

Masonic Messenger



Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons

Fall 2024



2024 Code Bills For The 238th Annual Grand Lodge -- See Pages 12-35

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475

Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary
at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201
on your lodge secretary's monthly report.
The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

THE GEORGIA MASONIC MESSENGER

VOL. 134 FALL 2024 NO. 1

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
Deputy Grand Master	Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)
Senior Grand Warden	Bill Shepard (717, 214)
Junior Grand Warden	Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)
Grand Treasurer	Jeffery L. Anderson (200, 376, 06)
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)
Grand Chaplain	Frank J. Batt, III (376, 06)
Grand Marshal	William M. Jones (06)
Grand Orator	Michael H. Wilson (06)
Senior Grand Deacon	Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)
Junior Grand Deacon	Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)
First Grand Steward	Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)
Second Grand Steward	W. David Baxter (35)
Third Grand Steward	Jeff L. Smith (131, 216)
Grand Tyler	Bradley L. Johnson (135)

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FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER

TYPE or PRINT information requested and mail to the
Grand Lodge address on the back cover:

Name in Full _____

Lodge Name and Number _____

If you have moved, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE
TO THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA along with your new address.

Lodge Name and Number _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Brethren, it is your responsibility to make certain your address is current.
Be certain your Lodge secretary has your correct address.
Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary's Office in Macon.
The Editor of the Masonic Messenger DOES NOT keep a list of addresses.



From the Desk of the Grand Secretary Right Worshipful Van S. "Mac" McGee

How to register for Grand View

Below is a link to a video that will show you how to set up your user account and the step to set up your account. If you have already created your user account and forgotten your password you can click on "Forgot your password?" under the sign-in button, enter your email address in the box and click "Send me to reset password instructions."

Video link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ilx-WliihfcM>

Step 1. Enter the URL for your jurisdiction. <https://ga.grandview.systems>

Step 2. Click on Member Portal

Step 3. Click on Member Registration (or you can Click the "Sign up" next to forgot password) Step 4. Enter your Lodge Number

Step 5. Enter your Member ID

Step 6. Enter your Last Name - (case sensitive)

Step 7. Click on Check Membership Status

Step 8. Enter your email address

Step 9. Enter a password that you can remember (password must contain at least 8 characters) Step 10. Enter Confirmation by entering the password again

Step 11. Click on Submit

Now Available

You may now find the 2024 Georgia List of Lodges, Officers Planning Tool, and DDGM Contacts under My Portal on Grand View.

Grand View Secretary Training

The Grand Lodge Office is encouraging secretary training in all districts. Anyone can attend the training classes. Please contact the Grand Lodge Office if you are interested in organizing a training class.

2024 District Conventions

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host Lodge</u>
1st District	March 23, 2024	10:00AM	Hinesville	Hinesville Lodge No. 271
2nd District	February 24, 2024	9:00AM	Albany	Dougherty Lodge No. 591
3rd District	March 16, 2024	10:00AM	Dawson	P.T. Schley Lodge No. 229
4th District	August 17, 2024	9:45AM	Greenville Lodge No. 321	Loftin Lodge No. 688
5th District	September 14, 2024	9:00AM	Tucker	Tuker Lodge No. 42
6th District	May 4, 2024	9:00AM	Griffin @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26	Mabel Lodge No. 255
7th District	May 10 & 11, 2024	9:00AM	Rome	Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District	May 18, 2024	9:00AM	Loganville	Fergus Lodge No. 135
9th District	September 28, 2024	9:00AM	Clarkesville Lodge No. 325	Mt. Airy Lodge No. 141
10th District	June 8, 2024	10:00AM	Louisville	Stonewall Lodge No. 98
11th District	September 21, 2024	10:00AM	Blackshear	Blackshear Lodge No. 270
12th District	April 20, 2024	9:00AM	Dublin	Laurens Lodge No. 75

Procedures for Grand Lodge Communication October 22nd and 23rd 2024

Procedures for Grand Lodge Communication

All Members including committee members must pre-register for the Grand Lodge Communication via Grand View on or before October 15th.

Please log into Grand View, and from your member portal, click Print 2024 AC Registration Credentials Sheet. If you are a member of more than one Lodge, you must pre-register in the Lodge you wish to represent. You must bring your registration scan bar paper you printed when you pre-registered to the Grand Lodge Session. It will help the Credentials Committee to check you in faster.

You must bring your dues card. You will be given a lanyard to slip your dues card in and will serve as your name badge.



Electronic voting will be used again this year and will speed things up. The voting doggle will be scanned for each voting member at registration. You must return the voting doggle before leaving the session for the day. There will be tubs at the exits with a District Deputy present to assist you in returning your voting doggle.

When you arrive at Grand Lodge, please go to registration, and check in to pick up the voting doggle and voting panel.

Lodge Per Capita must be up to date or your Lodge representation will be denied voting privileges.

2024 Code Bills

Available on Grand View. Choose My Portal. Grand Lodge. Choose 2024 Code Bills above the calendar. The 2024 Code Bills are also available in this issue of the Masonic Messenger.

M. B. Council Lodge No. 13
LaFayette Lodge No. 23
San Marino Lodge No. 34
Hiram Lodge No. 51
Villa Rica Lodge No. 72
Adairsville Lodge No. 168
Marshall Lodge No. 188
Rochelle Lodge No. 190
Unicoy Lodge No. 259
Western Lodge No. 272
Douglas Lodge No. 386
Shannon Lodge No. 404

Roger Wood Lodge No. 438
Tompkins Lodge No. 466
Wellington Lodge No. 467
Chappell Lodge No. 511
Zingara Lodge No. 519
Sweet Gum Lodge No. 542
Elm City Lodge No. 544
Bay Branch Lodge No. 575
Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 702
Chattooga Lodge No. 704
Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722
Grovetown Lodge No. 730

The following Lodges must have representation at the 238th Annual Communication

Failure of representation of these Lodges will result in the forfeiture of the Lodge Charter. Please do your best to make sure your Lodge is represented. If you have any questions, please contact the Grand Secretary's Office. (478) 742-1475

238th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons

The 238th Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Georgia will be held on October 22nd and 23rd, 2024, at the Macon Marriott City Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217.

Banquet: The Grand Master's Banquet will be held on Monday evening, October 21st, at 6:30 p.m. in Ballrooms A, B, C, and D. Reservations may be made by calling the Grand Secretary's Office (478) 742-1475 to pay by credit card or mailing the reservation form included in this issue of the Masonic Messenger and a check. Reservations are \$80.00 per person and are limited to 175 guests.

Ladies Brunch: The Ladies Brunch will be held in the Magnolia Room at 10:30 am. Reservations may be made by calling the Grand Secretary's Office (478) 742-1475 to pay by credit card or by mailing the reservation form included in this issue of the Masonic Messenger and a check. The cost is \$50.00 per person.

Grand Lodge Session: The session will begin at 8:30 am in the EX-Hall A Convention Center on Tuesday morning, October 22nd, and will be set to refreshment at 5 pm.

Grand Lodge Picnic: The Tommy Irvin Farmers Market Picnic will be held Tuesday evening, October 22nd, at the Macon State Farmers Market, 2055 Eisenhower Pkwy., Macon, GA. The Picnic will begin at 6:00 pm for fun, fellowship, and food with special entertainment. Admission is \$10.00 per person. **TO BE PAID UPON ENTRY.**

PLEASE SEE THE RESERVATION REQUEST FORM IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MASONIC MESSENGER

Fill out the request form and mail it to

Grand Lodge of Georgia

PO Box 4665 Macon, GA 31208-4665

Make sure to include your check

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BEFORE OCTOBER 1st by 4 PM

The hospitality room will be available at the Host Hotel, the Macon Marriott City Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA. It will be open Monday, October 21st, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Tuesday, October 22nd, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, 11:30 am to 5:00 pm (closed during Ladies Brunch), and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and Wednesday, October 23rd, 8:00 am to 10 am.

IMPORTANT GRAND LODGE INFORMATION

Registration for the Annual Grand Lodge Communication must be done on Grand View by clicking the blue Pre-register for 2024 banner from your member portal. There will be no Annual Grand Lodge Communication admittance without a valid dues card.

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Sunday, October 20, 2024 ➤ Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Last Day to Book: Friday, September 20, 2024

Accommodations

Macon Marriott City Center
\$131/night
Free parking & WiFi

Schedule

Grand Masters Banquet

Monday, October 21, 2024
6:30 PM
Ballroom A-C
Choose Chicken or Salmon
at the time of purchase
\$80.00 per person

First Ladies Brunch

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
10:30 AM
Magnolia Room
\$50.00 per Lady



Payment Information:

Please note: Your reservation will be accounted for electronically. No paper tickets will be issued.

Mail payments to: Grand Lodge of Georgia, PO Box 4665, Macon, GA 31208-4665

Credit card payments are accepted by phone at: (478) 742-1475

The Tommy Irvin Farmers Market

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 - 6 PM
2055 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA
\$10.00/person paid at door



**Welcome to the 238th Annual Communication
of the
Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons
The Macon Marriott City Center Hotel is the host hotel
240 Coliseum Drive, Macon GA 31217
Telephone (478) 621 5300 (Mention the Grand Lodge of Georgia
The Hospitality Room will be supplied with goodies and open Monday through
Wednesday at designated hours for everyone's enjoyment.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

******* IMPORTANT: NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED*******

GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET TICKETS: \$80.00

Will you attend the Grand Master's Banquet, Monday, October 21, 2024 Yes: _____ No: _____

Will your lady accompany you Yes: _____ No: _____

Lady's Name: _____

Banquet choice you: Salmon _____ Roasted Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Banquet choice lady: Salmon _____ Roasted Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Ballrooms A, B, and C, Formal Attire Marriott Centreplex



First Ladies Brunch

10:30 AM

TUESDAY, October 22nd

Magnolia Room of the Marriott City Center **Business Casual**

Yes: _____ No: _____ \$50.00

PGM Tommy Irvin's Farmers Market Tuesday, October 22nd, 6:00 PM **Casual**

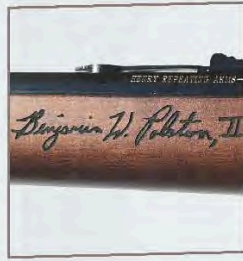
(CASH ONLY) \$10.00 PER PERSON. TO BE PAID UPON ENTRY

.....

Please return to: Grand Lodge of Georgia, PO Box 4665, Macon, GA 31208-4665 by October 4th, 2024

Win a Commemorative Henry Golden Boy Rifle!

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY WITH THIS SPECIAL GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA EDITION RIFLE, ENGRAVED WITH GRAND MASTER BENJAMIN POLSTON'S SIGNATURE AND SEAL



\$20 per ticket
6 tickets for **\$100**

Promoting Freemasonry in
Georgia.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the 238th Annual Communication
on Oct 22nd 2024

To promote Fraternalism within the
State of Georgia for the good of all
Masons
Benjamin W. Polston, II
Grand Master



Tickets will be available for purchase through the Grand Lodge Office, Grand Lodge Officers, DDGMs, District Masters, and anywhere and everywhere the Grand Master will be.

Additionally, each Lodge in the State will be mailed \$100 Dollars' worth (6) of tickets and encouraged to sell or purchase their tickets.

CHARLIE LONG BARN DEGREE

Saturday, October 5th, 2024



The Annual Barn Degree will be held at

Charlie Long's Farm

695 Orr Mill Rd SE

Ranger, Georgia 30734

On Saturday, October 5th, 2024

Gates Open Early! Degree at 3pm!

Come and Enjoy the Farm and Fellowship by the Creek!

Activities and Entertainment for Ladies!

Master Mason Degree will Begin at 3pm.

Admission \$15 Per Person. BBQ will be Served!

Degree Conferred by Brethren of the 9th District

All Master Mason's are Invited and urged to Attend!

Proceeds got to the Travel Fund for the Incoming Grand Master!



JOIN US FOR A

50/50
RAFFLE

SILENT
AUCTION



ROAST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024
5:30PM

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY
GRAND MASTER MARK BRADLEY

YAARAB SHRINE CENTER
400 PONCE DE LEON AVENUE
ATLANTA, GA 30308

PULLED PORK, RIBS,
SMOKED CHICKEN & ALL THE TRIMMINGS!

SCAN QR CODE TO PAY
OR MAIL CHECKS
PAYABLE TO UNITY LODGE #36
PO BOX 1129
JEFFERSON, GA 30549



\$50
PER TICKET

2024 Code Bills and Resolutions
for the
238th Annual Communication
of
The Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons

CODE BILL NO. 2024-1

AA bill to amend the regular dates of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia by amending Code Section 2-101

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE
OF GEORGIA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

That Code Section 2-101, relating to Regular Communication, be amended so that said section as amended, shall read as follows:

2-101. Regular Communication

The regular communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia shall be held on the ~~fourth Tuesday~~ third Friday in October of each year, until the Grand Lodge shall otherwise order; and upon the failure of the representation of the number of Lodges required by the Constitution, at that time, the Grand Secretary shall notify the subordinate Lodges of the same, and request them to send their representative to a Grand Communication, which in that event, shall be held at such time as the Grand Master or Officer entitled to preside shall appoint. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, or in the case of his absence from the State, indisposition, or death, the Deputy Grand Master, or, in his absence, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, in succession, shall have the power to convene the members thereof, at any time they or one of them shall think proper to appoint; provided always, that all the subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge be notified of said

meeting by the Grand Secretary at least thirty days before time of said meeting. All regular communications of the Grand Lodge of Georgia must be regularly clothed, tyled and opened, before it can proceed to work.

