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**MINUTES of the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES**  
**November 28, 2015**  
**Tru-Fel Masonic Hall, Bible Hill**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by the Chairman, RW Bro. Gary Patterson. There was an opening prayer followed by a moment of silence to honour the Brethren who have gone to the Grand Lodge Above. He then thanked everyone for coming and asked the members present to introduce themselves.

**Grand Master Remarks:**

The Grand Master, MW Bro. Peter Ponsford was not present and the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. George O'Leary brought greetings from the Grand Master. The Deputy Grand Master read the Grand Master's Christmas message.

**Motion to Deviate from the Order of the Published Agenda:**

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Chairman be permitted to deviate from the order of the published agenda. The question was called and the motion was **Carried**.

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes of the September 19, 2015 meeting be approved as circulated. Discussion followed and it was noted by Bro. John Cameron that his rank is recorded as RW Bro. in the minutes and he is actually VW Bro. Bro. Leigh MacConnell noted that on page 3 under the Heritage Committee, the Grand Librarian gave a report and Bro. MacConnell questions why a description of the burial places in Nova Scotia of all the Past Grand Masters is omitted and would like it added. As far as the museum is concerned there are a couple of wrought iron doors installed and keys will be provided to the Grand Lodge office and the Secretaries of the Lodges that meet there. The question was called and the motion was **Carried** with the amendments.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**Public Relations Plan**

The Chairman asked if there was anyone present from Public Relations Committee to go over the plan submitted. There being no one present, discussion followed.

VW Bro. John Cameron stated that he was rather disappointed that the document provided by the Committee didn't follow the Board approved Project Charter. Bro. Cameron noted that the budget allowance for Public Relations, which has already been approved was based on receiving the Plan of the Committee using the Project Charter format. He further stated that in theory, there should not be approval of the Plan, but to not approve it could prove very damaging. He stated that he feels there are no consequences for disregarding the direction of the Board.

The Chairman then asked the Board members if they would be satisfied if the Public Relations Plan submitted was tabled until the next meeting so he could meet with the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. It was regularly moved and seconded that the Public Relations Plan submitted be tabled until the next meeting. **Carried**.

**Condition of the Order Report**

The first recommendation was taken back to the Committee for clarification.

**Recommendation 1:**

It is recommended that a system of reporting be established that will identify demits given as a result of lodge closings combined with future affiliations. It would be useful to also list in the Grand Secretary's yearend report the number of Degrees conferred on an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason.

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RW Bro. Luddington advised that he spoke to the Chairman of the Condition of the Order, MW Bro. George Grant and it was decided that they would not be making a motion on this recommendation, but rather, will work closely with Grand Secretary to extrapolate the information with regards to exact numbers for the Condition of the Order report.

### **Recommendation 2:**

The Chairman advised that this recommendation was given to the Grand Lecturer and he asked RW Bro. Graham Shauffenburg if he was prepared to report and he responded that he was not prepared at this time.

### **Recommendation 3:**

The Chairman noted that this recommendation involved the selection of the DDGMs and was turned over to the DGM RW Bro. George O'Leary. He stated that after speaking with the Districts, they feel it would infringe on their right to select the DDGMs for their District.

The Chairman noted that there is already a document that outlines the requirements and qualifications for someone to be a District Deputy Grand Master.

RW Bro. O'Leary stated that once names are submitted, they are sent to the incoming Grand Master for approval and the incoming Grand Master should make inquiries as to the nominee's worthiness.

### **Website Hosting:**

VW Bro. John Cameron asked the Grand Secretary about the website host, MDD Hosting. Bro. Cameron stated that he searched the internet for MDD Hosting and wanted to know if we are being hosted in the US. The Grand Secretary confirmed that this is the same company. Bro. Cameron stated that they are a reputable company and then inquired about the intellectual property of our website. He asked if there is any confirmation from MDD Hosting that the intellectual property of our website is ours. The Grand Secretary stated that the intellectual property is ours.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Awards Committee**

There was no report from the Awards Committee

#### **Finance Committee**

MW Bro. Harold Crosby did not have anything to report.

#### **Fraternal Relations Committee**

MW Bro. Shane MacFarlane did not have anything to report.

