

2026 Grand Chapter Proposed Legislation

1. Article II Section 9B
2. Article XVIII Section 164 L
3. Article XXIX Section 223 D
4. Standing Resolution No. 16

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT THE 2026 GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION

PROPOSAL No. 1

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~, additions appear underlined)

ARTICLE II Grand Officers

Section 9B. Grand Historian. A Grand Historian shall be ~~elected for a three-year term~~ appointed by the Grand High Priest. ~~which shall be subject to re-election for one additional three-year term~~ The duties of the Grand Historian shall be to collect and assemble historical data pertinent to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons State of Missouri. Such data shall be published annually in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter. ~~In addition to Proceedings publication, such newly accumulated data will be made available in printed form to each companion attending the Annual Convocation.~~ The Grand Historian will be free to determine his choice of historical data to be compiled each year. The Grand Historian shall be free to publish his assembled data in other publications of Masonic character without prior approval of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. The Grand Historian will receive no compensation ~~but, if he is not a Past Grand High Priest, he shall receive mileage and per diem for his attendance at the Annual Convocation, providing such payments are currently in effect for other Grand Officers.~~ The honorary title of the Grand Historian will be Right Excellent Companion or the highest honorary title held by that individual in the Grand Chapter. (Adopted May 14, 1999)

Statement of purpose

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to provide clarity, continuity, and strengthened structure to the office of Grand Historian, ensuring that the historical record of the Grand Chapter is preserved and communicated in a consistent and meaningful manner. This amendment seeks to:

- Clarify the method of service and term structure of the Grand Historian.
- Reinforce the expectation of annual compilation and publication of historical data.
- Provide continuity in the stewardship of the Grand Chapter's historical archives.
- Ensure that the Companions receive the benefit of the historical materials contemplated by our By-Laws.

The proposed changes are not directed toward any individual, but rather toward strengthening the institutional framework of the office for the long-term benefit of the Craft. By adopting this amendment, the Grand Chapter affirms its commitment to preserving its history, honoring its traditions, and ensuring that future generations may look back upon our labors with clarity and pride.

Fraternally submitted,

Donald MacCormick, PHP

Kansas City Chapter No. 28

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT THE 2026 GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION

PROPOSAL No. 2

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~, additions appear underlined)

ARTICLE VXIII

Dues

L. The Grand Secretary shall annually remit to the secretaries of participating subordinate chapters their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until after January 1 of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Secretary. ~~When an Endowed member dies, the Grand Chapter will continue to receive his per capita, less 20% and his Chapter will continue to receive his prorated earnings, less 20%. The retained 20% will be added to the fund's principal to provide for growth in the fund. Prorated earnings shall be based on the member's chapter dues that existed at the time the individual entered the Endowed Membership Program. Per capita shall be the per capita By-Laws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri Revised May 18, 2007, Including Amendments and Resolutions as of June 12, 2025, 31 that existed at the time the individual entered the Endowed Membership Program. (Amended May 8, 1986~~

The Endowed Membership Fund shall establish as the Base Principal those funds received by the Grand Secretary from subordinate chapters for the purchase of an Endowed Membership. As new memberships are purchased the Base Principal will increase. At no time shall the fund draw down below this Base Principal.

Distribution of the Investment Growth in the fund shall follow these guidelines. The Investment Committee shall, as soon as practical after January 1 of each year, advise the Endowed Membership Committee the amount of gain or loss in the investments of Endowed Membership Fund. Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows. First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members to the General Fund of the Grand Chapter. Second, from the remaining funds, 20% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund, this is in addition to the Base Principal, it is not to be included in that figure as it may be drawn out for future use. Third, 30% of those remaining funds to be transferred to the General Fund as investment return from deceased endowed members. Forth, the remaining 50% to be distributed to the subordinate chapters on a prorated bases for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that chapter.

Statement of purpose

The purpose of this amendment to Article XVIII, Section 164(L), is to clearly define, protect, and strengthen the long-term structure and distribution methodology of the Endowed Membership Fund of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri.

This proposal formally establishes the concept of a protected Base Principal, defined as all funds received from subordinate chapters for the purchase of Endowed Memberships. The amendment ensures that this Base Principal shall continually increase as new Endowed Memberships are purchased and shall never be reduced. This safeguard preserves the perpetual nature of the Endowed Membership Program and protects the integrity of the funds entrusted to the Grand Chapter.

Additionally, this amendment provides a clear and orderly framework for the annual distribution of investment growth. It:

- Establishes the priority payment of current Per Capita for all living Endowed Members to the General Fund.
- Retains twenty percent (20%) of remaining gains within the Endowed Membership Fund to strengthen and fortify its continued growth.
- Allocates thirty percent (30%) of remaining gains to the General Fund as investment return attributable to deceased Endowed Members.
- Distributes the remaining fifty percent (50%) to subordinate chapters on a prorated basis for all endowed members, living and deceased, affiliated with each chapter.

The amendment also clarifies that no earnings shall be distributed until after January 1 of the second calendar year following full payment of an Endowed Membership, and that upon the death of an Endowed Member, a twenty percent (20%) retention shall continue to be added to principal to promote long-term growth.

By clearly defining principal protection, distribution priorities, and proportional allocation methods, this amendment promotes financial transparency, stability, and responsible stewardship. It ensures the Endowed Membership Fund remains perpetual, equitable, and beneficial to both the Grand Chapter and its subordinate chapters for generations to come.

Fraternally submitted,

Donald MacCormick, PHP
James McManigle, PHP

Kansas City Chapter No. 28
Bolivar Chapter No. 5

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT THE 2026 GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION

PROPOSAL No. 3

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~, additions appear underlined)

**ARTICLE XXIX
Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS)**

Section 223. *Chapter Secretary Responsibilities*

~~D. Secretaries and IT Representatives shall log in to MMS no less than monthly to maintain access credentials and to make any approved membership changes.~~

Statement of purpose

The purpose of this amendment is to provide reasonable flexibility in the administrative use of the Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) system by removing an unnecessary mandatory monthly login requirement for Chapter Secretaries and IT Representatives. While maintaining accurate and timely membership records is essential, requiring monthly system access regardless of whether membership transactions or updates are pending places an administrative burden on local Chapters without any benefit. Many Chapters experience periods in which no membership activity occurs, making routine mandatory logins unnecessary.

This amendment does not diminish the responsibility of Secretaries and IT Representatives to promptly process approved membership changes. Rather, it removes a rigid procedural requirement that does not materially improve record accuracy or system integrity. By adopting this amendment, the Grand Chapter promotes efficient administration, respects the time of its officers, and maintains practical oversight of membership reporting.

Administrative requirements should serve a clear operational purpose and not impose obligations that do not contribute to improved governance or recordkeeping.

Fraternally submitted,

Donald MacCormick, PHP

Kansas City Chapter No. 28

Standing Resolution No. 16

Whereas, Excellent Companion William Gene Snyder has served the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri with particular dedication and sense of responsibility for many years, and

Whereas, Excellent Companion Snyder continued his Masonic service and was advanced to the office of General Grand Master of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International, and

Whereas, he has done much to advance the aims and preserve the traditions of York Rite Masonry, and

Whereas, his international service has reflected admirably on the Grand York Rite of Missouri, and

Whereas, his admirable and self-sacrificing example of honor and courage, placing the welfare of the Order above all personal ambition, will remain in perpetuity an inspiration to all who wear the apron of Missouri Capitular Masonry,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Excellent Companion William Gene Snyder be invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

Fraternally submitted,

Kevin M. Ritter, PHP, Springfield Chapter No. 15

Donald MacCormick, PHP, Kansas City Chapter No. 28