it shall be proposed at the Session by the Committee on Legislation, and adopted by two-thirds (2/3) present and voting. If two-thirds (2/3) majority cannot be reached, amendments must be proposed until a conforming bill is passed.
  - F. When any change is made to the Constitution and By-laws, a new, full, electronic copy of the Constitution and By-laws shall be sent to all Secretaries, Representatives, Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters.
  - G. The Grand Secretary shall forward to the Sovereign Grand Secretary three (3) certified copies in triplicate of amendments to their respective constitutions and/or by-laws along with the current documents being amended. Certification shall be on Grand Lodge letterhead, stating the date of adoption at the recent Grand Lodge session, attested by the Grand Secretary with the seal of the Grand Lodge.
  - H. The file may be submitted by electronic file – see Chapter II, Sec. 5 A (25) of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
- SEC 31. **Membership.** Membership shall be as defined in Chapter III of the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.
- A. Change of Classification. Members shall request a change of membership classification with the Secretary of their lodge at the time of paying dues for the upcoming year. The change shall take effect at the start of the new year.
  - B. Lodges may offer non-contributing membership to its eligible members as defined in the Code of General Laws.
  - C. The Grand Lodge does not permit Life Membership within the Jurisdiction.
  - D. The Grand Lodge permits Associate Membership in all component units within the Jurisdiction regardless of explicit mention in their bylaws. If not otherwise outlined by the bylaws of the lodge, dues shall be ten (10) dollars.



SEC 32. **Meritorious Service Jewel.** Shall be awarded as outlined in Chapter XXVIII of the Code of General Laws of Sovereign Grand Lodge.

A. A resolution outlining the member's exemplary contributions to the Order must be submitted and adopted at the Annual Session by a majority vote.

(1) The resolution must be signed by at least five (5) Past Grand Masters within the Jurisdiction in order to be presented.

REGALLA: GRAND LODGE INSIGNIA FOR JEWELS:

Past Grand Master - Sun with Hand and Heart

Grand Master - Sun with Scales of Justice impressed or engraved

Deputy Grand Master - a Half Moon

Grand Warden - Crossed Gavel

Grand Secretary - Crossed Pens

Grand Treasurer - Crossed Keys

Grand Representative - Seal of the Sovereign Grand Lodge

Grand Marshall - A Baton

Grand Conductor - A Roman Sword

Grand Chaplin - Open Bible

Grand Guardian - Crossed Swords

Grand Herald - Old Fashioned Trumpet

Grand Color Bearer - Flag

Grand Instructor - Closed Book

Grand Musician - Lyre