#### **Heritage Committee**

There was no report from the Heritage Committee.

#### **Long Range Planning**

VW Bro. John Cameron stated that he has a verbal report. He met with the Past Chairman, Bro. David Ross and has the material from the previous Committee.

Bro. Cameron stated that he will be sending material out to the Committee Members which includes all of the Elected District Representatives. He also stated that the deadlines are now pushed back about 8 months.

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The next phase will require assistance from the District Deputy Grand Masters as well as the Elected District Representatives. Bro. Cameron also stated that the next objective is to have the report contain as much feedback from the Lodges that we can possibly get. There is still a great amount of work to be done.

Bro. Cameron stated that his trepidation is what is going to happen to the report in June of 2017 given what he's seen with the Project Charter not being followed. He would not like to see it sit on a shelf and gather dust and not be implemented. Bro. Cameron stated that it is up to this Board to take responsibility for its implementation and update as required.

MW Bro. Owen Walton asked if a letter could be sent to Bro. David Ross for the tremendous amount of work he has given to the Long Range Planning Committee in bringing forth the Project Charter. The Chairman stated that he has already done that.

### **Ritual and Education**

RW Bro. Graham Shauffenburg stated that he received the music today and will get that distributed. Bro. Shauffenburg noted that he has been in contact with the Grand Secretary who has agreed to create a section on the website in the downloads section for Education where information can be made available.

Bro. Shauffenburg also reported on the Ritual Committee review of RW Bro. Reid MacDuff's Notice of Motion as follows:

The Ritual committee has been asked to review a Notice of Motion by R.W. Bro. Reid MacDuff, past DDGM of Hants County, on lowering or raising the lodge for work and instruction. This motion is designed to offer an alternative to the current ritual.

As the committee is well aware that many brothers in this Grand Jurisdiction are weary of Ritual changes, we elected to distribute a survey to the Lodges asking for their input. Not all Lodges chose to submit a response to the survey. Those that did had various reasons for why they supported or opposed the motion.

Some of the comments which were received included:

- "This would save the lodges a lot of time from having to close and reopen."
- "We do not as a rule do a proficiency test then proceed on to administering the next degree for passing or raising."
- "it was difficult enough to get lodges to use the 'new ritual' and follow the rules as set out."
- "We need to 'keep it simple' and remember the silent majority of the jurisdiction."
- "We concur with Bro. MacDuff that there has been a mix mash of procedure when it comes to changing degrees, even in our own lodge over the years. We do change between degrees in our lodge, although not as often now that GL has allowed lodge business to occur in any Degree."
- "It currently is a complicated process and difficult to find"
- "I strongly object to the continual changes in our Ritual. If this practice is allowed to continue, our ritual will eventually become unrecognizable."
- "Lodges should be obliged (they already are obliged) to follow the ritual. Lax behaviour in Lodges and at Grand Lodge, should not be a reason for allowing this practice. Where is our pride of workmanship with our symbolic Temple?"
- "If Brother or Master knows he doesn't have to follow what is written in our ritual, how will they ever become anything more than a rough ashlar. We should be striving for perfection, not laziness on the part of the few."
- "One more change will beget 'just one' more change. This has to stop sometime, or our great Fraternity will be destroyed. How about NOW?"
- "use the older 'Short Form' as per 'Customs and Usage' permits."
- "We are just fooling ourselves if we think that the others will change. I realize that the 'purists' will be resistant to the simplification of the process"

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- "any part that was listed as 'optional' in the old books wasn't being performed at all. Example - the part explaining the Great Lights in Masonry, the VSL was skipped over."
- "I've looked at earlier editions where the 'waiving all signs' method was only used to move from the end of the first or second degree back up to the third degree to resume labour. It wasn't used to dispense with labour in the Third for the purpose of lowering the lodge to the EA or FC degrees."
- "In some lodges (not all) there doesn't seem to be very much or any correcting of some of the newer brothers starting up through the chairs to properly learn their parts. To see a new brother holding a position like Junior Deacon and still not getting the duties correct after 3 or 4 meetings (and holding an open ritual book at the same time!!) makes me wonder what are we doing?"
- "it is the approved version of 'The Authorized Work', anything else has been superseded. We don't use old versions of the Constitution do we?"
- "what can Grand Lodge do if noncompliance is so wide spread? There are many, many, cases where ritual is not followed." Does Grand Lodge have the intention of going into those lodges and enforcing its recommended practices to the letter?"

