

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 16.

**PARTICULAR LODGES- NAME AND NUMBER;
CONSOLIDATION**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Regulations

16.01 Newly Chartered Lodges hereafter shall be numbered chronologically, the newest Lodge taking the next number above the last Lodge Chartered. No Lodge in Florida shall be named after any living man, and no Lodge in Florida shall bear the number '8'. (historical note regarding the "Number 8" inhibition: Orion Lodge No. 8, for the last one hundred years a Georgia Lodge, was Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Florida at Pleasant Grove, Georgia, near the Florida line, in 1839. Two years later, without consent of either Grand Body, the Lodge moved to Decatur, now Bainbridge, Georgia. When this fact came to the attention of the Grand Lodge of Georgia much indignation was expressed and a resolution was adopted officially declaring Orion Lodge to be a Lodge of Clandestine Masons. Explanations followed and the matter was adjusted in a fraternal spirit of amity and good will. Florida released its claim on Orion Lodge and Georgia received it in full fellowship, and to cement the bond of good will and good fellowship, Florida resolved that no other Florida Lodge should bear the number "8," and as a further gesture of good will, elected the Masters and Wardens of Orion Lodge No. 8 honorary members of the Grand Lodge of Florida in perpetuity. In the same spirit, Georgia resolved that Orion Lodge should continue to work under the Charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Florida, endorsed by the Grand Lodge of Georgia. And so we see the anomaly of a Lodge of Masons working in another Grand Jurisdiction under and by virtue of authority granted by the Grand Lodge of Florida more than 100 years ago.)

16.02 When the name of a Chartered Lodge has been changed, the new name cannot be inserted in the old Charter. The Charter must be surrendered and a new one obtained, or a properly certified action of the Grand Lodge be appended to the old Charter.

CONSOLIDATED LODGES

Regulations

16.03 (a) When two or more contiguous Lodges deem it to their interest and to the interest of Masonry to consolidate and become one Lodge, they do so by proceeding as follows:

A Resolution in writing proposing consolidation and naming the Lodges to be consolidated shall be offered at a Stated Communication of each Lodge concerned, and shall lie over for at least one month in each and every such Lodge.

(b) If the majority of the members present at the next Stated Communication of each and every Lodge concerned, held after said Resolution shall have laid over for a month as herein above specified, vote in favor of the Resolution, the members of each Lodge so voting by a majority vote in favor of such Resolution, shall be furnished a copy of the Resolution. Same to be sent by mail to their last known address with notice that final action will be taken on said Resolution at a Stated Communication of said Lodge or Lodges on a date to be specified in said notice, which said date shall be not less than ten (10) days after the date of the mailing of said notice.

(c) If three-fourths of the members of a Lodge so concerned with such Resolution, at a Stated Communication of said Lodge held on the date specified in the notice hereinabove mentioned, vote in favor of such consolidation, the Secretary of each Lodge so voting favorably shall notify the Grand Master. If the Grand Master approves of said consolidation, he shall give written notice thereof to each Lodge affected and the consolidation of the Lodges so voting in favor of same shall become effective from date of such approval.

(d) The name of the new or consolidated Lodge may be the name and number of either of the Lodges participating in the consolidation, or a combination name derived from the names of the Lodges participating, and shall be selected or agreed upon by a majority vote of the membership of the new or consolidated Lodge at the first Stated Communication of said Lodge held after said consolidation becomes effective. However, the Lodges participating in the consolidation may propose a name and number for the new or consolidated Lodge by including same in said proposed Resolution of consolidation, and in the event said name and number is so specified and said Resolution becomes effective, the name and number so specified in said Resolution shall be the name and number of said new or consolidated Lodge. If the membership of said new or consolidated Lodge does not agree upon a new name and number for said Lodge, or desire to do so, the selection of a name and number for said Lodge may be referred to the Grand Master for his decision.

(e) When said consolidation becomes effective, a new Charter shall be issued reciting the fact of such consolidation and the name and number of said Lodge. No fee shall be payable therefor.