Chester Gosdin, PM
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-2

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF
GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS:
Jurisdiction 80-102.**

The Trial Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction to try any Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason for un-masonic conduct and other violations of Masonic law after charges have been preferred and accepted by the subordinate Lodge having jurisdiction of the individual or the offense. (Section 83-401) The 12 districts are to set up so that in the event of a trial in a district, the trial commissioners will be provided from another district. The jurors to be used in the trial will travel from their respective district to the district and to the lodge holding the trial. See the attached District Map to see which district will provide the jurors for said trial in each district. It will read as follows:

District 1 will provide jurors to District 8
District 8 will provide jurors to District 1
District 2. will provide jurors to District 4
District 4 will provide jurors to District 2
District 3 will provide jurors to District 7
District 7 will provide jurors to District 3

District 5 will provide jurors to District 12
 District 12 will provide jurors to District 5
 District 6 will provide jurors to District 11
 District 11 will provide jurors to District 6
 District 9 will provide jurors to District 10
 District 10 will provide jurors to District 9

SKELETON FORM OF BILL FOR ENACTMENT OF LAWS

A Bill to provide for (state purpose briefly) by adding Section(s) _____ of the Masonic Code: and/or repealing Section(s) _____ of the Masonic Code: and/or amending Section(s) 80 102 of the Masonic Code.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

(If the Bill includes the addition of a new Code Section precede such new section with the words "That, Code Section _____,

relating to _____, be added so that said section as added shall read as follows: : state in detail the exact language of the intended new Code Section (underline the language of the intended new Code Section which did not previously exist)) and/or;

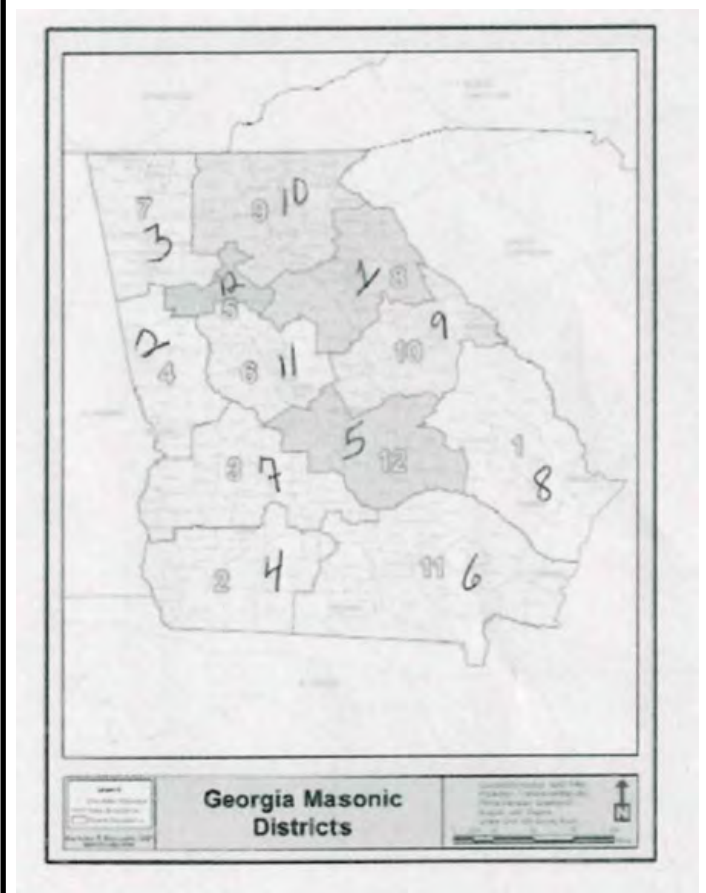
(if the Bill includes the repeal of an existing Code Section, precede the section to be repealed with the words "That, Code Section _____, relating to _____, which currently reads as follows:". quote at length the exact language of the existing section to be repealed, followed by the words, "be and the same is hereby repealed." (strikethrough the language of the existing Code Section which is to be repealed in its entirety)) and/or:

(if the Bill includes the amendment of an existing Code Section. precede the Code Section to be amended by the words, That. Code Section 80.102. relating to Jurisdiction, be amended so that said section as amended shall read as follows: ; See attached sheet:

Kelly Montgomery, PM
 Benevolent Lodge No. 3

William P. La-Grone, PM
 Richmond Lodge No. 412

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form and recommends that it be ruled out-of-order.



CODE BILL NO. 2024-03

A bill to amend **Chapter 77-1, Section 77-126**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia disallowing an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason from applying for membership in concordant or appendant organizations which might seek to change their membership requirements concerning the necessity of being a Master Mason for membership.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code **Chapter 77-1, Section 77-126**, only be amended as follows:

By striking the words “**Master**” and adding the sentence “**Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing section, neither an Entered Apprentice nor Fellowcraft Mason may join a Concordant or Appendant Organization.**” so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

77-126. Minimal Time of Masonic Membership Before Eligible to Apply for Membership in Concordant or Appendant Organizations

No Mason in Georgia may petition for membership in any organization predicated its membership requirements on the petitioner being a **Master** Mason: (1) until six months have elapsed since he became a Master Mason, unless in the meantime he has stood examination in open Lodge on the Master Mason's catechism and is entitled to a certificate from his Lodge; and (2) unless the organization (a) requires all of its male members to maintain active membership status in a Masonic Lodge while a member of such organization and (b) recognizes the law of the Grand Lodge of Georgia as supreme in all matters within Georgia and with respect to all Masons who are members of a Georgia Lodge, including (without limitation) matters of discipline. Signing a petition for membership in any such organization, either as petitioner or as recommender, prior to meeting either of the two optional requirements stated herein in subpart (1) or knowing that the organization does not conform to the requirements of subpart (2) constitutes un-Masonic conduct. **Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing section, neither an Entered Apprentice nor Fellowcraft Mason may join a Concordant or Appendant Organization.** (Section 44-104)

S. Joe Colvard, PM
Philomatheia Lodge No. 25

Dennis W. Hewatt, PM
Metro Daylight Lodge No. 743

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-4

A bill to amend **Chapter 3-1, Section 3-111**, and **Chapter 26-1, Section 26-103**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia allowing for the issuance of virtual dues cards thereby reducing the expenses and workloads of the Grand Secretary and each subordinate lodge Secretary.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code **Chapter 3-1, Section 3-111**, and **Chapter 26-1, Section 26-103**, only be amended as follows:

In 3-111, by striking the words **“The Secretary of each local Lodge shall designate on each dues card issued the highest office which the particular member holds or has held in his Lodge. (Edict 1970-1)”** so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

3-111. Persons Attending Grand Lodge

All persons presenting themselves to the Grand Tyler, his representative, or the Auditing Committee of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of registering and/or attending a tyled Grand Lodge meeting shall show a current dues card which is not more than one (1) year old, and which will certify under the seal of his Lodge that such person is a member in good standing of such Lodge. ~~The Secretary of each local Lodge shall designate on each dues card issued the highest office which the particular member holds or has held in his Lodge. (Edict 1970-1)~~

In 26-103, by adding the words **“cause to be issued”**, striking the word **“issue”**, adding the word **“by”**, striking the word **“to”**, adding the words, **“Such dues card may be virtual within Grand View or printed until the year 2027 after which virtual dues cards will be primary”**, striking the word **“the”**, adding the words **“P.M., Emeritus, or Perpetual if applicable.”**, striking the words **“highest office which that particular member holds or has held in his Lodge.”**, adding the words **“In his sole discretion, the lodge Secretary may issue a printed dues card to particular members.”** striking the words **“3-111”**, and adding the words **“7-201”** so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

26-103. Issuance of Dues Cards

Upon his receipt of Lodge dues and at his earliest opportunity thereafter (or in the event of a perpetual member, at his earliest opportunity after the first of each year) the Lodge secretary shall **cause to be issued** a dues card for each year that dues are paid ~~by~~ **to** such member. **Such dues card may be virtual within Grand View or printed until the year 2027 after which virtual dues cards will be primary** and shall designate on that card ~~the~~ **P.M., Emeritus, or Perpetual if applicable. highest office which that particular member holds or has held in his Lodge.** **In his sole discretion, the lodge Secretary may**

issue a printed dues card to particular members.
(Section ~~3-111~~ **7-201**)

Phillip J. Spake, PM
Draketown Lodge No. 252

Jonathan M. M. James, PM
Tallapoosa Lodge No. 126

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-5

A Bill to provide for increased access to knowledge and better proficiency in all aspects of Freemasonry by providing a copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work to any Lodge practicing Uniform Work, at the request of such Lodge.; by amending Section 77-122. Cipher Code of the Masonic Code.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS that Section 77-122.

Cipher Code of the Masonic Code be amended so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

Section 77-122. Cipher Code. – It is a violation of Masonic law in Georgia to use any description of key, cipher, or written work of a secret character. It is also unlawful for any member to give, sell, furnish, or to keep in stock in any book-store or place of business, the management of which he may control in any manner, any printed, engraved, typewritten, or written book, pamphlet or leaflet containing anything whatsoever pertaining to a key, cipher, or written or printed work of a secret character. Any member so offending, shall be charged with gross un-Masonic conduct by his Lodge and tried. Upon conviction, he shall be subject to expulsion, or to suspension for a definite period, dependent upon the gravity of the circumstances.

Provided, that for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the work, one copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work as approved by the Grand Lodge shall be kept by the Grand Secretary in the safe of the Grand Lodge, and shall be removed only for

the use by the Board of Custodians by and with the consent of the Grand Master. It shall not be removed from the building in which the Grand Lodge is located, and shall be immediately returned to the Grand Secretary upon conclusion of the session of the Board of Custodians. One copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work shall be provided to each Lodge in the State of Georgia that practices Uniform Work, at the request of such Lodge, to be under the care of the Director of Work or in his absence the Secretary, to be kept under lock and key by said Officer except when in actual use, and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. Twelve copies shall be made of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work, one copy to be given to each District Custodian, to be kept under lock and key by said Custodian except when in actual use, and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. One copy of the Cipher code will be made and given to each Assistant Custodian except when in actual use and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. (See edict No. 3, 1989. Sec. 213 (a) Cipher Code Custodian Emeritus)

Provided, further, that the “Official Master Copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work” (the one kept by the Grand Secretary as directed above) may contain such written words as shall be necessary to preserve, unimpaired, the meaning of the rituals. The twelve copies authorized by Code Section 77-122 to be used by the twelve District Custodians will remain in letter cipher as they are written on April 2, 2001, and may not contain the written words herein authorized in the “Official Master Copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work.” (See Edict No. 2, 2001.)

David A. Thompson, PM DOW
Ogeechee Lodge No. 213

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-6

A bill to amend Chapter 83-1, Section 83-112, of the Masonic Code of Georgia specifying when trial training must occur.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons, that the Masonic Code **Chapter 83-1, Section 83-112**, only be amended as follows:

By striking the words “before the end of January of” and replacing them with the word “during” so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

83-112. Counselors for the Prosecution and Counselors for the Defense

The Grand Master shall annually appoint, in each of the several Masonic Districts, a Counselor for the Prosecution, who shall be a Master Mason, not necessarily a member of Grand Lodge, capable of understanding the Penal Code to assist the Junior Warden in the preparation and trial of all cases brought in the Lodge or to lead or conduct prosecution, if appointed by the Worshipful Master. It shall be his duty to attend every pre-trial conference held in the district upon receiving notice thereof and to advise and assist the Junior Warden in all phases of the prosecution or to lead or conduct such prosecution himself, if appointed to do so. His participation shall not prohibit the Lodge from also having other representation, as provided in Section 83-301. The Counselor for the Prosecution shall represent the Lodge during the hearing of any appeal, or proposed change in verdict and/or penalty held by the Appeals and Grievances Committee. (Sections 83-110, 83-301)

The Grand Master shall also annually appoint in each of the several Masonic Districts a Counselor for the Defense, who shall be a Master Mason, not necessarily a member of Grand Lodge, capable of understanding the Penal Code to assist any defendant who is a member of a Lodge located in that district, or a member of a Lodge located outside of the district as provided in Code Sections 33-103, 76-101, 76-102, 76-106, if his assistance is requested by the accused. It shall be the duty of the Counselor for the Defense to attend every pre-trial conference held in the district upon receiving notice thereof, and to offer his assistance at the beginning of such pre-trial conference (or prior to the actual beginning if feasible) to the accused who may either accept or reject such assistance.

If assistance by the Counselor for the Defense in preparing and conducting the defense during the trial (or assisting another during the trial) is accepted by the

accused, however, this shall not prohibit his also having other representation as provided in Section 83-301.

The Grand Master may, at his discretion, also appoint one or more Counselors for the Prosecution "at large" and one or more Counselors for the Defense "at large" to serve during his term in office.