The submitters of the foregoing comments shall remain anonymous.

As can be seen from these comments the opinions of our Ritual, its usage and importance are varied.

There seems to be a deeper issue than just the changing from one degree to another.

As part of the obligation of a Master Mason we all stated "Furthermore, I do promise and swear that I will support the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, also all laws, rules and edicts of the same..." In the Constitution Chapter V Discipline, Section 2 Offenses Against Masonic Conduct, subsection viii states "any intentional violation of the particular injunctions of ritual or of any of the landmarks of Freemasonry;". In the Regulations, Regulation I Constituent Lodges, Section 1 Authority, subsection f states "All Lodges, with the exception of those Lodges now working the English Lodge of Emulation and Acacia Lodge No. 8, shall use the ritual approved from time to time by Grand Lodge".

Therefore any lodge which is not following the Sixth Edition is in violation of their obligation of both the Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge, and therefore their solemn obligation of a Master Mason.

However, the issue before the Ritual Committee at this time is not one of discipline, but one of considering the validity and necessity, or benefit, of a motion to change our Ritual.

The committee feels that it cannot support the motion put forward by R.W. Bro. Reid MacDuff. Lodges may open on any degree they wish to do their business. If a lodge wishes to do proficiency on one degree and during the same evening do the next degree, they can open on the lower degree, move up to the higher degree and close on the higher degree. There is no need to go back to the lower degree and there is no need to open on a higher degree, lower the lodge for proficiency and then go back up. Therefore the current method only has to be done once. A key point which is missing with any "Short Form" is that it does not verify that all present are of the rank of the degree you are going "up" to. Therefore any short form would have to be done twice as you would have to open on the higher degree, lower down to do proficiency and then raise the lodge back up to do the degree. If the purpose of the change is simply to save time, then why not try some of the following:

- Distribute the minutes to save having to read them during the meeting
- Ensure that you have brothers to immediately move and second all motions (Senior & Junior Wardens) to avoid having to wait for someone to do it. Any motion can be defeated when the vote is called, this simply keeps the meeting moving rather than having to wait for someone to move and second the motion.
- Only deal with bills that are not regular items such as rent, insurance, etc. which recur on a regular basis.
- Become more proficient with the ritual so that it is performed more smoothly, thus taking less time.

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All of these suggestions can shorten your meeting without compromising on the quality of the ritual and short changing our new brothers. Remember, it is not just the brother you are putting through the degree, but those who are new to the Fraternity and may be on the sidelines during the meeting, observing and trying to learn and improve themselves in Masonry. We learn best from the examples of others, if we set an example of constantly doing things in the shortest possible method then we can expect no less from those who follow in our footsteps.

Masonry has always been known as a fraternity with a rich history and elegant ritual. It is felt that if we are constantly changing and shortening it, it will not be long before we are pretty much simply calling a meeting to order, doing whatever is on the agenda and declaring the meeting closed. We will be very similar to other organizations which do not have our history and ritual.

RW Bro. Shauffenburg moved that the original motion be lifted from the table. The motion was seconded and **Carried**.

The Chairman read the original Motion made in November 2014 as follows:

I Reid MacDuff, DDGM Hants County, move or cause to be moved changes to the Authorized Work, Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Moving that the following wording be added to the Ritual as an alternative means of lowering or raising the lodge for work and instruction.

### Lowering or Raising the Lodge

W.M.---Bro. Inner Guard.

I.G.--- (r) Worshipful Master.

W.M.---The last as well as the first great care of Masons when convened?

I.G.---To see that we are duly tyled.

W.M.---Attend to that duty and inform the Tyler that I am about to close the lodge on the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) degree for the purpose of opening for work and instruction in the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>). Direct him to take due notice thereof and govern himself accordingly.

I.G.---ooo, Tyler---ooo, I.G.---Bro. Tyler.

Tyler---Bro. Inner Guard.

