

# **REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION**

February 18, 2020

TO THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA:

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER CHAIRMAN:

MOST WORSHIPFUL AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BRETHREN:

I am Joe R. Manning, Jr. Past Grand Master of Oklahoma, Vice Chairman filling in for M.W. Raymond C. Lemons, Past Grand Master of Michigan, Chairman  
It is my honor to present the 68th annual report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. At this time I am pleased to present the other members of this Commission in the order of length of service:

M.W. Raymond C. Lemons, Past Grand Master of Michigan, Chairman  
M.W. Joe R. Manning, Jr, Past Grand Master of Oklahoma  
M.W. Glen A. Cook, Past Grand Master of Utah  
M.W. Jorge L. Aladro, Past Grand Master of Florida  
M.W. Richard Stewart, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts  
M.W. Richard A. H. Brown, Past Grand Master of Saskatchewan  
M.W. David Worel, Past Grand Master of Alaska  
M.W. Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Tennessee, Secretary-Treasurer

Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I would like to repeat the standards for recognition adopted for our guidance when the Commission was formed in 1952. These are the guidelines used to evaluate the regularity of a Grand Lodge, and thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for recognition by our member Grand Lodges. This Commission provides this data for use by our Grand Lodges, and does not attempt to influence or recommend what action should be taken. The Commission serves you in an investigative and advisory capacity only.

The standards for recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin.
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks - specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

Applying these standards to the requests of several Grand Lodges during our deliberations, we now share the following information:

### **Brazil State Grand Orient**

The Grande Orient of Rio De Janeiro, the Grand Oriente da Bahia and the Grand Orient Paulista were each recognized by and treaties signed with their respective State Grand Lodges in 2019 along with the Grand Orient of Brazil. Each of these bodies is also recognized by the CMI. It would be reasonable to assume that these grand orients are practicing regular Masonry and recognition would be appropriate if you so desire.

### **Grand Lodge of the Republic of Georgia**

Representatives of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Georgia contacted the Commission in a timely manner to pursue recognition in 2017. Due to the continued instability of government in this country, action on this matter was differed until the 2018-2019 conferences. No representative from this grand lodge was present at the 2019 Commission meeting. At this session, the Commission was presented with the following information. On March 14, 2015, representatives of the Grand Lodge of Russia, and three lodges regularly constituted by the Grand Lodge of Russia, met and formed the Grand Lodge of Georgia. In 2018 the Grand Lodges of Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and Armenia met and formed the United Grand Lodge of Georgia. At this time the Commission does not have adequate information to present findings on this matter.

### **Grand Lodge of Cuscatlan**

A packet was received in a timely manner from representatives of the Grand Lodge of Cuscatlan. However, no representatives were present at the 2020 Conference to speak on behalf of this grand lodge. Therefore, no action was taken on this matter.

### **Grand Lodge of Ecuador**

A packet was received in a timely manner from representatives of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. However, no representatives from this grand lodge were present at the 2020 Conference to speak on behalf of this grand lodge. Therefore, no action was taken on this matter.

### **Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Louisiana**

A packet was received in a timely manner from representatives of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Louisiana requesting information on how to obtain a seat at the table of this Conference. However, no representatives from this group were present at the 2020 Conference to speak on this matter. Therefore, no action was taken.

### **Additional Information**

1. A communication from the GLNF was received concerning the Grand Lodge of Tahiti. Nothing contained in that communication would cause the Commission to change its position published on page 6 of the 2012 Commission report.
2. In 2004 the Commission reported that the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges (Confederacion de Grandes Logias Regulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos) had undertaken an extensive study to identify those grand lodges in Mexico which were practicing regular Masonry and could reasonably be considered for recognition. Additional grand lodges have been added to that list since 2004. A complete list of those grand lodges recognized by the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges will be included in the 2020 report of the Commission on Information for Recognition book.

REMINDER: The deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

I now call on M/W Joe C. Harrison for the Secretary/Tres report.

As some of you have already heard, due to the bankruptcy of our mailing agent in Memphis, the initial mailing of the Commission report was incomplete. We discovered this in the late fall of 2019 when I started receiving inquiries about the report. A second mailing was begun in January. All members should have their 2019 reports or will have them very shortly.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

TO: THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA

This report is an accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the period just past, ending January 31, 2020. Since January 1, 2019, no Grand Lodges have contributed to the Commission due to the failure of the first mailing of the report. Checks are beginning to arrive now as a result of the second mailing. Those donations will be identified as 2019 donations and itemized along with the 2020 donations at the 2021 conference.

BALANCE ON JANUARY 31, 2019:..... \$ 3,070.05

Expenses between January 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020:

Conference and Travel Expense	\$1,142.94
Printing Annual Report	355.00
Postage and Stamps	252.90
Secretarial Services	00.00
Website	00.00
Office Supplies / Photo Copies	<u>43.30</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,794.14

BALANCE AS OF January 31, 2020 \$1,275.91

Respectfully submitted,

Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master  
Secretary-Treasurer

M. W. Bro. Harrison, thank you for the report.

\*\*\*\*\*

Upon the retirement of M/W Bro. Raymond C. Lemons a vacancy exists on the Commission from the Mid-West Conference. The Commission recommends that M/W Bro. Anthony Cracco, Past Grand Master of Ill be elected to fill the vacancy. The normal term of service for a new Commission member is seven years.

\*\*\*\*\*

The organization of the Commission for the year 2020 will be:

CHAIRMAN

M.W. Joe R. Manning, Jr.  
Past Grand Master of Oklahoma

VICE-CHAIRMAN

M.W. Glen A. Cook  
Past Grand Master of Utah

SECRETARY-TREASURER

M.W. Joe C. Harrison  
Past Grand Master of Tennessee

Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, my sincere thanks for your attention and for the opportunity to serve this Conference. This concludes the 68th annual report of this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond C. Lemons, PGM, Chairman  
Joe R. Manning, Jr, PGM  
Glen A. Cook, PGM  
Jorge L. Aladro, PGM  
Richard Stewart, PGM  
Richard A. H. Brown, PGM  
David Worel, PGM  
Joe C. Harrison, PGM, Sec/Treas.

**I move the acceptance of the report.**