Counselors for the Prosecution, Counselors for the Defense, and Counselors "at large", while serving as such, shall be entitled to receive mileage at the same rate as Trial Commissioners. (Section 2-223) They shall not be entitled to receive other compensation.

The Grand Secretary shall provide each Trial Commission Chairman with the names and addresses of the Counselor for the Prosecution and the Counselor for the Defense in his district, also, the Counselors "at large", when appointed. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to notify both Counselors when a pre-trial conference is scheduled in the district, as soon as he has notified the Worshipful Master of the Lodge at which the pre-trial conference will be held. Failure to do so shall be sufficient reason for either the Junior Warden or the Lodge, or the accused, to refuse to proceed, and to demand that the pre-trial conference be re-scheduled. In the event that a Masonic District temporarily does not have a Counselor for the Prosecution or a Counselor for the Defense, the Grand Master shall have authority to designate the Counselor from another Masonic District to serve in that district also until such time as the vacancy can be filled by the Grand Master. If Counselors "at large" have been appointed, the Grand Master may direct that service be obtained from that source. The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall be required to notify the Grand Master when such action is needed.

Counselors for the Prosecution and Counselors for the Defense, along with District Trial Commission Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and members of the Appeals and Grievances Committee, shall meet annually ~~before the end of January of~~ **during** each Grand Lodge year for the purpose of training and discussion of trial practice, procedures, and requirements. For these purposes the Junior Grand Warden, the Chairman of the Appeals and Grievances Committee and the State Director of Masonic Education and Leadership Development, or their designees, shall plan and conduct a program for such training and designate topics for discussion designed to

acquaint and inform such Counselors, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen with the trial procedures and practice and lead to more uniform Masonic trial practices in this jurisdiction and a general understanding among the participants.

Jeffery L. Smith, PM
Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131

William R. Moore, PM
Dacula Lodge No. 433

Michael H. Wilson, PM
Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6

Brian C. Coffey, PM
Hinesville Lodge No. 271

Johnie M. Garmon, PM
Allegheny Lodge No. 114

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-07

A bill to amend **Chapter 21-1, Section 21-107**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia to specify how suspended members are affected if an arrested charter is not returned by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. Currently no remedy exists in the Masonic Code.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code **Chapter 21-1, Section 21-107**, only be amended as follows:

By adding the words, **“In the case of an arrested charter not returned by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, those members who are suspended by the arrest, if not under charges, may request a certificate from the Grand Secretary and petition another lodge for affiliation. (Sections 37-101, 47-101, 47-102)”** so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

21-107. Effect of Arrest

The arrest of a charter suspends all the members of such Lodge unless otherwise specifically stated in the

suspending act. **In the case of an arrested charter not returned by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, those members who are suspended by the arrest, if not under charges, may request a certificate from the Grand Secretary and petition another lodge for affiliation. (Sections 37-101, 47-101, 47-102)**

Jeffery L. Smith, PM
Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131

Lance A. Bryant, PM
Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-08

A bill to amend Chapter 83-4, **Section 83-401**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia to change the way in which charges are initiated against a sitting Worshipful Master.

Chapter 83-4, **Section 83-401**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia currently reads:

83-401. Trial of Masters

If the Master of a Lodge be charged with immoral or un-Masonic conduct by a majority of the Lodge over which he presides or by the Master of any other Lodge, the accusers or accuser shall present a written accusation to the Grand Master, or, in his absence, to the Deputy Grand Master, who shall summon a Lodge of Masters or Past Masters of not less than three nor more than thirteen, designating one of them to preside as Master. They shall proceed to try the case and pronounce such sentence as they deem just; but the same shall not take effect until approved by the officer summoning such Lodge. The accused shall have the right of appeal as provided by law. (Section 27-104)

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 83-4, **Section 83-401**, only be amended to read as follows:

If the Master of a Lodge be charged with immoral or un-Masonic conduct by a majority of the Lodge over which he presides or by the Master of any other Lodge, the accusers or accuser shall present a written accusation to the Grand Master, or, in his absence, to the Deputy Grand Master. ~~who shall summon a Lodge of Masters or Past Masters of not less than three nor more than thirteen, designating one of them to preside as Master. They shall proceed to try the case and pronounce such sentence as they deem just; but the same shall not take effect until approved by the officer summoning such Lodge.~~ Upon receipt of the charges the Grand Master or, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master, shall examine said charges and determine prima facie the sufficiency and adequacy of such charges, and upon such prima facie findings the Grand Master or, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master, shall forward the allegations to the Junior Warden of the accused's Lodge who shall promptly prepare suitable charges. The accused Worshipful Master shall be disqualified to take any action or preside over any proceedings regarding the allegations. Those charges shall be appended to the minutes of the Lodge. The Senior Warden, acting in the absence of the Worshipful Master, shall then declare the charge(s) accepted and he shall order the Secretary to immediately transmit two certified copies of such charge(s) and specifications to the Chairman of the Trial Commission for the district in which such Lodge is located, and one certified copy to the Grand Master. The Lodge shall not vote to reject or withdraw charges brought by a sitting Worshipful Master. The charges shall then proceed before the trial commission in the same manner as other cases. The accused shall have the right of appeal as provided by law. Section 83-507(a) shall apply. (Section 27-104 Section 85-104).

Harold K. Logsdon, PM
Fayetteville Lodge No. 711

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-9

A bill to amend Chapter 40-1, Section 40-109, of the Masonic Code of Georgia to require withdrawal by the petitioner for all classes of petitions (applications)

submitted to a lodge. The current Masonic Code is silent on all classes of petitions other than for the degrees.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 40-1, Section 40-109, only be amended as follows:

By adding the words “or petition” in three places and striking the words, “for the degrees” so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

40-109. Petition Withdrawn Only by Secret Ballot

After an application or petition ~~for the degrees~~ has been regularly read, a Lodge may not allow it to be withdrawn before ballot except by unanimous consent expressed by secret ballot. The withdrawal of an application or petition in any other manner is illegal and void. Any member has the right to demand that a ballot be had on the application or petition for withdrawal. If the Lodge refuses to allow same to be withdrawn, it must be voted upon. (Section 39-116)

Samuel Garcia, Jr., PM
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-10

A bill to amend Chapter 51-1, Section 51-102, to repeal Section 51-106, and to repeal Section 51-107 of the Masonic Code of Georgia to specify how Masonic burial of senior members is affected if an arrested charter is not returned by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, or if a lodge forfeits, or surrenders its charter voluntarily. Currently no remedy exists in the Masonic Code to protect the privilege of Masonic burial for senior members who might be left behind who should have otherwise been entitled to a Masonic burial. This will also eliminate conflicts and simplify the Masonic Code by combining and eliminating sections.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 51-1, Section 51-102 only be amended as follows:

By striking the word “or” in the title, adding the words “or Unaffiliated Masons” in the title, and adding the words “Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of an arrested charter not returned by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, or in the case of a lodge whose charter is forfeited or surrendered, those members who become unaffiliated, if not under charges, who are not plural members of other lodges, who are at least 75 years of age and having attained at least 30 years of service, shall retain the privilege of Masonic burial except as provided in Sections 51-104, and 51-105. Except as otherwise provided herein an unaffiliated Mason may not have Masonic burial unless he shall have demitted within six months prior to his death, with the expressed intention of joining another Lodge, and die before such purpose be consummated; or unless he was a member of a Lodge whose charter was forfeited or surrendered within six months prior to his death; or unless he shall have made application for affiliation within six months after his membership with the former Lodge terminated, and such application shall be pending at the time of his death. In the event a member who has within thirty days after receiving a demit from a Lodge, transmitted the same to another Lodge, with petition for affiliation and such member dies before such application to the latter Lodge shall have been acted upon, such demitted member shall be entitled to burial by the Lodge which granted the demit. (Section 44-102, 49-103, 49-106, 33-102, 33-105, 37-101, 51-104).”

51-102. Suspended, or Expelled Masons, or Unaffiliated Masons

A suspended or expelled Mason, dying under such sentence, shall not receive Masonic burial. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of an arrested charter not returned by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, or in the case of a lodge whose charter is forfeited or surrendered, those members who become unaffiliated, if not under charges, who are not plural members of other lodges, who are at least 75 years of age and having

attained at least 30 years of service, shall retain the privilege of Masonic burial except as provided in Sections 51-104 and 51-105.

Except as otherwise provided herein an unaffiliated Mason may not have Masonic burial unless he shall have demitted within six months prior to his death, with the expressed intention of joining another Lodge, and die before such purpose be consummated; or unless he was a member of a Lodge whose charter was forfeited or surrendered within six months prior to his death; or unless he shall have made application for affiliation within six months after his membership with the former Lodge terminated, and such application shall be pending at the time of his death.

In the event a member who has within thirty days after receiving a demit from a Lodge, transmitted the same to another Lodge, with petition for affiliation and such member dies before such application to the latter Lodge shall have been acted upon, such demitted member shall be entitled to burial by the Lodge which granted the demit. (Section 44-102, 49-103, 49-106, 33-102, 33-105, 37-101, 51-104).

Masonic Code Section 51-106 be and is hereby repealed in its entirety.

~~51-106. Non-Affiliates~~

~~A non-affiliated Mason may not have Masonic burial unless he shall have demitted within six months prior to his death, with the expressed intention of joining another Lodge, and die before such purpose be consummated; or unless he was a member of a Lodge whose charter was forfeited within six months prior to his death; or unless he shall have made application for affiliation within six months after his membership with the former Lodge terminated, and such application shall be pending at the time of his death. (Sections 44-102, 49-103, 49-106, 33-102, 33-105, 37-101)~~

Masonic Code Section 51-107 be and is hereby repealed in its entirety.

~~51-107. Burial by Former Lodge, When~~

~~In the event a member who has within thirty days after receiving a demit from a Lodge, transmitted the same to another Lodge, with petition for affiliation and such member dies before such application to the latter Lodge shall have been acted upon, such demitted member shall be entitled to burial by the Lodge which granted the demit.~~

Dirk S. Ledford, PM
Chamblee-Sardis Lodge No. 444

Charles A. Frazier, PM
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Russell T. Keith, PM
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Billy D. Crowell, PM
Stone Mountain Lodge No. 449

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-11

A bill to amend Chapter 6-1, Section 6-101, of the Masonic Code of Georgia to change the title of the Executive Director of the Masonic Home to include Executive Director, or Superintendent.

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 6-1, Section 6-101, only be amended as follows:

By including the words “or Superintendent” in paragraphs 10, 11, and 16 in place of same so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

6-101. Management of Home

The Masonic Home maintained by The Grand Lodge is located in the City of Macon, Georgia. The Grand Lodge provides support for the Masonic Home by allocation and collection of per capita tax charged each Master Mason who is a member of a Georgia Lodge on June 30th of each year as provided elsewhere in this Code. (Sections 7-101, 7-106)

The Masonic Home is governed by the following regulations:

1. The government and management of the Home shall be by a Board of Trustees to consist of twelve members, one from each Masonic District of the State, whose term of office shall be three years, four of which terms shall expire each year upon the election of their successors at the annual Grand Lodge Communication. The Trustees shall be nominated by their respective District Conventions. The District Master and District Secretary shall certify the name of such nominee to the next Communication of the Grand Lodge which may either elect or reject said nominee. In the event of a rejection the entire membership of the Grand Lodge in attendance shall then elect such Trustee. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to meet as frequently as may be necessary to consistently provide insofar as possible a home, in fact as well as in name, for the children entrusted to their care. The members of the Board of Trustees, collectively and individually, owe responsibility to the Masons of Georgia, due to the mode of their election, and due to the Masonic Home being maintained by the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge requiring that each Mason in Georgia pay a stated amount each year for its support.

2. The members of Grand Lodge in session, therefore, shall have authority to remove any or all regular members of the Board of Trustees, and to elect a successor or successors during the same communication of Grand Lodge. In that event, any successor shall be a member of a Lodge in the same Masonic District as the member removed from office. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Grand Warden shall be ex-officio members of the Board with each ex-officio member having the right to vote and all other privileges of regular members of the Board, except that ex-officio members shall not hold office on the Board of Trustees or serve on committees of the Board of Trustees. Interim vacancies caused by death or resignation shall be filled by appointment made by the Grand Master until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge at which time the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term as herein provided. If an ex-officio member resigns, that position shall remain vacant so long as he remains in the office which gave him ex-officio status on the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall elect from its members the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Board. In addition to these officers, two members shall be elected at large to constitute the Executive Committee.

3. The fiscal affairs of the Home shall be in charge of the Grand Treasurer, who shall be required to give such additional bond as the Board of Trustees may prescribe.

4. Prior to the end of the fiscal year preceding the annual session of the Grand Lodge of Georgia the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall submit to the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Treasurer a complete proposed budget which must be tentatively approved by the Grand Master and either the Deputy Grand Master or Grand Treasurer before any monies for upcoming fiscal year may be spent, and which shall thereafter be presented to the Grand Lodge in session for its approval or modifications as it may seem appropriate.