I.G.---The Worshipful Master is about to close the lodge on the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) degree for the purpose of opening for work and instruction in the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>); take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly. (r) W.M.

W.M.---Bro. Inner Guard.

I.G.---The Tyler is informed.

W.M.---ooo. Waiving all signs and ceremonies, I now declare the lodge duly closed on the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) degree and open in the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) for work and instruction. Bro. Senior Deacon attend at the altar and rearrange the Great Lights. Bro. Inner Guard, Inform the Tyler.

*(S.D. goes to W. of Altar, gives D.G. & S., rearranges lights, D.G. & S. and returns to his place)*

I.G.---ooo. Tyler---ooo

I.G.---Bro. Tyler

Tyler---Bro. Inner Guard

I.G.--- The Lodge is now open in the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) degree.

I.G.---W.M.

W.M.---Bro. Inner Guard

I.G.---The Tyler has been informed.

W.M.---o

Rationale: It has been my experience that the present ritual wording relating to lowering and/or raising the lodge is not being followed in any lodge in our district and discussions with brothers confirms that the same is true in other districts in Grand Lodge. At the same time there does not seem to be any discussion regarding this common variance taking place at the Grand Lodge level. Therefore it behooves us to address the issue and present a procedure that is more acceptable for practice in our lodges while still maintaining the decorum and ceremony that we enjoy. Under the present ritual it is necessary to formally close and reopen the lodge when raising and/or lowering from one degree to another. This

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process usually only occurs during meetings where there is degree work. Although the process is not overly long it does give the perception of being time consuming and consequently lodges frequently utilize some homemade version of raising and lowering the lodge. This motion would provide a standardized optional shorter version of raising and lowering the lodge, it would not be mandatory. The lodge would have the choice in using the new wording or utilizing the existing wording presently in the Ritual which would be similar to the option that the Master has in closing the lodge, i.e. short for or long form.

The Chairman then moved the above motion and called for a vote. The motion was **Defeated**.

### **Website Committee**

The Grand Secretary reported that updates are being made and that the site is working perfectly from our point of view.

### **New Business:**

#### **Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Board of General Purposes**

MW Bro. Gerald Riley read out his report which was sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

The mandate given this committee is very extensive and will require considerable attention to a number of issues that will impact not only on the Board itself but on the general direction of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction. The following represent some of the concerns and issues raised by the committee.

#### The Board of General Purposes

A number of issues have been raised concerning the composition of the Board, attendance at its meetings, general communications within the board and with the Lodges of the jurisdiction, education and terms of reference for the members - just to highlight a few. Added to this are the conflicts that arise from time to time with other Masonic functions. The quarterly meeting seems to be acceptable but this can only be confirmed from a study of the agenda and the success or failure experienced in completing the tasks outlined. In any case there is a need for co-ordination with other bodies.

On the surface a board that is made up of some forty plus members were they all faithful in their attendance would seem to be a rather cumbersome board which would probably be restricted in its accomplishments if the agenda of each meeting were not clearly defined and strictly adhered to. The Elected Representatives from the Districts should be the voting delegate at the board table. The DDGM's actually represent the Grand Master in the District as such, and not the District at the table.

Questions have to be asked concerning the processes used to select DDGM's and the District representatives. How much attention is given to their qualifications as board members prior to their appointment/election. The policies and procedures document of the board clearly outline the collective and individual responsibilities of the board members but the question remains - how well informed are members of these? Are they receiving the attention they deserve? if not, the issue needs addressing - if the opposite is true then there is a greater problem - how do you address apathy? In any case a presentation on the role of the Board and its members should be made available to all newly elected or appointed members. Education should be included as a part of the school of instruction offered for the DDGMs and include District Representatives.

Communications within the Board can in part be addressed by prompt dispersal of pertinent information to the members but it is reasonable to expect that if one is never present at the board table one may have difficulty understanding the purpose and the rationale for directions that are being pursued. The individual member has a responsibility to insure that he is conversant in the materials supplied to him. Committees-structure and Number.

The structure of the Board is highlighted with a significant number of committees; fourteen in number including several seasonal committees that seem to have a very specific purpose that can be achieved when the need arises. The list includes others that may or may not be truly committees of the board but are rather very much stand-alone boards while there are others that by their very nature do not report to

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the Board but rather to the Grand Lodge Annual Assembly — namely, Condition of the Order, Registration, Elections and Credentials, Report on the GM's Address.