(f) The Charters and Seals of the consolidating Lodges shall be surrendered to the Grand Secretary. The new or consolidated Lodge shall acquire the title to all funds and the property of said consolidating Lodges, and shall assume responsibility for all Grand Lodge dues and assessments and all other debts and liabilities of the consolidating Lodges.

(g) All members of the consolidating Lodges shall upon said consolidation becoming effective, automatically become members of the consolidated Lodge, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.

(h) Nothing herein contained shall vary or affect the right of a member in good standing of any of the Lodges concerned in said consolidation to demand his dimit at any time from his Lodge of original membership prior to the effective date of said consolidation, or from said consolidated Lodge after the date of said consolidation. Any such demand must be made conformably to the requirements of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

(i) The terms of all Officers of the consolidating Lodges shall terminate as of the date when such consolidation is effective, and the Masters and Wardens of such Lodge shall be considered as having served the full term of their respective offices.

(j) At the first stated Communication of said Consolidated Lodge, the Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Master, or the Master of the oldest Lodge concerned, shall open a Lodge of Master Masons and hold an election for Officers of said Consolidated Lodge. The Appointive Officers shall be named, Officers installed, By-Laws proposed, and all other organization details attended to conformably to the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Jurisdiction. The Officers so elected and appointed for said Consolidated Lodge shall serve until the end of the current Masonic year, and at the end of said year shall be deemed and considered to have served a full regular term in said offices.

MERGER OF LODGES

16.04 When two or more Lodges in a Masonic District deem it in the best interest of said Lodges and of freemasonry to merge and become one Lodge, they may do so by the following procedures:

(a) A Resolution in writing proposing the merger shall be prepared, which Resolution shall set forth therein the following:

(1) A recital of the facts and circumstances which are deemed sufficient ground for the proposed merger.

- (2) The names of the Lodges proposing to merge.
- (3) Which Lodge shall retain its Name and Charter, which shall be referred to as the continuing Lodge, and which Lodge or Lodges shall surrender its or their charter, which Lodges shall be referred to as the merging Lodge or Lodges.
- (4) The proposed plan or program for transfer of the funds and property to and the assumption of liability by the continuing Lodge.
- (5) The proposed plan or program for preserving the records, papers, documents, and similar items of the Lodge or Lodges being merged.
- (6) The proposed schedule for implementing the merger which shall specify in detail the approximate dates of presentation of the proposed Resolution to the several Lodges involved, presentation of the same to Grand Master for approval or disapproval as hereinafter provided and date for final merger.

(b) The foregoing Resolution shall be prepared and signed by a majority of the elected Officers of each of the Lodges involved and, after due notice to the Craft, shall be presented to all involved Lodges for approval by majority vote of those present at a stated communication. It shall then be presented to the Grand Master on or before the proposed date for such presentation specified in the Resolution.

(c) The Grand Master shall review the Resolution and enter such order thereon as he may be advised, either approving or disapproving the Resolution or approving it with modification or with additional provisions, including a new schedule for progress of the proposed merger.

(d) Upon approval by the Grand Master the Resolution shall be read to the Lodges involved at a stated communication and if approved by majority vote of the members present and voting in each Lodge, the Resolution shall be laid over in each of such Lodges for not less than one month nor more than two months, and if upon due notice it is adopted by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at a Stated Communication of each Lodge involved in the merger, the proceedings for merger shall progress as specified in the order of the Grand Master.

(e) Nothing herein shall be construed to vary or affect the right of a member in good standing and any of the Lodges involved in the merger to demand and receive his dimit or transfer certificate at any time in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(f) Upon the merger being fully effective the members of the merging Lodge or Lodges shall automatically be and become members of the Lodge into which the other Lodges are merged with the same rights and privileges they enjoyed in the merging Lodge or Lodges.

(g) Upon completion of the procedure for merger the Charter of the merging Lodge or Lodges shall be surrendered to the Grand Lodge and such charter or charters shall be deemed recalled and revoked.

(h) A copy of the Resolution and a statement of the proceedings shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at the time of surrender of the Charter or Charters, and then presented to all involved Lodges for approval, by majority vote, at a stated meeting and due notice to the Craft. It shall then be presented to the Grand Master on or before proposed date for such presentation specified in the Resolution. (1991)