5. The proposed operating budget shall not exceed the anticipated incomes determined by the Board. The Grand Treasurer shall be consulted as to the anticipated income from the Grand Lodge including per capita tax, income from endowment fund and other income from Grand Lodge. Other anticipated income shall be the same as reported in last year's report available except gifts in excess of \$10,000 appearing to be one-time gifts shall not be included as anticipated income.

6. A copy of a preliminary budget, by categories, shall be published in the annual report of the Board of Trustees or included as a supplement thereto for distribution to those in attendance on the first day of Grand Lodge.

7. No expenditures not included in the budget approved by the Grand Lodge shall be made except under emergent circumstances and then only after approval by the Grand Master and either the Deputy Grand Master or the Grand Treasurer.

8. All monies or other property that are received for use for the Masonic Home that are not designated by the donor for a specific purpose shall immediately be placed in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, unless prior to the receipt thereof the Board of Trustees has recommended a specific capital improvement project for use of the monies so received, together with cost thereof, and such use of said monies has been specifically approved by the Grand Lodge or, between its annual communications, by the Grand Master and

either the Deputy Grand Master or Grand Treasurer as a needed and necessary project. (Edict 1989-1)

9. The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home of Georgia may use designated contributions for the purposes and intents for which they were designated with the prior written consent of the Grand Master. Written report of such receipt and use shall be made to the Grand Lodge by the Board of Trustees at the Annual Communication. (Edict 1989-2)

10. The actual care and supervision of the Home shall be committed to an Executive Director, or Superintendent, to be chosen by the Board of Trustees, to serve according to such terms and under such rules and regulations as the Board may direct.

11. All other officers and staff of the Home shall be recommended by the Executive Director, or Superintendent, and approved by the Board, which shall likewise fix their compensation and benefits.

12. The Board shall be further authorized to adopt such plan of education, mental, moral and industrial, as will best tend to educate and train such orphans as may be committed to the care of the Home and employ such teachers and instructors as may be necessary to carry such plans into successful operation.

13. This Home shall be maintained for children only.

14. The Board of Trustees shall have full authority and power so to regulate, conduct and maintain the Home that it shall be in all respects, as far as their agency can reasonably accomplish, a Home in fact as well as in name for the care, maintenance and education of orphans, priority being given to orphans of Masons. The Board of Trustees shall have full authority to make and prescribe all such rules and regulations as may in their judgement be necessary to govern the admission of applicants to said Home.

15. The Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, use a portion of the funds appropriated for the operation of the Home in defraying the expenses of maintenance and education of children eligible to admission into said Home at places other than said Home, under such rules and regulations as they may adopt.

16. The salary of the Executive Director, or Superintendent, of the Home shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees. No person shall be eligible to be

Executive Director, or Superintendent, who holds any office or is a member of any committee in any Grand Lodge or Grand Body of Masons, including any and all branches thereof in the State of Georgia, and the holding of any office or the acceptance of any appointment on any committee in any such Grand Body of Masons or branch thereof in this State shall disqualify such Executive Director, or Superintendent, from the further performance of his duties as such. However, nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the Executive Director, or Superintendent, from holding any office in any blue or subordinate Lodge.

17. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to admit to the privileges of said Home, children not orphans of Masons, provided that no such child shall be admitted after the Home population reaches ninety percent of its capacity, nor shall such non-Masonic orphans remain in said Home if thereby eligible Masonic orphans are deprived of its privileges. The admission, rejection, dismissal, placing or other handling of such non-Masonic orphans shall be in the discretion of the Board of Trustees and shall conform in all respects to the rules of said Board.

18. The Board of Trustees shall have discretionary power to sell the personal property belonging to the plant of the Masonic Home.

19. The Board of Trustees shall have the control and management of all funds of the Masonic Home of Georgia, acquired by appropriation from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, or by gift from any source, including, but not limited to, the Christmas, Holiday, Entertainment and Comfort Fund, the Education and Endowment Fund, and the Maintenance Fund, and shall have the right to invest and reinvest said funds in such securities as may be lawful for investment of trust funds under the laws of the State of Georgia, Title to such securities shall be in the "Board of Trustees, Masonic Home of Georgia, of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A. M., under Section 6-101(13) of the Masonic Manual and Code of Georgia", provided that nothing contained herein shall be constructed to affect or change the provisions of Section 6-102 of this Masonic Manual and Code pertaining to the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

20. Effective as of the opening of the 2016 annual session of the Grand Lodge and upon the expiration

of the term of any Board member serving prior to that date, whichever is later, no individual Master Mason appointed by the Grand Master, nominated by any one of the twelve Masonic Districts, or elected by the Grand Lodge to serve on said Board shall be eligible to serve more than nine years as a Trustee, consecutive or otherwise, during any fifteen-year period. This limitation applies to all past, present, and future Board members.

21. The Board of Trustees shall be required to submit an annual report to Grand Lodge, during each regular communication thereof, and each annual report shall describe the true conditions existing in the Masonic Home at that time.

Rodger C. Daniel, PM
Alpharetta Lodge No. 235

David E. Shockley, PM
Statham Lodge No. 634

H. Matthew Mobley, PM
Pelham Lodge No. 312

Charles E. Long, PM
Morning Star Lodge No. 349

SUMMARY: This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 6-1, Section 6-101 by changing the title of Executive Director to include "or Superintendent" of the Masonic Home of Georgia. This change provides the option to use the title of Executive Director or Superintendent as needed by the Board of Trustees.

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-12

A Bill to amend Chapter 77-1, Section 77-108.1 of the Masonic Offenses section of the Masonic Code of Georgia to provide for the updating of the language. Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons

That Code Section 77-108.1 of the Masonic Code which reads as follows:

77-108.1 Homosexual Activity

Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. (Edict 2015-4)

be and the same is hereby amended so that said code section would read:

77-108.1 ~~Homosexual~~ Sexual Activity

~~Homosexual~~ Illicit Carnal activity with ~~anyone a brother Master Mason, his wife, widow, orphan, mother, sister, daughter, or any other male or female relative~~ subjects the offender to discipline. (~~Edict 2015-4~~)

Jimmy Labrone Densmore, PM
Dalton Lodge No. 105

Donald Charles Combs, PGM
Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46

Johnie Michael Garmon, PGM
Allegheny Lodge No. 114

Charles Anthony Frazier, PM
Fulton Lodge No. 206
D.D.G.M.(5-D)

Daniel Cody Mulkey, PM
Plainville Lodge No. 364

Timothy O'Neil Cooper, PM
Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154
D.D.G.M. (7-H)

Jose Luis Gomez, Jr., PM
Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154

Erik Bryant Davis, PM
Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154

Drew Martin, PM
Clarence H Cohen Daylight Lodge No. 749

Jerry Wood, PM
Clarence H Cohen Daylight Lodge No. 749

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-13

Withdrawn

CODE BILL NO. 2024-14

A Bill to provide an additional level of, and defining of punishment for use by the Trial Commission, by amending Penal Code Section 83-501, entitled "Classes of Punishment"

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that, **Code Section 83-501**, relating to "**Classes of Punishment**" be amended, so that said section as amended, shall read as follows:

83-501. Classes of Punishment

Masonic punishment, ~~except in cases of non-payment of dues, or where otherwise provided herein,~~ shall be ~~expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, definite suspension, or reprimand~~ *as follows, if found guilty by the Trial Commission and affirmed or amended by the Grand Lodge of Georgia during annual communication:*

*A. **Reprimand:** (issued during a stated meeting, recorded in the minutes, with copy of reprimand issued to the offender)*

*B. **Time served:** (beginning at the date of suspension, until presentation before Grand Lodge for adjudication and final conclusion)*

*C. **Definite Suspension:** (suspension of all right and privileges of a Master Masons for a specific amount of time)*

*D. **Indefinite Suspension:** (Non-Payment of Dues, usually within subordinate Lodge, unless challenged)*

*E. **Expulsion:** (permanent removal of rights and privileges of a Master Mason)*

See Chapter 86 -1 Restoration

Chester Gosdin, PM
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-15

A Bill providing a method of notifying subordinate lodges, appendant and concordant bodies of disciplinary action, by adding a new code section, to be known as Code Section 30-102 of the Masonic Code

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that, Code Section 30-102, relating to “Masonic Separation”, be added, so that said section as added, shall read as follows:

30-102 Masonic Separation

Any Master Mason separated from a subordinate Lodge in Georgia, by demit, expulsion, resignation or suspension (whether indefinitely or definite period of time), automatically forfeits his membership in all appendant and concordant bodies and orders he holds membership in, for duration of separation from a Georgia subordinate lodge. The Grand Lodge Secretary’s Office, at its earliest possible convenience, shall post on Grandview the names of the brethren and lodge(s) who are separated from a subordinate Lodge(s) in this Grand Jurisdiction, accessible by the Lodge secretary or designee

See Code Sections 1-103; 1-204; 30-101(1-C), (2-C); 30-111; 31-106; 77-126; 83-501(proposed); 86-114.

Chester Gosdin, PM
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-16

A bill to allow subordinate lodges the **option** to receive, maintain and disburse funds through an internet/online banking system, by adding a new Code Section, to be known as 23-117A, to the Masonic Code of Georgia.

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that, Code Section 23-117A, relating to Internet/Online Banking, be added so that said section as added shall read as follows:

23-117A Internet/Online Banking for subordinate Lodges

Lodges working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, shall have the option, **if the Lodge so desires, and is approved with a by-law amendment**, use internet/online banking system(s), for receiving, retention, and distribution of accumulated lodge funds. Nothing in this section precludes the issuance of written checks, if so desired. Internet/

online banking accounts, under the name of the subordinate Lodge, shall be under control and responsibility of the treasurer, who shall have authorized access to the account. Two additional brethren, appointed by the Worshipful Master, may be authorized to use said services, in the event of absence and/or vacancy of the treasurer, and only if approved by the Worshipful Master. Any Master Mason using an internet/online banking system for their personal affairs, may if they so desire, forward their annual dues to the Lodge through their individual financial institution to the secretary, provided the dues submitted are received prior to May 01 annually. This section shall not nullify the procedure for issuing “pay orders and/or warrants” for dispersal of funds, nor the need for an annual audit. The secretary and treasurer shall provide the Auditing Committee or the Certified Public Accountant printed bank records and other documentation necessary for auditing prior to annual communications.

See Code Sections 23-117, 23-129, 25-116, 26-102

Chester Gosdin, PM
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-17

A bill to provide for amending Section(s) 12-102 of the Masonic Code to bring many Georgia Lodges into compliance with the Masonic Code of Georgia.

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons “That, Code Section 12-102 relating to Past Master Emblems, be amended so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

[...]Jewels for subordinate lodges of silver or white metal without a wreath shall be as follows:

- (a) Master - The square
- (b) Past Masters - The compasses, extending to sixty degrees on an arc, enclosing meridian sun. Optionally with or without a square between the compasses and arc.
- (c) Senior Warden - The level (d) Junior Warden - The plumb
- (e) Treasurer - The key, single or crossed
- (f) Secretary - The pen, single or crossed
- (g) Deacons – The square and compasses, sun, and crescent

- (h) Stewards – The cornucopias
- (i) Tyler – A sword, single or crossed.

Drew Martin, PM
Clarence H Cohen Daylight Lodge No. 749

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-18

**SKELTON FORM OF BILL FOR
ENACTMENT OF LAWS**

A bill to provide for amending Section(s) 12-101 of the Masonic Code to bring many Georgia Lodges into compliance with the Masonic Code of Georgia.

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that, Code Section 12-101, relating to Lodge Officer Collars, which currently reads as follows: “12-101.

Clothing The following Masonic clothing and insignia shall be worn by the Craft, provided, however, that any aprons actually in use on October 25, 2000, that do not conform to these requirements may continue to be used during such apron's individual lifetime. Aprons and collars shall be as follows:

(a) Master Masons - A plain white apron, preferably lambskin 13 inches by 15 inches in size, and, at the pleasure of the wearer, a lining, edging, or bordering not greater than 1 inch, tassels, the All-seeing Eye and/or the Lodge name and number on the flap and such emblems as may appertain to the Degree on the bib, all in blue or silver or white color.

(b) Lodge Officers - Aprons of a similar character with the emblems of their office wrought in blue, silver, or white on the bib and the bordering or edging may be not greater than 1.5 inches. All officers in a particular Lodge shall wear similar aprons. Past Masters may have the emblem of their office wrought in blue, white, or silver and may have blue, white or silver fringe. Collars of officers may be a blue rope with the emblem of the office suspended therefrom or collars of silk or velvet without fringe, with the emblem of office suspended or embroidered thereon in silver. The collar of Masters of Lodges may be rope, silver or plated chains or collars of silk or velvet with Worshipful Masters Optionally having silver or white fringe with the square suspended or embroidered thereon in silver, with a

sprig of acacia on one side and an ear of wheat with stem and leaves on the other, or three stars on each side. Lodges shall not use the gold color on their aprons or collars.”, “be and the same is hereby repealed.”
“12-101.

