PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE ADAPTATION TO

RESTRICTIONS (AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY)

**Proposed Amendment to accommodate Electronic Elections and Voting on Motions at Grand Lodge Communications and Electronic Voting at District Meetings.**

Whereas, in 2020, electronic elections were utilized at both the Grand Communications and at various District Meetings throughout the jurisdiction. The elections worked quite well, and the brethren appeared to appreciate voting for candidates for the various positions without having to be at the various events, in person.

Whereas there is no regulation to accommodate electronic elections for Grand Lodge (II.1.B) or District meetings (II.2.B), additions will be required.

Whereas paragraph II.2.A.6 states; “The District Deputy Grand Master shall be elected by secret written ballot at the Annual District Meeting.”

Whereas paragraph II.2.B.14 states; “The following rules shall govern the conduct of election:”

Therefore, we, the Special Committee on Adaptation to Restrictions (and use of Technology), hereby move to:

1. Add a paragraph for electronic voting on Candidates (at a GL Communication):

*II.1.B.12 Electronic Elections –*

1. *In circumstances where the general membership who would otherwise be eligible to attend a meeting and cast ballots are restricted and forbidden from doing so due to government regulations, operation of law (ie. in response to a public health orders or otherwise) or other formal restrictions, or otherwise, then in such circumstances the Grand Master may direct that voting on candidate elections may be conducted via electronic means.*
2. *A decision on whether to hold Electronic Elections must be made no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Meeting in question, with notice to the general membership.*
3. *For any Grand Lodge Annual Communication for which the Grand Master has chosen electronic balloting, balloting will commence at 8:00 am on the second Friday of June and close at 10:00 am on the Saturday directly following, with balloting for:*
	* *The Board of General-Purposes;*
	* *The Board of Benevolence;*
	* *Other Board Committees; and*
	* *Grand Line Officers,*

*will occur.*

1. *Electronic balloting will follow the procedures prescribed by the Grand Lodge Office.*
2. *Only the Grand Registrar, Grand Secretary and Grand Parliamentarian will have access to the final vote counts. In the absence of any of these officers, an alternate scrutineer may be appointed by the Grand Master.*
3. *Only the names of the successful candidates will be announced.*
4. Add a paragraph for electronic voting on motions:

*II.1.B.13 Electronic Voting on Motions*

1. *In circumstances where the general membership who would otherwise be eligible to attend a meeting and cast ballots are restricted and forbidden from doing so due to government regulations, operation of law (ie. in response to a public health orders or otherwise) or other formal restrictions, or otherwise, then in such circumstances the Board of General Purposes (the BGP) may direct that voting on motions at a Communication (Annual or otherwise) may be conducted via electronic means.*
2. *In the circumstances set forth in subsection a., above, if the BGP decides that any motions are of such nature (urgency or otherwise) that they must proceed to vote in the absence of an in-person meeting, the BGP, with the Grand Parliamentarian in attendance or otherwise consulted, can elect by a simple majority vote of the BGP to proceed with an electronic virtual or hybrid in person and virtual meeting of members, with vote(s) to be conducted upon one or more such motions by the members in attendance at such virtual or hybrid in person and virtual, in such a manner that a fulsome debate of a Motion being voted on can be conducted.*
3. Add the following for electronic voting at District Meetings:

Delete the current II.2.A.6 and insert the following:

*II.2.A.6: The District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) shall be elected by secret ballot at the Annual District Meeting.* *In circumstances where the members of a District who would otherwise be eligible to attend a District Meeting and cast ballots are restricted and forbidden from doing so due to government regulations, operation of law (ie. in response to a public health orders or otherwise) or other formal restrictions, or otherwise, then in such circumstances the DDGM of any such District, in consultation with the Deputy Grand Master and with written permission of the Grand Master, may direct that voting on candidate elections may be conducted via electronic means. A decision on whether to hold Electronic Elections must be made no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting in question, with notice to the members of that District.*

Insert the word “*written*”, before “*election*” in paragraph II.2.B.14

Insert paragraph before II.2.B.15 and renumber subsequent paragraphs:

*II.2.B.15. The following rules shall govern the conduct of electronic elections:*

*15.a follow the procedures as prescribed by the Grand Lodge Office, and pay the prescribed fees or any associated costs as may be levied by the Grand Lodge Office for hosting such meeting.*

*15.b the District Deputy Grand Master shall appoint not less than three (3) Scrutineers prior to the Annual District meeting and inform the Grand Secretary/Grand Registrar. The duties of the principal Scrutineer will be to receive a written ballot from the District Deputy Grand Master.*

*15.c* *after the close of the ballot the Scrutineer will be in contact the Grand Lodge Office to relay the results to the District Deputy Grand Master at the necessary time.*

*15.d in the event the number of electronic ballots cast for two candidates are equal the written ballot from the District Deputy Grand Master shall be used to determine the successful candidate.*

*15. e. a candidate for DDGM-elect must receive a majority of all votes cast by electronic ballot. In the case of more than two nominees for DDGM-elect being voted upon:*

*1/ should at the close of the initial ballot one nominee not have the support of a majority of the ballots cast, the Scrutineer shall state so. Ballot results shall not be revealed.*

*2/ A second electronic ballot shall then be conducted dropping the name of the nominee with the lowest number of votes.*

*3/ Step One (1) and Two (2) shall be repeated until one (1) nominee has a clear majority. However, should there be a tie between only two remaining candidates, the provisions of subsection 15.e. shall apply and the District Deputy Grand Master’s written ballot shall be used to determine the successful candidate.*

*15.f. at the appropriate time, the District Deputy Grand Master shall call upon the Scrutineer for the results of the election. The Scrutineer shall announce only the name of the successful candidate.*