

Resolution 2020-14
Housekeeping Statute 18-202
(Requires 2/3 majority for approval)

Synopsis: Statute Section 18-202 directs that charges of un-Masonic conduct be delivered to either the Master or Secretary of the Lodge. This conflicts with Section 9-4 of the Constitution which directs that Charges shall be presented to the Master. This conflict should be resolved by deleting reference to the Secretary as indicated. Approval of this Resolution will also reverse the numbering and sequence of Statute Sections 18-201 and 18-202 to reflect the correct order these actions happen. The added sentence in bold type in Section 18-202 is proposed to document the actions of the Master should he decline the charges.

Therefore, be it resolved that the indicated amendment be approved as shown below. (additions in **bold print**, deletions in ~~strike through~~)

Section 18-~~202~~ **201**– Presentation of Charges Defined. Presentation occurs when a copy of the written charges and accuser’s list of known witnesses are delivered to ~~either the Master or the Secretary~~ of the Lodge.

Section 18-~~201~~ **202**– Procedure upon Receipt of Charges. Upon the presentation of charges the Master shall carefully examine the charge(s) and specifications, and, if they are obviously frivolous, or if the act or acts with which the accused is charged is or are clearly such in the opinion of the Master as do not constitute a Masonic offense, he may refuse to entertain them. Should any doubt appear to the contrary and the Master has verified that the accuser is a Master Mason in good standing, he shall proceed as provided in the following sections. **The prudent Master should place in the trial file a memorialization of the factual basis for his decision to refuse to entertain the charge(s).**

Submitted by

Earl L. Wunder, PM (13, 14)
Robert Weed, PM (22)
Jason Morrett, PM (7)
Eric Dupree, PM (66, 86)