Clothing The following Masonic clothing and insignia shall be worn by the Craft, provided, however, that any aprons actually in use on October 25, 2000, that do not conform to these requirements may continue to be used during such apron's individual lifetime. Aprons and collars shall be as follows:

(a) Master Masons - A plain white apron, preferably lambskin 13 inches by 15 inches in size, and, at the pleasure of the wearer, a lining, edging, or bordering not greater than 1 inch, tassels, the All-seeing Eye and/or the Lodge name and number on the flap and such emblems as may appertain to the Degree on the bib, all in blue or silver or white color.

(b) Lodge Officers - Aprons of a similar character with the emblems of their office wrought in blue, silver, or white on the bib and the bordering or edging may be not greater than 1.5 inches. All officers in a particular Lodge shall wear similar aprons. Past Masters may have the emblem of their office wrought in blue, white, or silver and may have blue, white or silver fringe. Collars of officers may be a blue rope with the emblem of the office suspended therefrom or collars of silk or velvet without fringe, with the emblem of office suspended or embroidered thereon in silver. The collar of Masters of Lodges may be rope, silver or plated chains or collars of silk or velvet with Worshipful Masters Optionally having silver or white fringe with the square suspended or embroidered thereon in silver, with a sprig of acacia on one side and an ear of wheat with stem and leaves on the other, or three stars on each side. Lodges shall not use the gold color on their aprons or collars.

Drew Martin, PM
Clarence H Cohen Daylight Lodge No. 749

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-19

A Bill to amend the procedures establishing a Spending Policy for the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment

Fund which is consistent with the goals and mission of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund and in compliance with all Federal and State of Georgia laws applicable to the Fund, while working to further strengthen the financial base of the Fund, by amending Sections 2-215 and 6-102 of the Masonic Code.

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that, Masonic Code **Section 2-215**, relating to the **Properties and Investment Committee**, be amended, so that said section as amended, shall read as follows:

2-215. Properties and Investment Committee

The Properties and Investment Committee shall consist of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer, a member of the Finance Committee appointed by the incoming Grand Master and three other members experienced in investments and financial matters. The incoming Grand Master shall appoint one member for a term of three years to succeed the member whose term has expired. The Grand Master shall appoint one of the members of the Committee to serve as Chairman during his term of office. The Committee shall elect for a one-year term a Secretary who shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Committee.

This Committee shall be in charge of and have supervision over all real estate and intangible properties not specifically used by other Grand Lodge Committees, Boards and/or Councils.

This Committee shall have the control and management of all funds of the Grand Lodge of Georgia made available to the Committee for investment by the Grand Lodge and or the Grand Treasurer; and, shall have the authority to invest and reinvest the corpus of said funds only as permitted under the laws of the state of Georgia for executors and trustees, and in making investments and managing the corpus shall exercise the judgment and care that a prudent person would acting in a like capacity. At no time may more than 75% of the corpus, at cost, be invested in equity securities, i.e., common, and preferred stocks. This committee may employ agents,

advisors and/or counsel. Any debt securities purchased by this committee shall be rated investment grade or higher, based on the credit rating assigned by a credit rating agency registered as such with the Securities and Exchange Commission, such as Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard and Poor's Ratings Services.

The Chairman and Secretary of this Committee may Sign for the Committee in the transferring or surrendering for payment of any securities authorized by the Committee to be transferred or surrendered.

It shall be the duty of this Committee, and none other to handle on behalf of the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Home, any and all matters of a legal and or business nature involving all estates and trusts in which the Grand Lodge and or the Masonic Home is a beneficiary, personal representative, trustee or is involved in any other matter.

The Chairman of this Committee shall be authorized to acknowledge legal service on behalf of the Grand Lodge and/or the Masonic Home, and shall further be authorized to take such action, legal or otherwise, as the Committee deems appropriate in all matters, including the right to compromise claims, employ legal counsel, initiate, join in and/or respond to any legal action now or hereafter being litigated.

The Committee shall submit a full and complete report of all its actions to each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

~~It shall also be the duty of this Committee to prepare a Statement of Spending Policy for the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund which is consistent with the goals and mission of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund and in compliance with all Federal and State of Georgia laws applicable to the Fund. The purpose of this Policy is to put in place a consistent plan that will enable the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund to approve and disburse funds that fulfill the goals and mission of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund while working to further strengthen the financial base of the Fund. Such Statement of Spending Policy, upon being approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of this Committee, shall be~~

~~referred to the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, and shall be adopted upon being approved by a majority of such Trustees.~~

And that, Masonic Code **Section 6-102**, relating to the **Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund**, be amended, so that said section as amended, shall read as follows:

6-102. Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund

The Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund is hereby declared always to have been, and now is, a perpetual trust fund for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home of Georgia and/or orphans.

The corpus of this fund shall not be used, except for investment or reinvestment in the manner herein expressly provided, and only the income thereof shall be expended, ~~and that,~~ On or before August 31st of each year, the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund shall make a distribution available determine the available distribution for the succeeding fiscal year ending on August 31st, to be used for the support and maintenance of the Masonic Home and/or orphans under the direction of the Trustees of said Home, and for expenses necessary for continued efforts to obtain contributions to the fund and management of the fund.

~~Said annual~~ The determination of said available distribution shall be made consistent with the spending policy adopted pursuant to this Code Section as herein stated. Such available distributions which are not disbursed for any reason shall be available for disbursement in future years. However, by a majority action of the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, amounts previously made available for distribution, or any portion thereof, which remain undistributed after one year, may be added to the corpus of the fund on a case-by-case basis.

All monies contributed to or otherwise acquired for the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, including but not limited to proceeds from the sale of property donated to said fund, shall become a part of

the corpus of said fund, for investment or reinvestment as herein stated.

Expenses of maintaining and managing the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, and expenses of promoting the continued growth thereof shall be paid from the available distribution from the existing fund. The usage of the available distribution for this purpose shall have priority over the use of such available distribution for any other purpose.

The only exception to the requirement concerning all monies being deposited in the Endowment Fund without deduction being made for any purpose, shall be in the event of legal expenses made necessary by litigation proposed or encountered regarding money or property bequeathed to the Endowment Fund. If the Trustees of the Endowment Fund decide that the amount of such cost involved is greater than should be paid from the available distribution from the existing fund, the actual cost of such legal expenses may be deducted from the proceeds of that particular bequeathed gift before depositing same, but only by unanimous vote of all three Trustees of the Endowment Fund duly recorded in the minutes of their meeting at which the decision was made. Should legal expenses be incurred, however, and litigation results in loss of the bequeathed gift involved, said expenses shall be paid from the available distribution from the existing Endowment Fund, and not from the corpus of said fund. These provisions are effective with the beginning of the fiscal year 2014.

Title to said fund is vested in the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, who shall consist of the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, then or at any time serving as such. This Board of Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, by a majority vote of the whole Board at a duly called meeting, shall have authority to sell, redeem, accept payment, invest or reinvest and to make transfers of any item or asset of said fund, and to sign transfers of all or any part thereof for any purpose herein provided and to authorize the payment to the Trustees of the Masonic Home of the available distribution, subject to all priorities and exceptions

established in this Code Section, for the purpose hereinbefore stated.

The said fund shall be held by said Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund and may be retained in their present form in the discretion of the Trustees. No future investment of the corpus thereof shall be made except in securities now or hereafter authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia as lawful investments for fiduciary or trust funds. All bonds and securities capable of registration shall be registered in the name of Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund and their successors in office as such trustees.

The said Trustees may elect officers and prescribe their duties and powers and may act in any matter through any two of said trustees to the extent of authority given by resolution at a regularly held meeting. Any two Trustees may sign for the Board in the transferring or surrendering for payment of any securities authorized by the Board to be transferred or surrendered. The Grand Treasurer shall be Treasurer of said Board of Trustees and shall give such bond as the Board shall prescribe. The Trustees shall keep minutes of all their proceedings. (Section 4-403)

The term “income,” as used in Code Section 6-102, Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, shall be defined as interest, dividends, or net realized capital gains or losses from the sale, exchange or liquidation of a principal asset or investment. This definition shall not be construed to allow the use of any portion of the corpus of the perpetual trust fund known as Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

The purpose of the spending policy shall be to put in place a consistent plan that will enable the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund to approve and disburse funds that fulfill the goals and mission of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, while working to further strengthen the financial base of the Fund and maintaining compliance with all Federal and State of Georgia laws applicable to the Fund.

The term “spending policy”, as used in Code Section 6-102, Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund,

shall be defined as follows: The available distribution pursuant to this Code Section shall be determined by applying a spending rate not to exceed four percent (4%) per annum to the trailing five-year moving average market value of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund. Such trailing five-year moving average market value shall be computed by using the market value of such fund as of August 31st for the previous five years prior to determination. No distribution should be made which exceeds the amount of the income received by the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund during the twelve calendar months prior to the month in which the available distribution is determined.

Larry W. Nichols, PM
Atlanta-Peachtree Lodge No. 59

Donald C. Combs, PM
Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46

Raymond C. Gray, Sr. PM
Tucker Lodge No. 42

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, PM
Columbian Lodge No. 7

Tom Holt, PM
Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26

M. Gary Monk, PM
Roswell Lodge No. 165

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-20

A Bill to prohibit the use of the corpus and/or income of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund as collateral or security for any obligation or debt, by amending Section 6-102 of the Masonic Code.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE
OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS**

That, Masonic Code **Section 6-102**, relating to the **Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund**, be amended, so that said section as amended, shall read as follows:

6-102. Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund

The Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund is hereby declared always to have been, and now is, a perpetual trust fund for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home of Georgia and/or orphans.

The corpus and/or the income of said fund shall not be pledged as collateral or otherwise used as security for any obligation or debt. The corpus of this fund shall not be used, except for investment or reinvestment in the manner herein expressly provided, and only the income thereof shall be expended, and that, each year, the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund shall make a distribution available for the support and maintenance of the Masonic Home and/or orphans under the direction of the Trustees of said Home, and for expenses necessary for continued efforts to obtain contributions to the fund and management of the fund.

Said annual distribution shall be made consistent with the spending policy adopted pursuant to this Code Section. Such available distributions which are not disbursed for any reason shall be available for disbursement in future years. However, by a majority action of the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, amounts previously made available for distribution, or any portion thereof, which remain undistributed after one year, may be added to the corpus of the fund on a case-by-case basis.

All monies contributed to or otherwise acquired for the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, including but not limited to proceeds from the sale of property donated to said fund, shall become a part of the corpus of said fund, for investment or reinvestment as herein stated.

Expenses of maintaining and managing the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, and expenses of promoting the continued growth thereof shall be paid from the available distribution from the existing fund. The usage of the available distribution for this purpose

shall have priority over the use of such available distribution for any other purpose.

The only exception to the requirement concerning all monies being deposited in the Endowment Fund without deduction being made for any purpose, shall be in the event of legal expenses made necessary by litigation proposed or encountered regarding money or property bequeathed to the Endowment Fund. If the Trustees of the Endowment Fund decide that the amount of such cost involved is greater than should be paid from the available distribution from the existing fund, the actual cost of such legal expenses may be deducted from the proceeds of that particular bequeathed gift before depositing same, but only by unanimous vote of all three Trustees of the Endowment Fund duly recorded in the minutes of their meeting at which the decision was made. Should legal expenses be incurred, however, and litigation results in loss of the bequeathed gift involved, said expenses shall be paid from the available distribution from the existing Endowment Fund, and not from the corpus of said fund. These provisions are effective with the beginning of the fiscal year 2014.

Title to said fund is vested in the Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, who shall consist of the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, then or at any time serving as such. This Board of Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, by a majority vote of the whole Board at a duly called meeting, shall have authority to sell, redeem, accept payment, invest or reinvest and to make transfers of any item or asset of said fund, and to sign transfers of all or any part thereof for any purpose herein provided and to authorize the payment to the Trustees of the Masonic Home of the available distribution, subject to all priorities and exceptions established in this Code Section, for the purpose hereinbefore stated.

The said fund shall be held by said Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund and may be retained in their present form in the discretion of the Trustees. No future investment of the corpus thereof shall be made except in securities now or hereafter authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia as lawful investments for fiduciary or trust funds. All bonds and securities capable of registration

shall be registered in the name of Trustees of the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund and their successors in office as such trustees.

