



**LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
COURSE**

Grand Lodge Committee on Leadership Services F. & A. M. New York

STRUCTURE OF GRAND LODGE

The Birth

On January 23, 1781, in New York City, a meeting of representatives of six Lodges (numbers 169, 441, 133, 210, Solomon's, and Sions) convened to form a Provincial Grand Lodge. This was held at the invitation of Lodge 169, which had moved from Boston to New York in 1776, along with the British forces.

On September 5, 1781, in London, the Duke of Atholl, Grand Master of the Ancient Grand Lodge, signed the Provincial Grand Lodge Warrant also known as the Atholl Charter. In December 1782, the Atholl Warrant arrived from London.

The first meeting was held on December 5, 1782 in Roubalet's Assembly Hall in New York City with Rev. William Walter presiding as Grand Master. Grand Master Walter continued in office until September 19, 1783 and was replaced by M.: W.: William Cock. The following February, Grand Master Cock was replaced by Robert R. Livingston, who was Chancellor of the State. M.: W.: Livingston was the first patriot to lead the Grand Lodge.

Membership

There are currently 51 Grand Jurisdictions or Grand Lodges in the United States, with approximately 15,000 Lodges and more than 3 million members. World-wide membership exceeds 6 million members in more than 130 Grand Lodges.

Our Grand Lodge has fraternal relations with all Grand Lodges in the United States as well as many Jurisdictions in foreign countries.

England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, and Massachusetts, have Lodges outside their own geographical boundaries. The Grand Lodge of New York, likewise, has Lodges in Lebanon. Freemasonry historically has gone underground in countries with totalitarian rule.

All generally recognized Grand Lodges adhere to the Ancient Landmarks, traditions, customs, and usages of the Craft, as set forth in the Constitutions adopted by the Grand Lodge of England in 1723 (Anderson's Constitutions). Read the Old Charges in Chapter 4 of the 24" Gauge.



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The Grand Lodge

"This Grand Lodge shall be known as The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York" (Book of Constitutions, Section 100).

This Grand Lodge is, and must be, the only true and legitimate source of Masonic authority within the territorial limits of the State of New York and within such extra-territorial jurisdiction as it has or may assume and exercise. It is the supreme and sovereign Masonic authority, executive, legislative and judicial. Its powers are inherent and are subject only to such limitation as the Grand Lodge may impose upon itself or which are imposed by the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry, or by the law of the land (Book of Constitutions, Section 101).

Grand Lodge is the power by which local Lodges exist, not only in the sense that it issues their Charters, but also that it brings to each Lodge the strength of the whole Craft. It provides Masonic regularity.

Grand Lodge, as sovereign power of the Craft as a whole, is the source of our laws, unvarying, sovereign, and just. It is that which constitutes us a Fraternity. Because of it, a Brother made a Mason here may find friends when traveling elsewhere, or a Masonic home if he moves to another state or country.

Further, Grand Lodge is a center of distribution through which the general Craft can render service to each individual Lodge or member. It serves as an agency through which the means and ability of all are brought to meet the needs of each. It is the custodian and preserver of our traditions, our customs, our ritual, and other great and rich inheritances from the past.

Above all things Grand Lodge is everywhere within the Jurisdiction- wherever a Lodge meets, or a Brother, perhaps in isolation, is trying to live out the Masonic life. It is not a thing apart, but rather the whole membership organized to preserve its tradition, protect its interests, and satisfy its needs.

Organization of Grand Lodge

The Grand Lodge is composed of its Lodges, its elected and appointed officers and committees, and its past elected officers. The Grand Lodge is sovereign, in that it is subject to no outside Masonic authority.



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While the Grand Lodge is assembled in Annual Communication in early May, or in special session, it takes care of itself. During the remaining time the interests of Grand Lodge must be taken care of by its elected officers and certain committees, but especially by the Grand Master, who appoints all the committees. All executive and judicial functions belong to the Grand Master when the Grand Lodge is not in session.

There are five additional elected officers, a number of Past Grand Masters, and several other Permanent Members to whom the Grand Master may turn to for advice, but he makes the final decisions. Only he can exercise the executive and judicial functions of Grand Lodge. Only he is the Grand Master of all regular Masons in this State.