One of the most important committees of the Board is The Long Range Planning Committee. Its terms of reference indicate it "shall be responsible for developing a long-term plan to ensure that the Grand Lodge administration and programs are in step with changing social and demographic trends".

This will define and determine who we are by developing a "Vision Statement" and where we want Grand Lodge to go by developing a "Mission statement" Once this has been agreed upon we would select those goals that are attainable and measurable within an acceptable time frame. This in turn would determine which committees are needed to achieve the accepted goals. Those committees that have an overlap in their terms of reference would be combined and their full energies would be directed towards the accepted task.

But here again the question of overlap and custom raises another issue - It has been proposed for some time that the Condition of the Order make recommendations to the Board which should then become the focus of attention by the Board. Where there is commonality of these recommendations and the "goals" one would be a support for the other but what happens when there is a difference of opinion? Which would take precedence?

The list of committees contains no reference to a Membership Committee and yet many of the concerns identified are very much related to membership. It is recommended that such a committee be established and it would replace the current committees of education, heritage, Masonic renewal, and public relations. In addition this committee would also deal with necrology.

The finance committee is responsible for the oversight of the financial affairs of Grand Lodge by recommending the annual budget, annual financial statements and auditors to the Board for approval.

The finance committee would present the annual budget to the Board for approval and following that the Grand Treasurer would report to the board any difficulties encountered in achieving the terms of the budget - is there a need for a detailed balance sheet at every meeting of the full Board?

It is recommended that the committees on the condition of the order and the Grand Master's Address be combined.

The numbers suggested for and the actual number of members on some of the committees raises an issue of how successful they can be in completing any task. A committee with upwards of twenty members can find itself bogged down when trying to reach a consensus. This lends to frustration and low attendance. Chapter IV Article 5. (e) of the Constitution limits the tenure of committee members to three years except by virtue of his office in Grand Lodge or where specialized knowledge is required and although a member can be reappointed after a year's absence we have cases where membership has continued indefinitely and committees continue without ever meeting or reporting. This practice should cease.

The Chairman of the Board noted that some of the changes recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee require Constitutional changes which will have to go before the Annual Communication and asked the Committee to prepare the motions for the next Annual Communication in June, 2016.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Board of General Purposes be received. Discussion followed.

VW Bro. John Cameron stated that he is confused because the report is clearly marked as Preliminary Report and now it appears that this is the Final Report. Bro. Cameron would want to send feedback to the Committee and the Chairman stated that this is the place to do that. Bro. Cameron asked about the Elected District Representatives and the DDGMs represent the Grand Master. Is the suggestion that the DDGMs don't vote at the Board? MW Bro. Riley confirmed that is correct, the DDGM would not have a vote at the Board. Bro. Cameron also stated that the work is very well done in the report.

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Bro. Cameron also commented on Committee Structure and Stand Alone Boards and perhaps should say Stand Alone Committees.

Bro. Cameron then asked about the collapsing of the Committees of Education, Heritage, Masonic Renewal, and Public Relations in favour of a Membership Committee and Bro. Cameron's concern is putting so much work and responsibility on one Committee in favour of the other Committees.

Bro. Cameron also disagrees with the comment on the Finance Committee not providing quarterly reports to the Board of General Purposes as the Board is responsible for the financial affairs of Grand Lodge. Bro. Cameron stated that the Board does not receive a Balance Sheet quarterly but rather they receive a Statement of Income and Expenses.

RW Bro. Jack Hamilton stated that as a DDGM, he has never felt that the Grand Master has asked him to speak to the Board on his behalf but rather he speaks for his District. He stated that if he does not have a vote at the Board, he would not attend the meetings. He also stated that he finds the meetings useful and productive.

RW Bro. Rob Hiller also noted that the Elected District Representatives in his District don't visit the Lodges but the DDGMs do visit their Lodges on a regular basis and are involved with their Lodges and know what's going on. Also, the Committee on Membership changes proposed would be overwhelming for those on the Committee.

