

GENERAL LAWS

—OF THE—

GRAND LODGE

—OF THE—

GRAND UNITED ORDER OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF GOOD HOPE OF AMERICA

FOR GOVERNMENT OF SUBORDINATE
LODGES

—O—

1929

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816 W. LEXINGTON ST.,
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PREAMBLE

In order that uniformity may be insured in the administration of the privileges, honors and benefits of Lodges in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Grand United Order of Brothers and Sisters of Good Hope of America, without whose sanction and control no lodge of Good Hope can exist we therefore ordain and promulgate the following laws for their government.

ARTICLE I.
Organization.

SECTION 1. Each subordinate Lodge shall be constituted by at least thirteen members, seven of whom shall constitute a quorum.

As long as seven (7) financial members hold together no Lodge can be dissolved, and shall possess full power of a subordinate Lodge, holding a valid charter duly granted and presented by the Grand Lodge of the G. U. O. of B. & S. of Good Hope or America.

Meetings shall be held twice a month at 7:30 P. M. in Winter and 8 o'clock P. M. in Summer. The standing fund shall be \$400.00 (four hundred dollars).

SEC. 2. No meeting can be held nor can any business be legally transacted unless a quorum be present. Lodges shall be opened in due form by the W. S. and Chaplain.

SEC. 3. Extra meetings shall be called by the W. S. at the written request of seven (7) members, or if in his judgment he deems it necessary.

SEC. 4. Every member must attend their meetings unless excused by their Lodge. No member shall be permitted to linger in the ante-room.

ARTICLE II.
Officers And Their Duties.

SEC. 1. The officers of a subordinate Lodge shall be a Worthy Superior, Vice Superior, Treasurer, Recording and Financial Secretaries, Chaplain, Marshal, Right and Left & Conductors and Supports, Inside and Outside Guards; all of whom shall be elected the first meeting in

the months of April and October and installed the last meeting of said months.

SEC. 2. The Worthy Superior shall preside over the meetings of the Lodge, decide all questions, conduct the meetings in a business like manner, appoint the majority of all committees, keep the bank book in his possession and have it present at all meetings of the Lodge, visit all sick and disabled members within 24 hours after receiving legal notice, appoint Stewards to attend the sick and perform such other duties as may be incumbent on the officers. Failure on his part to be present at the regular or special meetings of the Lodge, without sickness or death in his family, or absent from the city, he shall be fined fifty (50c) cents.

SEC. 3. The Vice Superior shall work in harmony with the Worthy Superior and at his absence appoint some qualified brother to fill his place, a Past W. S. if possible. She must do all in her power to promote the interest of the Lodge and appoint a minority of all committees. Failure on her part to be present at all meetings, without a lawful excuse will be fined fifty cents.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall hold all money belonging to the Lodge not otherwise provided for; shall honor all drafts properly signed by the Worthy Superior and drawn up by the Secretary with seal thereon; shall present all papers, monies or anything in his or her possession that will aid the Auditing Committee to get to the true standing of the Lodge; shall visit all sick and do all he or she can to promote the interest of the Lodge, and shall be fined fifty cents for being absent from the Lodge unless giving a lawful excuse.

SEC. 5. The Financial Secretary shall keep a true and impartial account between the Lodge and its members; notify each member of their becoming unbeneficial, draw up all drafts on the Treasurer when required to do so by the W. S., prepare the semi-annual and annual return sheets for the Grand Lodge, present their papers, books, or other matter that may be in their hands to the Auditing Committee when required by the Lodge; impose a tax of six cents on each notice forwarded to members notifying them of their becoming unbeneficial, three cents for the Secretary's services and three cents for the Lodge; and perform such other duties as may involve upon the officers. Shall be fined fifty cents if absent without a lawful excuse.

SEC. 6. The Recording Secretary shall properly record the transactions of the Lodge, assist the Financial Secretary in the performance of his or her duty if required. Failing to attend the meetings of the Lodge, shall be fined fifty cents, unless a lawful excuse be given.

SEC. 7. All other officers' duties shall be such as are laid down in the charges of officers and as are specified by the act of installation and By-Laws of the Lodge.

ARTICLE III.

Eligibility To Office.

SEC. 1. No member shall be elected to the office of Worthy Superior or Vice Superior in a Lodge until they have qualified in the fourth and fifth degrees. All members must have the second and third degrees and be square on the books before they can be elected to any office.