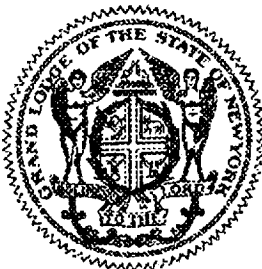
How can he do all the things he must do, and in fact be the leader of all his Brethren?

Appointed Officers and Committees

The Grand Master appoints a District Deputy Grand Master in every District, 65 in all. Also, for each District, he appoints a Staff Officer as Grand Steward, Grand Sword Bearer, or Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Grand Master generally appoints the District Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Staff Officer at the Annual Communication. Although they are not invested until the following St. John's Celebration in Utica, they assume office upon receipt of a formal notification from Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master also has an Appointed Grand Line, including the Grand Marshal, the Senior and Junior Grand Deacons, the Grand Standard Bearer and Deputy Grand Standard Bearer, the Judge Advocate, a Proctor, a Grand Historian, the Grand Lecturer, a Grand Pursuivant, a Grand Tiler and a Grand Organist, as well as over 30 Committee Chairman and more than 700 committeemen from all over the state.

Almost one-half of the committees of Grand Lodge are called Special Committees. They were established by different Grand Masters from time to time. The remainder are the Standing Committees established by Grand Lodge itself and authorized by the Rules of Order. These committees, both Standing and Special, along with the elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers, are the means by which the Grand Master exercises the executive and judicial functions of the Grand Lodge from one annual communication to the next.



*Seal of the Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons
State of New York*



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Executive Offices

While the executive function of the Grand Lodge resides with the Grand Master, wherever he may be, the "executive offices" or "headquarters" of Grand Lodge have come to be recognized as the place where most of the day-to-day work of Grand Lodge is transacted when not in annual session; that is on the 17th Floor at 71 West 23rd Street in New York City.

Situated here are the principal offices of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary. Here also are the offices of the administrative staff who, under the Grand Secretary's supervision, serve the various committees, and provide services to the Lodges and members across the State. Here too is where the historical, financial, and statistical records of Grand Lodge are maintained.

Annual Communication

For a District Deputy Grand Master, the climax of the Masonic year is his attendance at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge which is held "in the City of New York or another location in New York State as the Grand Master may direct, commencing within the first ten days of May." (Book of Constitutions, Section 103)

It is the responsibility of the District Deputy to see that every Lodge in his District is represented in Grand Lodge. He should encourage every Master to attend. One of the prerogatives of the Worshipful Master is to represent his Lodge in Grand Lodge. Not only should it be a privilege, but it should be considered an honor to sit in Grand Lodge, and participate in the activities of Grand Lodge in session, as the representative of his Lodge. If the Worshipful Master cannot attend Grand Lodge, one of the Wardens, in order of seniority, should attend. If neither the Master or a Warden can attend, a Past Master, duly elected as proxy, may represent the Lodge, provided that a certificate of his election is filed in advance with the Grand Secretary. (Book of Constitutions, Section 106)

At each Annual Communication, the Committee on Credentials provides packets for the District Deputy. It contains a badge for him and for each Master in his District. The committee also handles the Attendance records to be signed by each District Deputy.

"A Lodge may lose the right of representation in Grand Lodge by failure to pay, in full, its annual dues to Grand Lodge" (Handbook, Par. 817). Because of space limitations, the business sessions will be limited only to Grand Lodge Officers, members and representatives. Each Brother authorized to be present has an assigned place.



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The seats in the Grand Lodge room are assigned by District, and the members representing the Lodges in each District are seated with their District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge Staff Officers, under the direction of the Grand Deacons, have the responsibility of arranging the seating and carrying messages in and about the several parts of the room when the Grand Lodge is in session. The locations of the Districts are labeled conspicuously, that they can be seen not only by the members but by the Grand Master, so that he can recognize them.

Voting in many cases, is by show of hands, but when by ballot, the representative of each Lodge is entitled to three votes, with one additional vote for each fifty members of the Lodge over the first fifty. Each of the members of the Grand Lodge, except the Grand Tiler, is entitled to one vote. The Grand Master, in the case of a tie, is entitled to two votes. (See Book of Constitutions, Section 102, for a listing of the offices whose occupants compose the membership of Grand Lodge.)

Every proposition for consideration must be submitted in advance within ten days of receipt of official notice of the Annual Communication. No proposition is considered without prior reference to the Grand Lodge Committee concerned with its subject, unless by special vote.