The said Trustees may elect officers and prescribe their duties and powers and may act in any matter through any two of said trustees to the extent of authority given by resolution at a regularly held meeting. Any two Trustees may sign for the Board in the transferring or surrendering for payment of any securities authorized by the Board to be transferred or surrendered. The Grand Treasurer shall be Treasurer of said Board of Trustees and shall give such bond as the Board shall prescribe. The Trustees shall keep minutes of all their proceedings. (Section 4-403)

The term "income," as used in Code Section 6-102, Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund, shall be defined as interest, dividends, or net realized capital gains or losses from the sale, exchange or liquidation of a principal asset or investment. This definition shall not be construed to allow the use of any portion of the corpus of the perpetual trust fund known as Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

Larry W. Nichols, PM
Atlanta-Peachtree Lodge No. 59

Donald C. Combs, PM
Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46

Raymond C. Gray, Sr. PM
Tucker Lodge No. 42

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, PM
Columbian Lodge No. 7

Tom Holt, PM
Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26

M. Gary Monk, PM
Roswell Lodge No. 165

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-21

A bill to amend **Chapter 7-1, Section 7-101**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia to provide for a per capita increase over the next six years.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code **Chapter 7-1, Section 7-101**, only be amended as follows:

7-101. Dues and Fees

There shall be paid to the Grand Lodge as follows:

For a Warrant	\$70.00
For a Dispensation to hold Lodges	\$15.00
For a Dispensation to hold Elections	\$3.00
For a Dispensation to Initiate, Pass or Raise more than five Brethren at one Communication, for each additional Brother	\$1.00
For a Dispensation to Examine, Ballot for Advancement, and Confer Degree not on a regular meeting night or within two weeks of the preceding degree, for each candidate for each degree. (Section 46-101)	\$2.50
For a Dispensation for any other purpose	\$1.00
For every Initiation by a Lodge whether chartered or under dispensation	\$3.50
For every Initiation by a Lodge whether chartered or under dispensation for the benevolent fund. (Section 7-102)	\$10.00
For every Candidate Raised, for remittance to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. (Section 7-104)	\$5.00
For every Member reinstated	\$3.50
For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in each year and who is not a perpetual member, per annum	\$16.00
<u>For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in 2025 and who is not a perpetual member, for one year</u>	<u>\$18.00</u>

<u>For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in 2026 and who is not a perpetual member, for one year</u>	<u>\$18.50</u>	Dennis Hewatt, P.M. Roswell Lodge No. 165
<u>For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in 2027 and who is not a perpetual member, for one year</u>	<u>\$19.00</u>	Benjamin W. Polston, II, P.M. Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6
<u>For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in 2028 and who is not a perpetual member, for one year</u>	<u>\$19.75</u>	E. Ray Knittel, P.M. Cohutta Lodge No. 64
<u>For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in 2029 and who is not a perpetual member, for one year</u>	<u>\$20.50</u>	Joseph Oelgoetz, III, P.M. Columbian Lodge No. 7
<u>For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in 2030, who is not a perpetual member, per annum</u>	<u>\$21.25</u>	Raymond C. Gray, Sr., P.M. Tucker Lodge No. 42
For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in each year and who is not a perpetual member, per annum for publication of the Masonic Messenger	\$4.00	<i>Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.</i>
For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in each year and who is not a perpetual member and charged with dues, per annum, for pensions and retirement pay for employees of the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Home (*as changed 1999)	\$1.00	<u>CODE BILL NO. 2024-22</u>
For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in each year and who is not a perpetual member, for the operation and maintenance of the Masonic Home per annum	\$10.00	A bill to change the wording in certain sections of code 2-213, A, & B by changing the wording in Section 2-213, A, & B by striking the wording or adding the wording And included changes in Code Section 77-122
For every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th day of June in each year and who is not a perpetual member, for Masonic Relief administered by the Board of Relief, per annum	\$2.00	2-213 The Grand Master shall appoint a Board of Custodians of the Uniform Work consisting of one Custodian for each Masonic District. Each shall serve for a term of six (6) years, provided that the Custodians now serving shall hold office until the expiration of their terms which expire at the regular communication of the Grand Lodge and the district and in the years as follows:) to read, The Grand Master shall appoint a Board of Custodians <u>and a State Chairman</u> of the Uniform Work consisting of one Custodian <u>and an Assistant Custodian</u> for each Masonic District. Each shall serve for a term of six (6) years, provided that the Custodians now serving shall hold office until the expiration of their terms which expire at the regular communication of the Grand Lodge and the district and in the years as follows:

The Board of Custodians will meet within seven (7) days after Grand Lodge and elect a **Chairman** ~~and~~

Secretary, who will serve a term of one (1) year. Upon the expiration of their respective terms, all appointments and all vacancies occurring during said terms shall be filled by the Grand Master, after receiving recommendations from the Board of Custodians, however, such recommendations shall not be binding. Any appointment made hereunder may be revoked by the Grand Master.

The Worshipful Master of each Lodge shall appoint a Director of Work during the Annual Communication of the Lodge. The Brother appointed shall be well-versed in the ritualistic work of the Lodge and shall receive assistance when needed from the District Custodian, or from well-informed Directors of Work in other Lodges which use the same ritualism used in his Lodge. It shall be his duty to organize and assist in Schools of Instruction. The Secretary of each Lodge shall be required to include the name and address of the Director of Work when the names of the officers are reported to the Grand Secretary and same shall be available to each member of the Board of Custodians. The Director of Work is not considered an officer of the Lodge as such.

The District Custodians shall be entitled to the same mileage and per diem as are provided for committeemen.

Section 2-213 A

By striking the wording ~~((3) have been recommended for such designation by the Board of Custodians, and)~~ and replacing it with The wording; (3) have been recommended by the Chairman of the board of Custodians,

2-213 A

A Custodian Emeritus shall be those persons now having such designation and those persons hereafter who (1) are no longer Custodians of the uniform work, (2) have served in such capacity for not less than six (6) years, = (3) have been recommended by the Chairman of the board of Custodians, (4) have been so designated by the Grand Master serving at the time of the recommendation.

Upon the request of the Custodian of a particular district, a Custodian Emeritus may utilize such Custodian's copy of the cipher code out of the presence of said Custodian for the purposes of instruction of the craft in said district in the use of the uniform work; provided, however, that said Custodian

Emeritus shall protect and preserve said copy and keep the same under the same security as is required of the Custodians by the Masonic Law of this State while the same is in his possession, and further provided that said Custodian Emeritus shall attend at least one of the Board of Custodian's meetings each year. (Edict 1989-3, Section 77-122) Masonic Code 2024 14

2-213 B

By striking the wording;

Upon request by the District Custodian, the Grand Master may appoint one Assistant Custodian for the Masonic District of the Custodian making the request.

AND

Striking the wording,

The term of office of the Assistant Custodian shall be the tenure of the Grand Master so appointing him.

And Adding the wording

The **Custodian and** Assistant Custodian shall attend all meetings of the Board of Custodians, unless excused by the Chairman of the Board of Custodians.

Causing the entire section to read

-213(b)

The Assistant Custodian shall possess all the qualifications of the Custodian and shall perform all the duties of the Custodian in that district, excepting that in the case of the necessity of an interpretation of some point of the uniform work, the Custodian's interpretation shall prevail. The Assistant Custodian shall be provided a copy of the Cipher Code for purposes of instruction of the craft in said district in the use of the uniform work; provided, however, that said Assistant Custodian shall protect and preserve said copy and keep the same under the same security as is required of the Custodians by the Masonic Law of this State while the same is in his possession. The Custodian and Assistant Custodian shall attend all meetings of the Board of Custodians, unless excused by the Chairman of the Board of Custodians.

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2-213. Board of Custodians

The Grand Master shall appoint a Board of Custodians and a State Chairman of the Uniform Work consisting of one Custodian and an Assistant Custodian for each Masonic District. Each shall serve for a term of six (6) years, provided that the Custodians now serving shall hold office until the expiration of their terms which expire at the regular communication of the Grand Lodge and the district and in the years as follows:

- 1st and 2nd District Terms expire in 1978 (Next: 2026)
- 3rd and 4th District Terms expire in 1979 (Next: 2027)
- 5th and 6th District Terms expire in 1980 (Next: 2028)
- 7th and 8th District Terms expire in 1981 (Next: 2023)
- 9th and 10th District Terms expire in 1982 (Next: 2024)
- 11th and 12th District Terms expire in 1983 (Next: 2025)

The Board of Custodians will meet within seven (7) days after Grand Lodge and elect a Secretary, who will serve a term of one (1) year. Upon the expiration of their respective terms, all appointments and all vacancies occurring during said terms shall be filled by the Grand Master, after receiving recommendations from the Board of Custodians, however, such recommendations shall not be binding. Any appointment made hereunder may be revoked by the Grand Master.

The Worshipful Master of each Lodge shall appoint a Director of Work during the Annual Communication of the Lodge. The Brother appointed shall be well-versed in the ritualistic work of the Lodge and shall receive assistance when needed from the District Custodian, or from well-informed Directors of Work in other Lodges which use the same ritualism used in his Lodge. It shall be his duty to organize and assist in Schools of Instruction. The Secretary of each Lodge shall be required to include the name and address of the Director of Work when the names of the officers are reported to the Grand Secretary and same shall be available to each member of the Board of Custodians. The Director of Work is not considered an officer of the Lodge as such.

The District Custodians shall be entitled to the same mileage and per diem as are provided for committeemen.

2-213(a)

A Custodian Emeritus shall be those persons now having such designation and those persons hereafter who (1) are no longer Custodians of the uniform work, (2) have served in such capacity for not less than six (6) years, (3) have been recommended by the Chairman of the board of Custodians, (4) have been so designated by the Grand Master serving at the time of the recommendation.

Upon the request of the Custodian of a particular district, a Custodian Emeritus may utilize such Custodian's copy of the cipher code out of the presence of said Custodian for the purposes of instruction of the craft in said district in the use of the uniform work; provided, however, that said Custodian Emeritus shall protect and preserve said copy and keep the same under the same security as is required of the Custodians by the Masonic Law of this State while the same is in his possession, and further provided that said Custodian Emeritus shall attend at least one of the Board of Custodian's meetings each year. (Edict 1989-3, Section 77-122) Masonic Code 2024 14

Upon the request of the Custodian of a particular district, a Custodian Emeritus may utilize such Custodian's copy of the cipher code out of the presence of said Custodian for the purposes of instruction of the craft in said district in the use of the uniform work; provided, however, that said Custodian Emeritus shall protect and preserve said copy and keep the same under the same security as is required of the Custodians by the Masonic Law of this State while the same is in his possession, and further provided that said Custodian Emeritus shall attend at least one of the Board of Custodian's meetings each year. (Edict 1989-3, Section 77-122) Masonic Code 2024 14

2-213(b).

Upon request by the District Custodian, the Grand Master may appoint one Assistant Custodian for the Masonic District of the Custodian making the request. The Assistant Custodian shall possess all the qualifications of the Custodian and shall perform all the duties of the Custodian in that district, excepting that in the case of the necessity of an interpretation of

some point of the uniform work, the Custodian's interpretation shall prevail. The term of office of the Assistant Custodian shall be the tenure of the Grand Master so appointing him. The Assistant Custodian shall be provided a copy of the Cipher Code for purposes of instruction of the craft in said district in the use of the uniform work; provided, however, that said Assistant Custodian shall protect and preserve said copy and keep the same under the same security as is required of the Custodians by the Masonic Law of this State while the same is in his possession. The Custodian and Assistant Custodian shall attend all meetings of the Board of Custodians, unless excused by the Chairman of the Board of Custodians.

Russell Gee, PM
Gainesville Lodge No. 219

Walter D. Dacus, PM
Buford Lodge No. 292

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-23

A Bill to amend Section 1-302. Elections and Appointments of the Masonic Code relating to Election and Appointments of Grand Line Officers by addressing the way Officers are elected or Appointed to Office

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

that section 1-302 of the Masonic Code, the word **NOT** and **IF** be removed and the words "**individual paper**" and replaced by the word "**when**" and the sentence "**shall be accompanied by a list of qualifications by the nominator and no consideration shall be given by a nomination from a formed committee, Each District will be allowed to make one (1) nomination for the station of "Junior Grand Warden"** and the sentence "**All Appointments are for a one year period**" be added

1-302. Elections and Appointments

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be elected by individual paper ballot on the first afternoon of the annual communication, before any other business is taken up, and a majority of all the votes present shall be necessary to a choice. Nominations are ~~not~~ required, and ~~if~~—**when** made **shall be accompanied by a list of qualifications by the nominator and no consideration shall be given by a nomination from a formed committee, Each District will be allowed to make one (1) nomination for the station of "Junior Grand Warden"** but do not affect the privilege of those present to vote for any member of Grand Lodge. The Grand Deacons and the Grand Tyler shall be appointed by the first four Grand Officers, the Grand Marshal, Grand Chaplain, and the First Grand Steward, by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Second Grand Steward shall be appointed by the Senior Grand Warden, and the Third Grand Steward by the Junior Grand Warden. Should the Grand Master be absent, the above appointments shall be made by the officer discharging his duties, as hereinafter provided. All Grand Officers, when installed, shall hold their offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed and installed, **All Appointments are for a one year period.**

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1-302. Elections and Appointments

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be elected by individual paper ballot on the first afternoon of the annual communication, before any other business is taken up, and a majority of all the votes present shall be necessary to a choice. Nominations are required, and when made shall be accompanied by a list of qualifications by the nominator and no consideration shall be given by a nomination from a formed committee, Each District will be allowed to make one (1) nomination for the station of Junior Grand Warden, but do not affect the privilege of those present to vote for any member of Grand Lodge. The Grand Deacons and the Grand Tyler shall be appointed by the first four Grand Officers, the Grand Marshal, Grand Chaplain, and the First Grand Steward, by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Second Grand Steward shall be appointed by the Senior Grand Warden, and the Third Grand

Steward by the Junior Grand Warden. Should the Grand Master be absent, the above appointments shall be made by the officer discharging his duties, as hereinafter provided. All Grand Officers, when installed, shall hold their offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed and installed, All Appointments are for a one (1) year period.