SEC. 2. Members accepting an elective office and failing to be present for installation, shall be fined fifty cents. If not paid shall be added to their dues unless they furnish a lawful excuse.

SEC. 3. Any officer being absent for three successive meetings, unless in case of sickness or absence from the city, their seat shall be declared vacant and a successor elected to serve the remainder of the term, who shall be entitled to full honors of the office.

SEC. 4. No member shall hold more than one office at a time as long as there are enough competent members to fill the offices separately, and at no time shall the office of Treasurer and Financial Secretary be held by the same person.

SEC. 5. When a Lodge is financially able the Worthy Superior, Vice Superior, Treasurer, Financial and Recording Secretaries shall receive their dues.

SEC. 6. Any elected officer failing to enforce any laws submitted by the Grand Lodge shall be fined the sum determined in the judgment of the Lodge.

SEC. 7. Every member not excused by the Lodge and failing to attend their meeting on the night of election and installation of officers shall be fined twenty-five cents.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the last officers to prepare and forward to the Grand Lodge immediately the result of the election, and a regular report of the work of the term, including names of initiations, admissions by card from other Lodges, rejections, withdrawals, expulsions and the cause thereof, and of those deceased, the whole number in membership, amount of

receipts, the whole amount expended in relief and the number relieved; with the foregoing returns, shall transmit to the Grand Secretary whatever amount may be due to the Grand Lodge. For neglect of the above duties a fine of \$1.00 each will be imposed on the Financial Secretary and the Worthy Superior.

ARTICLE IV.

Membership.

SEC. 1. No person shall be admitted to membership in this Order for a less sum than six (\$6.00) dollars. However, if in the judgment of a Lodge it will be for its own interest, it may permit members to pay said entrance fee on installment, becoming beneficial when all of said fee has been paid.

All applicants must be vouched for by some member. Half of entrance fee must accompany application. Five black ballots will reject any applicant.

SEC. 2. No female can become a member of this Order who is under 18 years of age, male persons must be 21 years of age. No person can become a member of this Order who is over 55 years of age. However, persons over 46 years of age who are in good health may be accepted for membership. Such persons must pay 25 cents for each year over 46 and under 55 years.

SEC. 3. No person will be admitted for membership in this Order who does not possess a good moral character.

Any person voted on for membership and receiving five black ballots shall be declared rejected and such fees as shall have been received shall be returned.

SEC. 4. Any person elected for membership in a

Lodge and failing to appear for initiation within two months unless absent from the city, forfeits all claims against a Lodge. Such persons desiring to join a Lodge must apply as before.

SEC. 5. It shall be discretionary with the Lodges in cases of urgent necessity to accept an application for membership, elect and initiate a candidate the same night.

SEC. 6. All members shall pay fifty cents monthly and such taxes and fines as may be legally imposed.

SEC. 7. Persons making applications to become members of any Lodge must be free from all bodily infirmities that would render them burdensome to a Lodge, must be able to earn a decent living.

The committee appointed by the Lodge shall inquire into all the qualifications of the applicants before they can be admitted and shall make their report to that effect before the applicant is ballotted upon. Committees appointed to inspect applicants and report favorably of any applicant for membership who may be laboring under any disability shall be fined \$3.00 or more for the offense.

ARTICLE V.

Sick Benefits and Attention to Sick.

SEC. 1. The Worthy Superior, Vice Superior and Treasurer shall constitute a Standing Committee whose duty shall be to visit and keep a close oversight of all sick members under the notice of the lodge. The W. S. and V. S. receiving notice from a sick member must visit said member within 24 hours. The W. S. shall as

soon as practicable confer with the financial secretary and ascertain if said member is entitled to receive sick benefits. He shall appoint a steward to look after said member and pay their sick dues seven days from the date of receiving notice.

SEC. 2. A steward appointed to look after a sick member shall visit them once a week other than date of payment of dues unless otherwise provided for.

SEC. 3. If in the judgment of a steward and the standing committee, a member is feigning sickness or drawing dues for illegal cause, they shall after consultation among themselves call in a regular practicing physician and have said member examined at the expense of the lodge.

SEC. 4. Members desiring to draw sick benefits from their lodge must furnish and forward to the W. S. or V. S. a certificate from a regular practicing physician and must furnish such like certificate each and every week they receive benefits and must continue themselves to their bed and one week in their room unless permitted to leave by the W. S. or V. S. of their lodge.

SEC. 5. Sick benefits will not exceed sixteen weeks a years. Members shall receive eight weeks aid at \$4.00 per week, and eight weeks at \$2.00 per week. Should a members receive sixteen weeks aid to any twelve calendar months as aforesaid they shall not be eligible to draw further benefits until twelve months from date of last week's aid paid.

SEC. 6. Members under the notice of a Lodge and drawing sick benefits, who may be detected in gambling or frequenting taverns or bawdy houses or giving any

attention to his or her business directly or indirectly whatever their occupation may be, and shall upon proof of same be expelled from the Order.

SEC. 7. Members allowing their dues, fines and taxes to amount to \$1.51 shall be unbeneficial and must appear in open Lodge and pay up in full and will not be entitled to sick benefits until thirty days after they have squared their accounts with the Lodge. Members allowing their dues, fines and taxes to exceed \$3.00 are unbeneficial for death benefits and must appear in open Lodge and pay said dues; thirty days thereafter shall be entitled to receive death benefits.

SEC. 8. Members distant from their Lodges and desiring aid shall forward a regular attending physician's certificate each week during their inability or as long as they are entitled to draw aid. The expense for forwarding such money shall be taken from said members aid and the balance forwarded to the member.

SEC. 9. Members desiring sick relief weekly while confined to hospitals must forward sick certificate to their Lodge from their attending physician in the hospital. If they do not wish their sick relief until discharged from the hospital they must furnish the W. S. with a certificate on entering the hospital and one on leaving.

SEC. 10. Should the circumstances of a sick member require it, the W. S. where it is a male member shall begin with himself and thereafter appoint two brothers as they stand on the roll to sit up with the member each night, as long as required; provided such an appointment is not made where a sick member is laboring un-

der a contagious disease. Also if a female the V. S. shall begin with herself and appoint two sisters to attend each night as long as required. Such persons being duly notified 24 hours by the W. S. or V. S. and failing to perform said duty shall be fined one dollar.

SEC. 11. Sick benefits will not be paid for ailments such as are produced by excessive alcoholic drinking, fighting of any character, loss of limb, loss of sight, injuries where there is no visible mark on the body or insanity affection. Should the death of a member occur as a result of immoral conduct they will receive no death benefit.

SEC. 12. Any member appointed to attend the sick by the W. S. or V. S. and fails to visit them at least once a week and reports falsely to their lodge and the same is proven by members of Good Hope in good standing the person reporting wrongfully shall be fined \$1.00.

The sick committee appointed by the W. S. failing to visit the sick under their charge once a week shall be fined 50 cents, without personal sickness or sickness in family.

SEC. 13. Any steward or standing committee having proof by a physician that a person is not sick their aid shall be stopped immediately and said member shall be dealt with according to law.

ARTICLE VI.

Banking Committee, etc.

SEC. 1. Every Worthy Superior must see to it that his Lodge possesses and retains four Rituals of the Order. He must also keep the bank book in his possession and have it present at every stated meeting of the Lodge,

and place the book in the hands of the Banking Committee if there is any money to be deposited in bank. For refusal or neglect of duty he shall be fined \$2.50.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the banking committee to assemble around the table every meeting and receive the money from the Conductress, when the financial roll is being called.

SEC. 3. Monies placed in the hands of Banking Committee shall be put in bank forthwith and bank book returned and placed in the hands of the W. S. within forty-eight hours after the close of the Lodge. Failing or neglecting in their duty shall be fined \$2.50 unless personal sickness.

SEC. 4. Any member of a Banking Committee ordered by their lodge and refusing to go to the bank to have his or her name erased, in order that the name of another member of the lodge may be placed on the Committee shall be suspended until the convening of the next Grand Lodge session.

SEC. 5. There shall be an Auditing Committee of three appointed to audit all books and papers including the Financial Secretary's books and Treasurer's books and orders, bank book, stock or bond certificates and such other papers as may be necessary to get a correct account and standing of the Lodge. This committee shall make a written report as to whatever condition the lodge is in, and the report must be signed by the committee.

SEC. 6. Every adult Lodge must pay an annual assessment of three dollars to the Grand Lodge. Juvenile Departments must pay \$1.50 annually.

SEC. 7. Financial Secretaries must state the amount

each member owes when calling financial roll. Treasurer must be able to state the amount of money in hand also what has been paid out between meetings.

ARTICLE VII.

Offenses.

SEC. 1. Any member of this Order guilty of habitual drunkenness, committing adultery or using profane language in their lodge shall be expelled forthwith and notice sent to the Grand Secretary.

SEC. 2. Should any member be accessory to an imposition aid or abet any other member in practicing a fraud upon a lodge they shall be considered an impostor and shall be expelled.

SEC. 3. Any member who shall willfully betray the secrets of this Order shall on trial and conviction thereof be expelled; and notice sent to the Grand Secretary, such person will be forever ineligible to membership in this Order.

SEC. 4. Members will not be allowed to leave the room while the lodge is in session without permission from the W. S., nor must they leave in a disorderly manner, for violation they will be fined twenty-five cents.

SEC. 5. Members wishing to speak on any subject under discussion, must stand and respectfully address the W. S. and avoid all personal reflections upon the Lodge or its members under a fine of 25 cents.

SEC. 6. No member will be allowed the privilege of the floor more than three times on the same subject and not more than five minutes at a time. While a member is in possession of the floor no officer will be allowed to speak, interrupt or molest such member in any way ex-

cept on a point of order or correction until the specified time has expired. Any one so interrupting shall be fined 12 cents.

SEC. 7. No member shall be permitted to vote or speak upon any subject unless clothed with proper regalia and if an officer at their proper station.

No member from a sister lodge will be allowed to speak on any subject under discussion without permission from the W. S., and the consent of the lodge.

SEC. 8. Any member appointed on a committee and not attending to the business for which they were appointed shall pay a fine of 50 cents. All committees for special purposes shall report their proceedings at the next stated meeting succeeding their appointment except when a definite time has been given.

All reports must be signed by a majority of the committee and produced in writing.

SEC. 9. Any member of a Lodge found guilty of *immoral conduct that may prove injurious to themselves or their lodge* shall pay a fine of five dollars and not more than ten dollars. Refusing to pay said fine shall be suspended from all rights and privileges of the order of Good Hope until the fine has been paid or remitted by the lodge.

SEC. 10. No member shall use indecent or improper language in their Lodge under a penalty of twenty-five cents for each offense.

SEC. 11. Financial Secretary must keep a record of the addresses of all members. Failure to furnish the secretary notice of change of residence shall be fined ten cents for each month's neglect.

SEC. 12. All reinstated members must pay up square on the books on night of reinstatement.

SEC. 13. Any member wishing to withdraw from one lodge and join a sister lodge shall if square on the books be entitled to and receive a card of clearance for which they must pay the sum of twenty-five cents. Any member from a sister lodge depositing a card of clearance in a lodge shall be balloted upon the same as a new member upon the report of a committee and if elected shall be admitted by paying the full initiation fee of the lodge.

SEC. 14. The Worthy Superior of any Lodge failing to enforce the laws of the G. U. O. of Good Hope at all times, shall be fined \$3.00 for the first offense and \$5.00 for the second.

SEC. 15. Any member failing to attend the Annual Thanksgiving Sermon after being duly notified shall be fined one dollar unless sick or absent from the city.

ARTICLE VIII.

Charges And Specifications.

SEC. 1. Any member accused of gross offense shall be entitled to and receive a fair trial. No member shall be placed on trial for any offense except the charges be duly made out in writing and accepted by the lodge of which the offender is a member.

SEC. 2. The charges shall be written down and specifications made without any preface whatever, stating the time and place where the offense was committed and the party accused shall be put in possession of a copy of the charges and specifications seven days previous to trial.

SEC. 3. The charges and specifications shall be referred to a committee of five members in good standing in their lodge who shall report at a subsequent meeting when the case may be tried; and in all cases the accuser and accused shall be summoned before the committee and be allowed counsel if they wish, who shall be a member of the Order. The lodge shall have power to vary the penalty. If at any time during the trial, the accused be not satisfied with the decision of the lodge an appeal may be taken to the Grand Lodge. Such an appeal must be made thirty days after the trial.

SEC. 4. Any member who shall willfully and maliciously bring charges against a member which they are unable to prove shall be fined \$5.00 or suspended as the lodge may determine.