Changes in the Book of Constitutions or the Masonic Handbook must be approved at two consecutive Annual Communications.

"Members' expenses are borne in part personally and by Grand Lodge" (Book of Constitutions, Section 130), and are usually supplemented by Lodge appropriations. Grand Lodge payments are constitutionally limited to two items: travel allowance, per mile, from meeting place of the Lodge to and from Grand Lodge; and an allowance up to \$25 per day for actual expenses certified by voucher for the period of the Annual Communication. There is no provision for reimbursement of Grand Representatives.

District Deputy Grand Master & Staff Officer

The District Deputy Grand Master is the personal representative of the Grand Master in his District. He is administratively responsible for the condition of the District to the Grand Master or his Regional Liaison alone. The District Deputy Grand Master has the final authority at the District Level.

The District Deputy Grand Master makes an Official Visit to every Lodge in his District, at which time, he delivers the Grand Master's Message. He also examines the books of the Lodge and reports on the overall condition of the Lodge to the Grand Master.



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Together with the Grand Lodge Staff Officer, the District Deputy Grand Master appoints five District Umbrella Coordinators to make up the District Team. The five District Umbrella Coordinators carry out the functions and implement the programs of all the various Grand Lodge Committees. These Coordinators work with their respective Grand Lodge Committee structure but they answer directly to the District Deputy Grand Master.

Grand Lodge Committees & the Umbrella Structure

Grand Lodge Committees exist for the purpose of providing support to all Masters and their Lodges throughout the State. Masters can turn to these committees for assistance with a particular problem, or for support in developing an idea, leadership or Lodge programs.

The following is a list of committees and programs as they relate to the Five Umbrellas:

Membership Development

- Membership Development Program
- Brother Bring a Friend Night

Membership Retention

- Leadership Services / Masonic Education
 - L.S.O.M.E. (Lodge System of Masonic Education)
 - Livingston Library Courses
 - Grand Master's Educational Task Force
 - Leadership Development Correspondence Course
 - Leadership Development Seminars
- Long Range Planning
- Custodians of the Work
- Lodges and Temples
- Awards

Public Awareness

- Community Service
 - Drug & Alcohol Abuse Awareness
 - Child Identification
- Veterans Services
- DeWitt Clinton Award
- Blood Donor Program
- MacArthur Award
- Heart and Hands Award



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Fellowship & Family Involvement

Fellowship

Golf, Bowling, Picnics, Fishing, Specialty Clubs

Youth

Masonic Youth Groups

Other Youth Groups

Camp Turk

Special Events

Grand Master's Visit to Tappan

West Point Family Day

Dedicated Service & Breakfast

Brotherhood Fund

Benevolence

Masonic Hall Tours

Masonic Home Activities

Masonic War Veterans

Masonic Hall Trustees

Medical Research Laboratory

Livingston Library

The following committees do not fall under the umbrella structure but are more administrative in nature: Constitutions; Charters; Correspondence & Relationship; Distinguished Achievement; Finance; Endowments; Law Enforcement; Masonic Jurisprudence; Necrology; Related Organizations; Unity; Commission of Appeals; Grand Lodge Convention; and Restorations.

Notes:



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The State is divided into 18 geographic Areas. The following is a list of New York State Areas with Districts:

- Area 1: Suffolk, 1st Nassau, 2nd Nassau
2: 1st & 2nd Queens, 1st 2nd & 3rd Kings, Richmond
3: 1-10 Manhattan
4: Bronx, 1st & 2nd Westchester-Putnam, Orange-Rockland
5: Greene-Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia, Sullivan
6: Delaware, Otsego-Schoharie
7: Albany, Rensselaer-Schenectady, Fulton-Montgomery
8: Clinton, Essex, Saratoga-Warren, Washington
9: 1st & 2nd St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Jefferson-Lewis, Franklin-Hamilton
10: Herkimer, 1st & 2nd Oneida
11: Oswego, 1st & 2nd Onondaga
12: Broome-Chenango, Cortland-Madison
13: Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga, Cayuga-Tompkins
14: Ontario-Seneca-Yates, Steuben
15: 1st & 2nd Monroe, Wayne, Livingston
16: Genesee-Wyoming, Niagara-Orleans
17: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Erie
18: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany

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