

WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE GRAND MASTERS OF REGULAR MASONIC GRAND LODGES

Rules

Section 1 - Name :

Article 1 – Name

The Conference shall be known as “The World Conference of the Grand Masters of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges”.

Section 2 – Purpose:

The purpose of the Conference is for the exchange of information and sharing of experience between the Grand Masters and to consider solutions, which shall promote the stability, progress and universality of Craft Masonry.

The Conference will have no decision-making power and will respect the sovereignty of each Regular Grand Lodge.

Section 3 - Organisational structure:

Article 1 – Membership

The World Conference will be open only to Regular Masonic Grand Lodges.

Participation in the Conference may include all regularly constituted and operating Grand Lodges having at least fifty (50) recognitions by other foreign Regular Grand Lodges.

Article 2 – Observers

Participation in the Conference in the form of an observer (without right to vote) may include all regularly constituted and operating Grand Lodges, which are recognised by at least twenty (20) Regular Grand Lodges.

A newly consecrated Grand Lodge will exist at least three years before they may attend the Conference, provided they meet the minimum requirement.

Article 3 – Representation

The Grand Master or his representative and the Grand Secretary/Grand Chancellor or his representative, will be the only ones permitted to be seated at the Conference table and address the Conference. Each Grand Lodge shall have one vote on all matters.

Section 4 – Officers

The Chairman of the Conference is the Grand Master of the host Grand Lodge.

Duties:

1. Will chair the Conference.

2. If the Chairman of the Conference is unable to fulfil his responsibility, the host Grand Lodge will appoint a suitably qualified Brother.
3. Technical organisation of the Conference.
4. Review all papers and documents submitted for the Conference and determine which will be presented and prepare the agenda.
5. Proposes the date and venue of the next World Conference based on applications received in writing from the Grand Lodges who wish to host the conference.
6. The Chairman of the previous Conference will assist his successor at his request.

Qualification and term of office:

1. The Chairman of the Conference is the Grand Master of the host Grand Lodge.
2. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge hosting the next Conference becomes in charge immediately after the closure of the Conference.
3. The term of office of the Chairman of the Conference is 18 months, from the close of the previous Conference to the close of the Conference in his country.
4. The Chairman of the previous Conference will assist his successor at his request.

Section 5 – Meetings

The Conference will meet every 18 months, unless otherwise decided by a simple majority (at least 50% + 1) of the members present and entitled to vote.

Every attempt will be made to hold the Conference on different continents so that there is rotation between continents.

English, French and Spanish will be the official languages of the Conference (Host Grand Lodge may add other languages.) There will be no discussion of a political or religious nature, with the exception of the broad issues that affect Freemasonry.

The host Grand Lodge may invite external speakers to share their expertise on chosen topics.

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Matters of Recognition are not a requirement of this Conference.

The Annual Communication of the host Grand lodge may not take place during the Conference. However, it can precede or follow.

Ritual workings during the Conference is the responsibility of the lodges of the host Grand Lodge. Lodges may extend an invitation for conference delegates to participate in ritual workings outside the conference.

Section 6 – Finance

The Host Grand Lodge may charge a registration fee to cover administrative costs.

Section 7 – Voting

Only members complying with Section 3, who have paid the registration fee are entitled to be present and vote.

The Chairman may propose a vote by show of hands provided none of the members is against. Before voting by secret ballot the number of members entitled to vote is counted.

The Chairman appoints three scrutineers, each representing a different Continent. They will announce the result.

Voting on all matters is decided by simple majority (at least 50% + 1 of the votes cast), except for section 8 which requires a majority of at least two-thirds.

Section 8 - Amendments to the Rules

Amendments to the Rules should be presented in writing at least 2 months before the World Conference and read out loud at the World Conference, giving members the opportunity to discuss the proposal. An amendment to the Rules requires a two-thirds majority of votes of the members present and entitled to vote.

APPENDIX

Responsibility of the Host Grand Lodge

1. Selects the city, venue and program of the Conference.
2. Develop a brochure with the announcement of the Conference and distribute it to all Regular Grand Lodges satisfying Section 3.
3. Program and subscription information will be on the internet at least 6 months before the Conference
4. Print and send to all participating Grand Lodges a report of the proceedings of the Conference within 3 months after closure of the Conference.

The report of the proceedings of the Conference and all documents mentioned in the report are submitted in English, French and Spanish.

Responsibility of the Grand Secretary

The Secretary of the Conference is the Grand Secretary of the host Grand Lodge.

Duties:

1. Organise, orchestrate the programme portion of the Conference.
2. Oversee the publication of all papers presented at the Conference and distribute them in English, French and Spanish. The host Grand Lodge may add other languages.
3. Provide a draft copy of the brochure prior to printing to the Chairman.