James Russell Gee, PM
Gainesville Lodge No. 219

Walter D. Dacus, PM
Buford Lodge No. 292

Jurisprudence Committee: This bill is not in proper legal form.

CODE BILL NO. 2024-24

77-122. Cipher Code

It is a violation of Masonic law in Georgia to use any description of key, cipher, or written work of a secret character. It is also unlawful for any member to give, sell, furnish, or to keep in stock in any bookstore or place of business, the management of which he may control in any manner, any printed, engraved, typewritten, or written book, pamphlet or leaflet containing anything whatsoever pertaining to a key, cipher, or written or printed work of a secret character. Any member so offending shall be charged with gross un-Masonic conduct by his Lodge and tried. Upon conviction, he shall be subject to expulsion or to suspension for a definite period, dependent upon the gravity of the circumstances.

Provided, that for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the work, one copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work as approved by the Grand Lodge shall be kept by the Grand Secretary in the safe of the Grand Lodge and shall be removed only for use by the Board of Custodians by and with the consent of the Grand Master. It shall not be removed from the building in which the Grand Lodge is located and shall be immediately returned to the Grand Secretary upon the conclusion of the session of the Board of Custodians. Twenty five copies shall be made of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work, one copy to be given to each District Custodian and one copy to each Assistant Custodian and one copy to the State Director of Custodians, to be kept under lock and key by said

Custodian except when in actual use, and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. One copy of the Cipher code will be made and given to each Assistant Custodian except when in actual use and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. (Edict 1989-3, Section 213(a))

Russell Gee, PM
Gainesville Lodge No. 219

Walter Dacus, PM
Buford Lodge No. 292

Jurisprudence Committee: The bill is not in proper legal form.



PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

of the Grand Lodge of Georgia



Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

In an attempt to standardize publication dates and deadlines, the Publications Committee has determined to put in place the following deadlines for submissions.

Spring (March) Issue: deadline for content-Feb 1

Summer (June) Issue: deadline for content-May 1

Fall (September) Issue: deadline for content- August 1

Winter (December) Issue: deadline for content- November 1

When you make a submission to messenger@glofga.org, you should receive an automatic reply noting that your submission was received. If you are submitting a 50, 60, 70+ Award, you will get a second email notifying you when your award will run in the Messenger.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL, please check the email address or call the Editor at 770-608-6232 for issues.

Happy Birthday

By Brother Benjamin Collins

Altamaha Lodge No. 227

The following letter was sent to Altamaha Lodge No. 227 from the Masonic Children's Home Ambassador from Altamaha Lodge No. 227, it was forwarded to the Editor by Worshipful Brother Matthew C. Woods. It is reproduced here in the Messenger as it brought a smile to my face, as I hope it will do the same for the reader. We do good work Brethren. We make a difference in the lives of children. Keep up the good work Brethren.

Brethren,

Tuesdays and Thursdays being the most common evenings for Masons to gather and enjoy fellowship Thursday; March 21st, 2024 will resonate in my mind for years to come. A fellow Brother PM Lamar Dowd, my daughter Hailey, and I had the opportunity to fellowship together with a visit to the Masonic Home of Georgia. The intent of the visit was to deliver Easter baskets for all the kids at the home and celebrate the birthday of our amenity child.

As many of you may know to take a child offsite the child gets to select at least one other to go with them. This being my first time as Ambassador planning for an offsite activity I was a bit nervous to say the least. Our amenity child, Mr. Rayden Kilgore, had mentioned back at Christmas that he would like to go shooting for his birthday. Due to age that wasn't possible so my wife, daughter, and I brainstormed and thought laser tag may be a pretty good alternative. So, the wheels turned, plans were made, and the day rolled around.

Lamar, Hailey, and I lit out to Macon with 24 Easter baskets and personalized camp chairs that my wife, Angela, prepared with love for all the kids. No chocolate was injured due to melting in this long-winded story. The ride up there was typical with small talk. Lamar and I realized that we likely have crossed paths many times in our lives unknowingly that we would later become Brothers. When we arrived at the Home, we were welcomed by Mr. Jeff Cohen and the staff with

open arms as always. The love that resonates from the walls of the main building and these people that fill the various roles is clearly evident. You can see that it is all for the kids first and the Masonic family second, making walking in the door feel like home even for those that have not grown up there, let alone just learned of its significance in the last 3 years.

The Easter baskets being special to our recently passed on Brother, PM Bobby Coble, it was and is an honor to be part of the making and delivery of these gifts. The baskets were received by the staff with huge gratitude and appreciation. Hearing Bobby's story of how he single-handedly raised enough money in one year to support the Easter basket project for 2 years they were awed by his devotion to the children. After arranging the baskets and chairs in the lobby for the kids to receive them after dinner we had an opportunity to sit and talk with Chris Babcock. His knowledge of the kids is impossible to comprehend. Having served the home 30+ years Chris obviously has a gift from God to relate, discipline, parent, but above all else LOVE those kids. In our conversation we learned specifics about Rayden and whom he selected to go with him to celebrate.

Unknowingly, Rayden has an older sister at the Home and that's who he wanted to join us for his birthday outing. Not sure what he needed or wanted for his birthday we opted to take him to Walmart to pick his own gift. That plan was the best thing we could have done. On the ride there we learned that Deja, his sister, was also celebrating a birthday the following Monday. We instantly included her in the birthday celebrations and encouraged her to pick a gift out as well.

This is where the story becomes important to all Masons, everywhere. As we entered Walmart Deja and Hailey went to shop girl stuff while Lamar and I went with Rayden to the boy stuff. As Rayden led the way with Lamar and I two by two behind him Rayden said the most unusual thing to

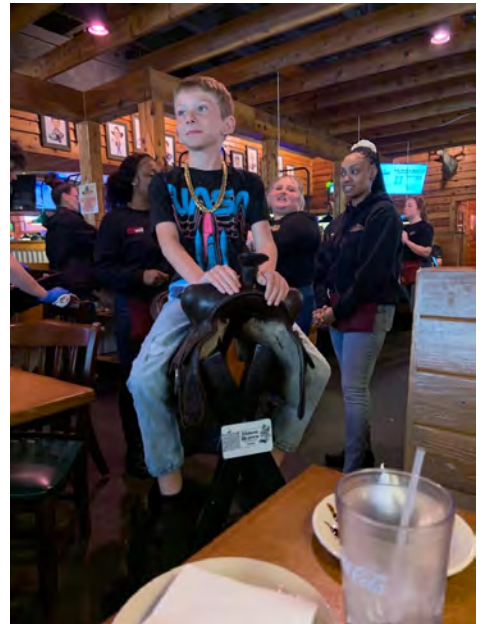


us. He said, “I can’t believe I am walking through Walmart with Masons.” Humbly, I quickly told him we are just regular people and he said he knew that, but we were Masons. As I type this my eyes well up. Before God we are to humble ourselves in His service. At that moment I realized that what we are as Masons, while we are humble in our actions, we are important. We must stand upright at all times as we are observed and revered even when we do not realize it.

From Walmart we scurried over to Texas Roadhouse. When looking at the menu Rayden asked if they could order anything. The surprise on his and his sisters faces when they were told it was their birthday dinner and they could order whatever they wanted was priceless. It was a reminder to me what we often take for granted in the everyday lives that we live. The kids at the Home are well taken care of but we must remember that they often do not come from backgrounds that gave them the opportunities that many of us have. If you have ever

been to Texas Roadhouse, you will know that they make a big ta-do over a birthday. Now enters the saddle on wheels and Rayden lit up! He jumped on the saddle and smiled a smile that likely left his cheeks hurting afterwards as the wait staff sang and chanted happy birthday. Afterwards we planned our exit to head out to laser tag. Rayden got up from the table and was mocking Lamar; hunched over, with a makeshift gun made with both pointer fingers, saying “I’m going to get you”. Lamar was taken aback by the mockery but could not resist the urge to laugh and poke back.

Entering laser tag the joking about Lamar being feeble and Rayden out gunning him continued. I have not seen Lamar smile and laugh so much since I met him, and the kids had fun too. After three rounds us old guys were struggling to breathe but Lamar was excited to have placed first in the third round. Secretly, Rayden and I ganged up on the other three and our scores together made us the victors overall.



After returning Rayden and Deja to the Home we bid our goodbyes with hugs and handshakes. Headed back to our world I left knowing that I was leaving a piece of me there. My wife told me before we left that this day with a special young man would be a pivotal moment in his life. I wasn’t sure that it would be so special. To be honest with all the activities that other Lodges do with the kids I kind of thought our Lodge’s little birthday outing would just be another “something to do”. I was badly mistaken. The experiences had by Rayden, Deja, Hailey, Lamar, and I are those that will last for years to come in all of our hearts and minds.

I am thankful for the opportunities God has given me through fellowship and fraternity with Altamaha Lodge #227. To be a part of something bigger than us individually and to grow from those around us is part of what Masonry is about. Scripture says, “iron sharpens iron.” I can only hope that my recount of the events on Thursday March 21st, 2024, somehow resonates with you and sharpens your iron be it through inspiration, laughter, or thought provocation. If you have a chance to interact with the kids at the Home, please do so! They need relationships as much or maybe even more than our gifts and cards.

Sugar Valley Lodge No. 733 Welcomes New Master Masons



On Tuesday, June 11, 2024, Sugar Valley #733 recognized 4 new Master Masons. (Pictured left to right are Samuel Shane Burns, Carter Lyndal Glaze, Worshipful Master Ernest Leonard Overby III, Brandon Wade Banks & Dylan Wayne Davis).

Lavonia Welcomes Masons from all over for EA Degree



On March 2, 2024, Lavonia Lodge No. 241, F&AM, opened a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons and initiated Cody W. Shattles as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

We were joined by Brothers from Royston Lodge No. 52, Snellville Lodge No. 99, Lexington Lodge No. 158, John H. Jones Lodge No. 348, Hebron Lodge No. 564 (including two EA Brothers), and Grove Lodge No. 652

What Makes a Good Lodge?



What are some things that make a good lodge? Good Ritual? Good Fellowship? Good Community Service? All of these and more. Another thing that makes a good Lodge is the willingness to do

the things that can help the Lodge improve and move forward. A recent example of this is the Secretary/Treasurer training that was conducted on St. Patrick's Day in Macon. This training helped Lodge Secretaries and Lodge Treasurers better understand the Grandview Lodge Management System and other Lodge functions and interaction with the Grand Secretary's office. Ms. Julie, RWB Mac and RWB Carter gave demonstrations and answered questions about various topics that were addressed by the attendees. Grand Master Polston showed us the importance of this training by attending and answering several questions. Many Lodges were in attendance, but not close to the number that should have attended.

A good Lodge is one that takes the opportunities offered to help us improve in all aspects of managing and leading a Lodge. Go to District meetings and Conventions, attend, or host a School of Instruction, host MELD Training, attend Grand Lodge Forums, visit other Lodges. All of these can help you learn and grow as a lodge as you learn from your brethren, and you can help them become better Lodges as well.

What makes a good Lodge? Doing everything you can to improve and grow your Lodge.

Martinez Lodge No. 710 has an active Winter in degree work



Brothers Jeffrey Lee Burkhardt and Anthony Portis II were both raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on February 26th and March 25th, respectively. The Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on Brother Jeffrey Neal Broder on April 29th.

The Brothers of Martinez Lodge also sponsored a team that participated in the Masonic Home for Children Golf Tournament held in Shellman Bluff on March 2nd. Along with OES No. 464 and the young men of the Augusta Demolay chapter, the brothers of Martinez Lodge held a clean-up day to beautify the lodge. It was a great day of work and fellowship.

Nahunta and Hoboken Lodges Present bicycles to Accelerated Reader Students

Nahunta Masonic Lodge #391 and Hoboken Masonic Lodge #740 presented bicycles to Brantley County students who were the top achievers in the Accelerated Reader Program. A total of six students from Atkinson Elementary School, Hoboken Primary School, Hoboken Elementary School, Nahunta Elementary School, Nahunta Primary School, and Waynesville Primary School.



VETERANS CORNER

By Worshipful Brother Rick Conn

The House is expected to pass its version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-HR 8070) and send it to the Senate for further consideration. The bill provides the following:

- No TRICARE fee increases
- Authorizing annual pay increases of 19.5% for E-1 through E-4, 13% for E-5, and 4.5% for other active-duty personnel
- Increasing the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% of regional housing costs and expanding eligibility for the military's Basic Allowance for Subsistence stipend
- Repealing the 180-day delay for retirees obtaining employment at DoD
- Providing members of the Guard and Reserve access to the TRICARE dental program at no cost
- Increasing the threshold for the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) to 200% from 150% of federal poverty guidelines
- Reviewing bonuses and retention allowances for military childcare workers
- Authorizing DoD to quickly hire military spouses and keep them employed during changes in duty stations
- Helping military spouses gain and retain employment by making it easier for them to transfer professional licenses between states
- Enhancing funds (\$766 million over the budget request) for barracks renovations

The 1008-page bill complies with the spending limits set for national security programs under the June 2023 debt-limit deal (Public Law 118-5). Representatives offered 1,357 amendments to the bill, but the House Rules Committee only allowed 350 amendments to be considered. Unfortunately, the concurrent receipt amendment was not allowed to be considered. The White House has expressed opposition to the pay increases above 4.5% that are requested in the Administration's budget proposal. The bill will now go to the Senate for further consideration.