SEC. 5. If a member shall violate any of the By-laws or resolutions of this Order at any regular meeting of a lodge, no written charge or committee will be needed. The W. S. shall have power to enforce the law unless such member is exempted by the votes of two-thirds of the members present.

SEC. 6. Any member who shall take a sister or brother to the civil law before exhausting all means of satisfaction to be found in the laws of their subordinate lodge or in the Grand Lodge, shall be expelled from the Order.

ARTICLE IX.

Juveniles.

SEC. I. Adult lodges having juvenile departments under their jurisdiction must elect nine guardians semi-annually, whose duty shall be to look after the juveniles

and do all they can to promote their interest in the Order.

The juvenile accounts must be audited along with the adult lodge and the report made to the older lodge of the true condition of the children.

The Grand Master shall have power to appoint Guardians from lodges not having juveniles to work in conjunction with Guardians elected from other Lodges and help build up the junior department of the Order.

ARTICLE X.

Life Membership.

Members serving their lodges faithfully, keeping up their dues and assessments, and not having been burdensome to their lodge nor continual drawers of sick benefits; under such circumstances such members becoming disabled or decrepit, it shall be discretionary with the lodge to make them life members.

Persons receiving life membership shall be exempted from all dues and assessments, shall not be entitled to any sick or disabled benefits, but shall receive the death benefit of \$55.00 (fifty-five dollars.)

ARTICLE XI.

Death Benefits.

SEC. 1. At the death of a member who is beneficial \$55.00 will be paid to the family or legal representative. If it is necessary for the lodge to employ the undertaker, he will be paid to the extent of \$55.00.

SEC. 2. At the death of a member each member shall be taxed 25 cents, the same to go into the treasury of the lodge.

SEC. 3. Financial Secretaries shall deduct from the sick and death benefits all that is due to the lodge by the member to be benefitted. Any member owing three dollars at the time of their death it shall be deducted from their funeral benefits.

Death benefits must be paid within thirty days or as soon as the lodge can conveniently do so.

SEC.4. All funerals shall be under the direction of the Worthy Superior or some other officer appointed by him. The Worthy Superior shall have power to appoint a committee to attend the funeral, also to hire a limousine for the conveyance of the committee. Any member failing to attend a funeral after receiving 24 hours notice shall be fined \$1.00 unless a constitutional excuse be given.

SEC. 5. On funeral occasions brothers shall wear black or dark suits, black hat, shoes, and tie, white gloves; sisters wear black dresses and capes, black bonnets with white strings, white glove and regalia.

SEC. 6. No lodge of the Order will turn out or perform their ceremony where the family or representatives of the deceased employ a white undertaker or is a member of the Catholic Church.

ARTICLE XII.

Representatives To Grand Lodge

SEC. 1. Each lodge must elect a representative to represent them in the Grand Lodge semi-annually, the first meeting in April and October. The person so elected must be a Past W. S or V. S of their Lodge, and shall receive such compensation as their lodge shall deem necessary from time to time.

SEC. 2. Any Lodge failing to have their representative present to answer roll call on the convening of the Grand Lodge, shall be fined discretionary with the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 3. Any member elected to represent their lodge and finds that for any reason whatever he or she cannot attend the Grand Lodge, must notify the lodge or W. S. in order that another member may be elected to fill their place so that their lodge may be properly represented, and newly elected representative must have proper credentials and seal thereon showing it to be the doings of the lodge.

SEC. 4. The address of the Financial Secretary of each lodge must be placed on their Return Sheet.

SEC. 5. Whereas Lodges or Departments are obligated to pay their Representatives; such representatives must not be paid for their services until the term for which they were elected has expired.

No member will be allowed to take the second and third degree, until he or she has been in the Order three months.

No Past Officer who has been elected to the office of Worthy Superior, or Vice Superior, can be installed unless he or she has the fifth degree.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening.
2. Roll of Officers.
3. Reading Minutes of last meeting.
4. Absentee Roll.
5. Report of Sick Committee.
6. Report of Committee on Candidates and Balloting.
7. Proposal of Candidates.
8. Initiation.
9. Report of Standing Committee.
10. Report of Special Committee.
11. Deferred Business.
12. New Business.
13. Bills presented.
14. Application for Degrees.
15. Communications.
16. Financial Roll.
17. Receipts of the Evening.
18. Closing.