

Resolution 2020-04

Single Lodge Service

(Requires 5/6 majority for approval)

SYNOPSIS: The purpose of this legislation is to strengthen the lodge management and administration by requiring the Master, Secretary and Treasurer to only serve in one of these roles in one lodge at a time.

WHEREAS: It is becoming more common to see officers serving key roles in multiple lodges at a time – serving as Master in one lodge, Secretary in another and still another role in a third lodge. When brothers assume multiple "controlling" positions in a lodge, they become entangled with multiple budgets, multiple voting positions and, by virtue of their station, also assume other roles such as Trustee, Trial Commissioner, etc. By virtue of these positions, the power of multiple lodges becomes concentrated in the hands of the few. This creates an “appearance” of impropriety and the opportunity for dissension. It also creates a conflict of interest when it comes time to manage the resources of these multiple lodges; it spreads those resources/brothers out so thinly that the various lodge suffer from a lack of focused attention. While the willingness to serve in multiple roles might be born out of a sincere desire to help, the end result actually hurts the Craft.

RESOLVED: That Section 6-1 of the Constitution be amended as follows: (additions in **bold type**, there are no deletions)

§6-1 Masonic Lodges: Officers and Elections; Rights, Powers and Authority. A Lodge shall consist of a Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, and such other officers as its bylaws provide; together with as many members as it may find convenient. The Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected annually by ballot at the stated meeting specified in the Lodge by-laws, or at the stated meeting in November, if a specific month is not stated in the by-laws. **The office of Master, Treasurer, or Secretary may be held in only one Constituent Lodge during the same Masonic year.** At the same meeting, each Lodge shall also elect (5) Master Masons who are members of the Lodge to serve as potential Trial Commissioners for the ensuing Masonic year. The Lodge Secretary is the Secretary for a Trial Commission and therefore should not be elected as a Commissioner. A majority of the votes of the eligible members present shall be necessary to elect.

A Lodge of Research shall be a Lodge of research only, and have the rights, powers and authority only as prescribed by Statute.

Submitted by: (Bo) Robert F. Buchanan III, WM (2)