As Newsbytes goes to press, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) began marking up its version of the FY 2025 NDAA in a closed session.

Details on the SASC markup will be available in next week's Newsbytes.

Once the House and Senate approve their versions of the NDAA, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. This final bill will be submitted to both chambers of Congress, and if the House and Senate approve the bill, it will be sent to President Biden to be signed into law or vetoed.

If you are a veteran looking for information and tools to help manage your health care and TRICARE benefits? Check out the new Patient Resources section on the website " [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) ". This section makes it easy to find forms, track your health records, learn about disaster alerts, and more.

"We understand that you need quick and easy access to essential health care information," said Robert Agnello, deputy director of digital communications at the Defense Health Agency. "The new Patient Resources section has tools and resources you need to stay engaged with and manage your health care in one convenient location."

Here's an overview of what you can find in the Patient Resources section.

Claims: In the Filing Claims section, you can learn when and how to file medical, pharmacy, and dental claims. As noted in the TRICARE Choices in the United States Handbook, you may need to file your own claim to be reimbursed if you get care from a non-network provider. TRICARE will reimburse you for covered services at the TRICARE allowable amount. This amount won't include any copayments, cost-shares, or deductibles.

Forms: Need to find a form? The Download a Form section has many commonly used forms, including forms for:

- Enrolling and disenrolling in a TRICARE health or dental plan
- Requesting pre-authorization or medical necessity
- Requesting reimbursement through the Prime Travel Benefit
- Filing grievances and submitting appeals

Contact us: Do you need help or have questions about your TRICARE benefits? Go to the Contact Us section. You can click “Call Us,” to find the right phone number for what you need. You can also find information on where to log in to secure services and addresses for sending claims. This makes it easy for you to get in touch with the right people to answer your questions or respond to your concerns.

MHS Customer Service Community Directory: Are you looking for contact information for your military hospital or clinic? Check out the Military Health System Customer Service Community Directory. You can use this directory to find patient advocates, beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators, and debt collection assistance officers.

Health Records: Looking for information on your health records? Check out the My Military Records Health Records section, which includes a gateway to the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal. MHS GENESIS is the Military Health System’s electronic health record. The Patient Resources section also has information on:

- Disaster Resources: Get health alerts and learn how to manage your health benefits before, during, and after a disaster.
- TRICARE Multimedia Center: Check out TRICARE news, videos, webinars, and podcasts.
- Patient Rights and Responsibilities: Learn about your rights and responsibilities as a TRICARE beneficiary and patient in the Military Health System.

Patient Resources Section: It’s easy to get to the Patient Resources section in just a few clicks or taps. On a computer, click “Patient Resources” on the blue navigation bar. This navigation bar is located across the top of most [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) pages. On a smartphone, tap the three horizontal lines located in the top left corner of most [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) pages. This opens the navigation menu. Then tap “Patient Resources.”

TRICARE is dedicated to making sure the information you need is easy to find. If you have feedback about the Patient Resources section or other parts of [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil), you can click the orange “Give Feedback” button on the right side of most [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) pages.

Have you heard about the program “Veteran Buddy Check”? A new program to try and help with the suicide rate among Veterans and also to reconnect

with Veterans that might need help. The American Legion adopted this program a few years ago. In the first four years after The American Legion launched Buddy Checks as an official program, their members reached more than 1 million veterans and provided critical assistance.

The number of local American Legion posts conducting Buddy Check operations in those first four years has grown from 3,683 to 4,456. Buddy Checks are not membership or fundraising calls; they are simple check-ins with veterans in the community to see how they are doing and to learn how the local post can help. Veteran Buddy Checks encourage Veterans to connect or reconnect with their Veteran friends—just to check in. As part of the effort, Buddy Check Week, which takes place October 21 – 25, 2024, builds on the success of the American Legion’s Buddy Check program and the Veteran Wellness Alliance’s Get Involved program. Talk to Ten Veterans, Be a Buddy!

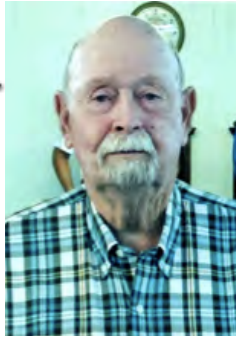
Veteran Buddy Checks aim to enhance peer-to-peer connections, improve mental health, and increase access to VA and non-VA resources. Take the pledge—take the training—find buddies. Take the training before reaching out and talking to your buddies. The training helps you recognize signs of distress and educates you on available resources you can recommend if needed. You can register for this program and reconnect with Fellow Veterans: <https://www.department.va.gov/veterans-experience/va-veteran-buddy-checks/> There is a Veterans Wellness Alliance that you can utilize for additional help. The following website has more information about the Alliance. [veterancheckin.org](https://www.veterancheckin.org)

Thank you for your Service, God Bless you and may God Bless America

“Still serving our Nation's Heroes, her Veterans”

Our Veterans may not need a handout but they sometime may need a hand up

50 Year Awards



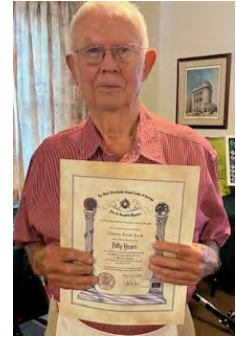
Tony R. Scott
Hinesville #271



John W. Watters, Jr.
Lindale #455



David A. Cargle
Lindale #455



Charles J. Heidt
Guyton #428



Daniel L. Pyles, Sr.
Guyton #428



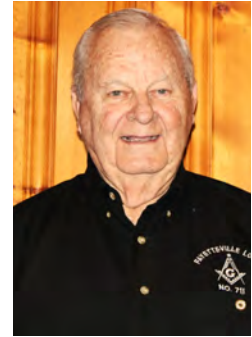
Thomas Williams
Chehaw #701



James C. Williams
Flowery Branch #212



Charlie White
Hinesville #271



Thomas R. Croft
Fayetteville #711



Kenneth Greeson
Coosawatee #306



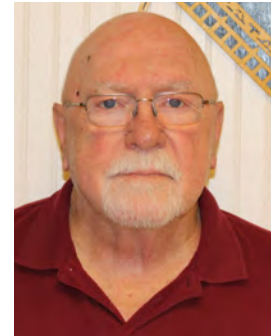
George Easom
Magnolia #86



Wayne Parker
Magnolia #86



Johnny W. Evans
Cartersville #63



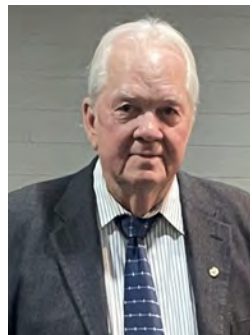
Carey H. Evans
Emerson #738



Edward Harkins
Coosawatee #306



Joseph F. Yeater
Hampton #70



Bill Taylor
Gainesville #219



James Osborne
Flint Hill #371



Gordon Tatum
Resaca #724



Don F. Trammell
Oostanaula #113



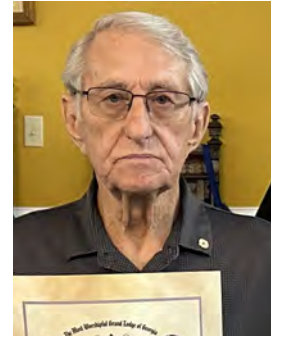
Homer W. Hice
Oostanaula #113



Dennis M. Brewer
Oostanaula #113



Joseph W. Rickman, III
Oostanaula #113



Benjamin D. Carver
Oostanaula #113



Jack A. Daniel
Oostanaula #113



Steven E. Kemp
Oostanaula #113



James L. Colston
Oostanaula #113



Edward J. Allen
Cochran #217



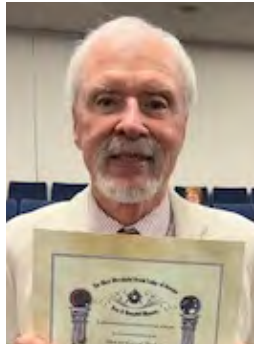
Cecil Mooney
Sharptop #680



James Blalock
Sharptop #680



Harry Brocks
Hill City #319



Danny C. Bailey
Chamblee Sardis #444



Michael W. Bishop
Cairo #299



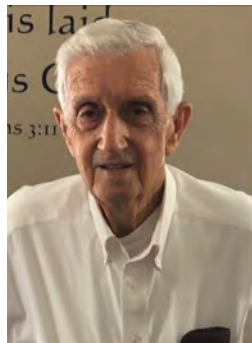
Robert L. Green
Cairo #299



Joseph R. Porter,
III Cairo #299



John W. Weaver
Cairo #299



Linton Westray
Ducktown #572



George P. Lynch
Sugar Valley #733



Kenneth Wigley
Blue Mountain #38



Richard Hinze
Daylite #125



Robert S. Coker
Ducktown #572



Ray L. Bradley
Murrayville #30



George H. Wade
Philomatheia #25



C.L. Nazworth
Folkston #196



William K. Sosebee
Clarkesville #325



Dennis Harrell
Chehaw #701



Wayne Chancey
Generous Warren #20



Edward Moore
Benevolent #3



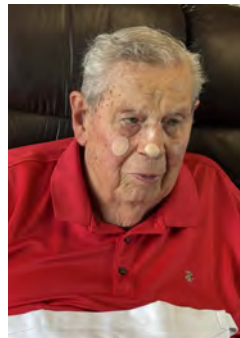
Bobby Childers
Springville #153



David Merck
Springville #153



Tommy Hill
Sweetwater #421



Edward H. Zipperer
Clinton #54



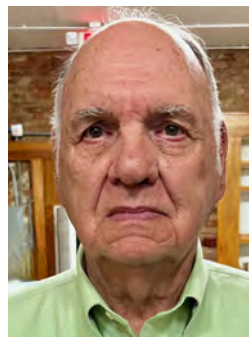
William J. Bleckley
Chamblee-Sardis #444



Warner R. Houston
Thunderbolt #693



William A. Albrcht
Thunderbolt #693



Gerald D Pritchett
Whigham #356
55 Years



Robert J. Young
Sumach #55
55 Years



Marvin S. Herrington
Marshall #188
55 Years



Carl W. Miller
Nancy Hart #690
55 Years

60 Year Awards



Phillip Moore
Magnolia #86



Richard West
Magnolia #86



Thomas H. Tibbitts
Dallas #182



Benjamin F. Johnson, III
Lavonia #241



Gerald H. Stoutamire
Whigham #356



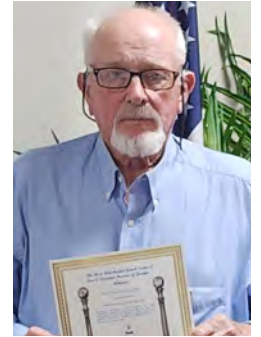
Albert E. Childs, Jr.
Lavonia #241



Thomas C. Butler
Lindale #455



Marion L. Benton
Quitman #106



Roy Collier
Magnolia #86

65 Year Awards



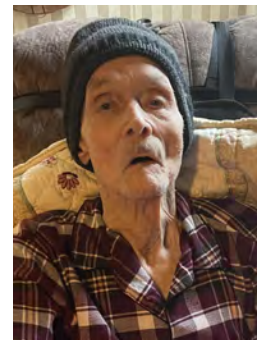
Billy M. Burch
Screven #368



Douglas E. Morris
Dallas #182



John J. Bennett
Whigham #356



John F. Brooke
Waleska #57



Jimmy W. Jones
Dallas #182



Bruce E. Bradford
Nancy Hart #690



Lawson Roland
Springville #153

70 Year Awards



Benjamin F. Mobley
Whigham #356

In Memoriam

Members Reported
Deceased May 2 to
August 1, 2024

Calhoun, Mack Arthur	3	Statham, Michael Edward	97	Griffin, Earl Raiford	194
Whitt Sr., Ellison Leroy	5	Brown, Kenneth Edward	98	Moore, Grady Elmer	194
Walton, Richard Allan	7	Wilcher, Danny Lamar	98	Paramore, Donald Wayne	194
Smith, Leonard Curtis	11	Ingram Jr., William Howard	99	Whiddon, Jack	194
Medlock, Clifton Alfred	12	Thompson, Thomas Bruce	100	Heath, Thomas Varney	195
Wotring, Richard Allen	15	Wentzel Jr., Larry Ray	104	Raulerson, Richardson Sherman	196
Millwood, Charles Allen	18	Caylor, Arnold Lee	105	Dillingham, Harold David	197
Adams, Arthur Frank	25	Henson, Don Erroll	105	Reed, Bobby Dean	198
Wade, Robert Wayne	25	Hester, William Lynn	106	Pickelsimer, James Edward	201
Berryhill, J. B.	27	Roach, David Glenn	106	Sivas, Constantine	204
Whaley Jr., Jake	28	Dyals Jr., Raymond Lee	109	Jones, Julian Randolph	221
Carone Jr., Carmen Joseph	33	Carroll, Gene Paul	113	Tatum, Warren Laurgham	222
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