RW Bro. Bill Hilden agreed with the comments from the other two DDGMs. Bro. Hilden also stated that he is very lucky that their District Representative is very good about conveying information to the Lodges. He also stated that he represents his District and he takes the time to attend meetings and should be entitled to vote.

VW Bro. Cameron took exception to RW Bro. Hillier's comment that the Elected District Representative does not keep the District Lodges informed. Bro. Cameron sends out a detailed report to the Lodges in Halifax District 2. He agrees that in the past, the Elected Representative for his District did not do his job, so consequently, he is responsible to report to the Lodges in his District.

RW Bro. Graham Shauffenburg noted that there used to be an Alternate District Representative to attend and represent the District in the event the Elected District Representative couldn't attend the Board meeting and that if this proposal to eliminate the vote for the DDGM at the Board, and the Elected District Representative is unable to attend the meeting of the Board, the District will have no vote in the matters brought before the Board.

MW Bro. Riley noted that this is a preliminary report, meant to provoke discussion. He is willing to listen to what is being said. Bro. Riley stated that the final report will be made at the February meeting of the Board and if someone wants to contact him, to please do so.

The Chairman stated that discussion of this report could go on, and then the Board agreed that any comments be sent to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee by the end of January, 2016. It was regularly moved and seconded to receive the report of the Committee. The question was called and the motion was **Carried**.

### **Ad Hoc Search Committee on the Office of Grand Secretary**

The Chairman of the Committee noted that the document was sent out to the Board members and propose that if this report is accepted, it will then be sent out to the Lodge Secretaries to be distributed to their members. Any applications that come in will be vetted, and names of the successful applicants will then be brought before the February Board meeting.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Board receive the report of the Ad Hoc Search Committee on the Office of Grand Secretary. Discussion followed.

MW Bro. Crosby noted that the Grand Secretary is not an employee of Grand Lodge but a Grand Lodge Officer. He noted there are a number of items that should be amended including preparing a report for

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the Annual Audit and the Office Operating Budget both of which are carried out by himself as the Grand Treasurer.

Discussion then followed on the meaning of honorarium and whether or not tax deductions were applicable.

The Grand Secretary noted that there is no Website Committee. That Committee was formed when they were dealing with requests for proposals. When it was decided that nothing was going to be done with the website, the committee was disbanded. Also, the Arrangements Committee for the Annual Assembly, does not exist. Responsibility of the Annual Communication are handled by the Grand Secretary and his staff.

MW Bro. Lawrin Armstrong moved that the changes proposed be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded, the question was called and the motion was **Carried**.

The original motion to receive the report as amended was then moved, the question was called and the motion was **Carried**.

### **Motion**

I, Robert Hillier, DDGM, Halifax District 2, move the following change to the Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. Regulation 1, Section F to include the following addition:

**“, and replaces all previous authorized editions.”**

#### Reason

All past rituals state they are authorized and the current 6<sup>th</sup> edition does not state that it replaces all previous editions.

RW Bro. Leigh MacDonnell suggested an amendment to the motion. Currently it states that this is decided by Grand Lodge and it is ambiguous as it is the Board of General Purposes. The amendment moved is as decided by the Board of General Purposes and not Grand Lodge. The amendment was seconded, the question was called and the motion was **Carried**.

The motion as amended was seconded, the question was called and the motion was **Carried**.

### **Notices of Motion:**

I, Lawrin C. Armstrong, Past Grand Master and Chairman of the Board of Jurisprudence hereby give notice that I will move or cause to be moved the following motions to amend the Regulations of Grand Lodge:

#### **Motion 1:**

That Regulation I, Constitution Lodges, Section 1 Authority, subsection (d), be amended by changing the words ‘Board of General Purposes’ in the final sentence to be ‘Grand Master’ and by inserting the words “with the exception of a Bylaw setting fees and/or dues” between the words ‘thereof and shall’ .

The subsection will then read: (d) Every Lodge has the power to enact Bylaws for its own government. All Bylaws shall be consistent with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. All Bylaws and any amendment or repeal thereof, with the exception of a Bylaw setting fees and/or dues, shall be invalid until approved by the Grand Master.

