

RESOLUTION 2020-08

Proposed Amendment to Trial Commissioner Selection (Required 2/3 majority for approval)

Synopsis: Concern has been expressed that it may not be possible to select unbiased Trial Commissioners from Lodges that meet at the same address due to numerous dual memberships and close association among the members of these Lodges. This resolution is proposed to ensure a fair and impartial trial in such Lodges.

Therefore be it resolved that Statute Section 18-205 be amended as follows (additions in **bold type**, there are no deletions) Note: Subsection (d) is added and original Subsections (d) and {e} become {e} and (f).

Section 18-205 – Selection of Trial Commissioners.

- (a) The Master shall ascertain before selection if there exists an obvious conflict of interest or bias which would preclude an elected Brother to serve as a Trial Commissioner.
- (b) Within ten (10) calendar days of the presentation of charges, the Master shall randomly select from those Brothers who have been found to be free of conflict of interest or bias three (3) of the five (5) elected Trial Commissioners in his Lodge to serve as Trial Commissioners for the Trial.
- (c) From the list of the elected Brothers to serve as Trial Commissioners from the four (4) closest Lodges provided by the Grand Secretary, the Trial Commissioners, in the presence of the Master, shall then randomly select one Brother from each Lodge to also serve as Trial Commissioners so that the total number of Commissioners is seven (7).
- (d) **When more than one Lodge meets at the same address, those Lodges will be considered as one geographical location. All trial Commissioners will then be drawn from the next four closest Lodges with one from the nearest Lodge, and two each from the other three Lodges. Random selections will be made by the Master of the Lodge where charges were filed in the presence of the Lodge Secretary and the appointed Trial Master.**
- (e) ~~(d)~~The Master shall then set the date, time and place for the Trial, which shall occur not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days after the date of the disclosure to the Trial Master.
- (f) ~~(e)~~Upon the conclusion of this process, the Trial Master shall become fully responsible for all procedural matters incident to the trial until the conclusion thereof and the rendition and transmittal of the Commissioners' decision to the parties thereto.

Submitted by

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