

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas  
and Jurisdiction  
Free and Accepted Masons**



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RE: **Addressing Three Items of Concern**

Dear Worshipful Masters and Brethren:

The information in this communication is not to be misconstrued as an edict because it is constitutional. It is for information and guidance. Share with the Craft. It covers the following topics:

- Courtesy Work; Petitioners that have received degree(s) in another Lodge
- Restore vs. Reinstatement
- Proficiency for Advancement

**I. Receiving a petition from a potential candidate that has petitioned and received the first degree from another Lodge but did not complete the initiation process of the third degree.**

Please familiarize yourself with the Constitution, Revised June 1, 2016, Article XV Membership, Courtesy Work, pages 52-53 in its entirety. "Membership - Section 13—If a candidate has been elected to receive the Third Degree and has already received the first and second degree. He can receive the remaining degree in another Lodge upon the request of such lodge without any petitions or balloting. He will be a member of the lodge that he received the first and second degree in. Upon completing the third degree, the candidate may demit to another lodge."

If for a valid reason a candidate cannot complete the initiation process in the original Lodge, the Worshipful Master of that Lodge may request that another Lodge performs courtesy work to complete his degree for the original Lodge. No petition or balloting is required. When he has completed the third degree, he will be a member of the original Lodge that he petitioned. The Worshipful Master of his original lodge is to be notified that the degree work was completed on the candidate.

This process applies to any petitioner of a Lodge in the Jurisdiction of MWPHGL of Texas, any Sister MWPHGL or any regular Grand Lodge that is in amity with the MWPHLG of Texas.

If the Worshipful Master of the original Lodge does not give permission to allow courtesy work, or does not respond to candidate's request to allow courtesy work, the request must be forwarded to the Grand Secretary's office to be reviewed and approved by the Grand Master before initiation can proceed.

**Do not proceed with petition of candidate that has received previous degrees in another Lodge without going thru this process.**

## II. Restoration to the rolls of a Lodge vs. Reinstating a member.

- a. **Restoration** to the roll of a Lodge applies to a member of the Lodge that has been dropped from the roll of a Subordinate Lodge and Grand Lodge who failed to pay his relief dues and assessments. Constitution, Article VIII, Section 6(b), page 34.
  - i. Before a member can be restored a committee must investigate his fitness and character. Constitution, Article VIII, Section 27, page 46.
  - ii. Member can only be restored upon payment of all Local Lodge dues. Constitution, Article XIV, Section 11(b), page 48.
  - iii. Vote to restore a member for non-payment of dues may be done by show of hands unless a brother request that it be by ballot. Constitution, Article XIV, Sections 11(c), (d).
- b. **Reinstatement** applies to a member suspended or expelled.
  - i. The method that a petitioner for reinstatement must take the same course of that of a profane for degrees. Constitution, Article XV, Sections 28, page 55.
  - ii. Balloting is by secret ballot. Constitution, Article XV, Sections 4-5.

**III. Proficiency for Advancement.** Suitable Proficiency for advancement means that the brother must be able to satisfactorily answer the questions in the first section of the lecture of the degree and repeat the obligation; less than this is not suitable for advancement. This is the information in the 1° Official Lecture Pamphlet and the 2° Official Lecture Pamphlet. Constitution, Article XV, Section 19, page 53.

- a. Some are complaining about not having time for candidates to learn material in order to show proficiency. Training need to be limited to the lecture material. Once the candidate has completed the three degrees, additional information can be disseminated.
- b. The proficiency exam need to be conducted in an organized manner directed by the Senior Deacon and/or the officer responsible for the training. The script needs to follow the lecture in the pamphlets.
- c. The two brothers that recommends the candidate need to be responsible for the advancement of the candidate by being present at the initiations, study sessions and showing proficiency.

I pray that this is helpful to you. Let me know if you have any questions regarding these are any other matters.

Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

Fraternally yours,



GILBERT M. CURTIS, G. M.

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CC: District Deputies