**Explanation:** To remove the need for approval of Bylaw changes regarding fees and/or dues and to clarify that the Grand Master approves Lodge By-law amendments not the Board of General Purposes.

It is suggested that Lodges which have not already done so amend their By-laws with regards to fees and/or annual dues with wording such as the following: *“The fees payable for admission, and the rate of annual dues payable to the Lodge by each member, shall be determined from time to time as required, by the giving of a Notice of Motion at a meeting with the proposed change being published in the summons*

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*for the regular meeting at which the proposed change will be considered. The change must be approved by at least two-thirds of the members present and eligible to vote and if approved will be effective at the beginning of the next calendar year following.”*

### **Motion 2:**

That Regulation I, Constitution Lodges, Section 3 Meetings, subsection (a), be amended by changing the words ‘Board of General Purposes’ in the final sentence to be ‘Grand Master’.

The subsection will then read: (a) The regular days and places of meeting of a Lodge shall be stated in the Bylaws. No Lodge shall change its regular place of meeting, unless approved by a vote of its members present in open Lodge, after notice to every member, specifying that such vote shall be taken. A favourable vote to make such change must be approved by the Grand Master before a change is valid.

**Explanation:** The Grand Master approves Lodge By-law amendments not the Board of General Purposes.

### **Motion 3:**

That Regulation IV, Consolidation of Lodges, Section 5, be amended by changing the words ‘Board of General Purposes’ to be ‘Grand Master’.

The section will then read: 5. An agreement to consolidate must receive the approval of the Grand Master.

**Explanation:** The Grand Master approves the consolidations of Lodges not the Board of General Purposes.

### **Motion 4:**

That Regulation V, Discontinuance of Lodges, Sections 1 to 8 be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

1. A Lodge may voluntarily decide to close and discontinue operating at any time.
2. Members of the Lodge shall be entitled to a minimum of two months’ notice, in writing, before the meeting at which a motion to close and discontinue operating is to be considered.
3. A motion to close a Lodge and discontinue operating must be approved by no less than seventy-five (75) percent of the members, voting either in person or by proxy.
4. On approval of a motion to close a Lodge and discontinue operating, the Secretary shall forthwith forward to the Grand Secretary a copy of the approved motion: documentary evidence that the required notice was given; and a tabulation of the vote of the members, all of which will be submitted to the Board of Jurisprudence for review.
5. The decision to close a Lodge and discontinue operating shall become effective when approved by the Grand Master upon the recommendation of the Board of Jurisprudence.
6. Prior to the cessation of operations demits shall be issued to all members in good standing.
7. The Warrant of a Lodge that voluntarily closes and ceases operation shall be placed in temporary darkness and may only be reactivated by a petition to the Grand Master, signed by at least seven former members of that Lodge who are in good standing and residing within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, giving the name and number of their present Lodge. A petition to reactivate shall state the names and standing of the members proposed for the office of Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Warden. If a petition is not received within fifteen years from the date of retirement of the Warrant, the Warrant will be deemed to be surrendered and placed in permanent darkness.

**Explanation:** To better clarify the procedure to be followed by a Lodge wishing to close and discontinue operating and to remove the confusion between the words ‘surrendering’ or ‘retiring’ a Lodge’s warrant as

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for all intents and purpose the words mean the same thing. And, to also clarify that the decision to close a Lodge and discontinue operating is approved by the Grand Master not the Board of General Purposes.

I, Leigh MacConnell, a member in good standing of Ionic Lodge # 73, shall move or cause to be moved at the next regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes, the following additional subsection (f) **(in bold)** to be added to Regulation VI, Regalia, section 4, General:

**(f) All members holding Grand Lodge office as well as all members of the constituent Lodges, in the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia, shall wear their aprons on the frontal exterior of their clothing in such a manner that the apron will not be obscured or partially obscured from full view.**

Explanatory note:

To have recorded in writing a practice that is observed by word of mouth in this jurisdiction.

The Chairman noted that this motion was voted on September 28, 2013, however, RW Bro. MacConnell said that it is not in the Regulations.

The next regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes will be held on **February 27, 2016** at the Tru-Fel Masonic Hall in Bible Hill commencing at 11:00 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a regular motion at 1:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Northup  
Grand Secretary, P.T.