

Constitution of New Hampshire Council of Deliberation 1966

Including corrections, additions and amendments in order to bring it into agreement with the Constitution of the Supreme Council:

Article I

Section 1. This body shall be known and distinguished as “New Hampshire Council of Deliberation of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.”

Section 2. It is formed under and acknowledges and yields allegiance to the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the Thirty-third and last degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, having its Grand East in the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts.

Article II

Section 1. This Council shall be composed of its Officers, the Active, Emeriti, and Honorary Members of the Supreme Council accredited to New Hampshire, the Past First and Past Second Lieutenant Commanders of the Council of Deliberation; the Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Consistory; the Past Most Wise Masters of Chapters of Rose Croix; the Past Sovereign Princes of Councils of Jerusalem; the Past Thrice Potent Masters of Lodges of Perfection; those members of Subordinate Bodies in the State who have received the Meritorious Service Award from New Hampshire Council of Deliberation, and the first three officers of the Consistory and Chapters of Rose Croix, Councils of Princes of Jerusalem, and Lodges of Perfection of New Hampshire together with such other officers as are duly elected by a subordinate body and designated to be a member of the Council of Deliberation as well as the Treasurers and the Secretaries of subordinate Bodies shall constitute a Council of Deliberation for New Hampshire of which the Deputy shall be ex-officio Illustrious Commander-in-Chief.

Section 2. This Council shall meet annually; the time and place may be set by the Council or the Illustrious Deputy for the State of New Hampshire. If no time or place is set, then the annual convocation shall be held in the city of Nashua, New Hampshire, on the first Saturday in June at 2:00 p.m.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the Deputy at such times and places as he shall determine.

Section 4. Written or printed notice of each annual or special meeting of this Council shall be given by the Secretary at least ten (10) days before said meeting and such notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose thereof.

Section 5. Accredited representatives of a majority of the Scottish Rite Bodies in New Hampshire shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. Members of any Lodge of Perfection, Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Chapter of Rose Croix, and Consistory in any other State may become members of a Lodge, Council, Chapter and Consistory in this state without forfeiting their membership, providing such other State permits dual or plural membership.

Article III

Section 1. The Council has in its State, legislative and judicial power not reserved to the Supreme Council, and not inconsistent with the Constitutions and Regulations, and subject to the rights of appeal provided.

Article IV

Section 1. This Council shall elect by ballot the following officers who are members of New Hampshire Consistory, for a period of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected or appointed:

- First Lieutenant Commander
- Second Lieutenant Commander
- Minister of State
- Chancellor
- Prior
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Master of Ceremonies
- Hospitaler
- Seneschal
- Standard Bearer
- Captain of the Guard
- Sentinel

The Illustrious Deputy may appoint the following:

- Associate Prior
- Assistant Secretary
- Organist

And any other officer he may deem necessary.

Section 2. In case of vacancy in any office, or failure to elect officers, the Illustrious Deputy may make appointments, to be in force until the next election. If the Deputy of the Supreme Council should fail to be present at any meeting of this Council, the First Lieutenant Commander, or in his absence the Second Lieutenant Commander, shall preside.

Section 3. Each officer of this Council shall perform the duties customarily incident to his office in accordance with Masonic usage and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by resolution of this Council or by the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief.

Section 4. The officers of this Council shall be installed at the annual meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Article V

Section 1. Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General, all Officers of this Council, all Past Presiding Officers of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the State of New Hampshire, those members who have received the Meritorious Service Awards from this Council, and all Treasurers and Secretaries of Subordinate Bodies, all of whom holding current membership in the Scottish Rite in New Hampshire, are permanent members of this Council and are entitled to one vote each but cannot vote by proxy.

Section 2. Any Representative of a Subordinate Body of the Rite who is entitled to a seat in this Council of Deliberation, but is unable to be present at any session of such Council, may appoint as his proxy to act in his stead any member of such Subordinate Body, provided, however, that such proxy shall not represent more than one member of such Council.

Section 3. The Consistory and Chapters and the Councils and Lodges shall be entitled to three votes each. They may be voted by proxy.

Section 4. In case of a tie, the presiding officer shall have the deciding vote.

Article VI

Section 1. The Council may open on the fourteenth, sixteenth, eighteenth or thirty-second degree for the transaction of business relating to the bodies or brethren of those degrees respectively, but the business not relating specifically to the higher degrees shall be transacted by the Council while open on the fourteenth degree when all members may be present.

Section 2. At each annual meeting the Commander-in-Chief, or in his absence, the presiding officer, shall appoint the following committees:

- Committee on Credentials
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Necrology
- Committee on Constitutions and Laws
- Committee on Dispensations and Charters
- Committee on Condition of the Rite
- Committee on Meritorious Service Awards
- Committee on Nominations
- Committee on Membership
- Committee on DeMolay

And any other Special Committees he may deem necessary

Section 3. The duties of all Committees shall be prescribed by the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief.

Section 4. The address of the Commander-in-Chief shall be referred without necessary of a vote to the Committee on the Condition of the Rite.

Section 5. All applications for charters shall be presented to the Council for its approval, and no application for a charter shall be made to the Supreme Council without the recommendation of the Council of Deliberation, the said application having been previously referred to the Council on Dispensations and Charters.

Article VII

Section 1. Secretaries of Subordinate Bodies in this State are required to forward to the Secretary of the Council of Deliberation, the Deputy for New Hampshire and the Grand Secretary General, a list of their officers within ten (10) days after election.

Section 2. The Secretary of the Council of Deliberation shall send a copy of its printed proceedings to each of the Active and Emeritus members of the Supreme Council, and all members of the Council of Deliberation.

Article VIII

Each Scottish Rite Body in the State of New Hampshire shall be assessed a per capita tax, determined by the Council, and based on the membership reported in the annual report as filed with the Supreme Council, and Treasurer of each body of the Rite shall pay said per capita tax to the Secretary of this Council on or before August 1st of each year.

Article IX

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at an annual meeting of this council by a unanimous vote: or by a vote of two thirds of the members present provided the proposed amendment or amendments shall have been presented at a previous meeting or printed in the notice.

Section 2. This Constitution shall be deemed to be and shall be automatically amended in conformity with any amendment of the Constitutions and Regulations of the Supreme Council or upon the promulgation of any decrees of said Supreme Council inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution.