



## **Grand Lodge of Maryland**

# **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

**Revised: June, 2025**

Note: When there are Supreme Laws and Maryland Laws on the same subject, both shall apply in the absence of conflict. If there is a conflict between the two, the Supreme Laws shall be applicable. In the absence of a correspondingly numbered Grand Lodge By-Law, the Supreme Law so numbered shall be applicable.



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## CHAPTER ONE - CLASIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 1

There shall be a classification known as "Social Member" admitted to membership in the Order Sons (Daughters) of Italy in America in the State of Maryland. (June 2009)

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 1A

All members of the Order shall be known as 'Brother or Sister'. The members shall be divided into the following classes: (June 2009)

Regular Members Meritorious Member Honorary Member At-Large Member Social Member  
Junior (Youth) Member

"Regular Members": are those who are of Italian birth or descent; the spouse of those of Italian lineage; those who have been adopted by a person or persons of Italian lineage and the spouses of such adopted persons; widows, widowers and divorced spouses of current or former members. The Grand Lodge in its laws, may establish rules regulating the benefits payable to regular members.

"Meritorious Members": The Grand Lodge, by its Grand Council on its own initiative or at the request of a Local Lodge, may nominate deserving person/s to be a 'Meritorious Member'. Nomination to meritorious membership is to be followed by an appropriate ceremony at which time the certificate of meritorious membership is to be presented to the nominated person.

Qualifications for nomination to become a Meritorious Member are:

- Distinguished service and exemplary conduct
- Outstanding service rendered to the Order
- Conspicuous achievements in cultural, moral, social, economic and scientific fields

"Honorary Member" are nominated by the National Officers and National Delegates in Convention assembled or by the Supreme Council on its own initiative or at the request of the Grand Council of a Grand Lodge. The names of honorary members are to be inscribed in the Roll of Honor, which consists of a permanent record kept by the Supreme Lodge. To the Roll of Honor, shall likewise be inscribed the names of the Past National Presidents.

Nomination to Honorary membership shall be restricted to men and women, distinguished in learning, outstanding in achievement, or conspicuous in cultural attainments who have

given proof of their sympathy and good will toward the Order, its principles and ideals. The nomination to Honorary Membership shall be evidenced by an appropriate certificate to be presented to the Honorary Member at the initiation ceremony. The initiation ceremony is to be marked by appropriate solemnity. The presentation of the certificate is to be made by the Supreme Council or by the Grand Council of the Grand Lodge of the State wherein the honorary member resides.

"At Large Member" is a person who is qualified to be a Regular Member, but for whatever reason, does not want to attend meetings, hold any office or belong to a Local Lodge. The At-Large member believes in the ideals and purposes of the Order, is desirous of fostering and promoting those ideals, agrees to abide by the laws of the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Lodge and agrees to perform the duties of a Regular member as set forth in Article 1A of the General Laws.

One who is desirous of becoming an At-Large member must become so in the Grand Lodge where he/she resides. If there is no established Grand Lodge at that residence, then the prospective At-Large member will be under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

Admission to At-Large membership shall be governed by the same rules applicable to Regular members EXCEPT that:

- a. The membership becomes official upon acceptance by the Grand Council or by the Supreme Council for At-Large members under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge; provided, however, that preliminary approval may be given by the Executive Committee of the Grand Council or the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for At-Large members under the direct supervision of the Supreme Lodge.
- b. At-Large members shall be required to pay an application fee and dues and/or assessments as the Supreme Lodge or Grand Lodge may from time to time establish; provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude a Grand Lodge or the Supreme Lodge for At-Large members under its jurisdiction, from imposing an application fee, dues or assessments in amounts different than the amounts imposed on Regular members.
- c. In lieu of the ceremony of initiation, the At-Large member shall execute and have witnessed the oath taken by a Regular member, which oath shall be part of the membership application.

"Junior (Youth} Member" are those under the age of 18 who meet all qualifications of Regular members. Junior members may participate in Local Lodge activities, shall be admitted to regular or special meetings of the lodge and are entitled to partake of benefits provided by their lodge. Junior members shall not, under any circumstance, have the right to vote or hold office in the Order Sons (Daughters) of Italy in America.  
(June 1999)

"Social Members" are allowed all the rights and privileges of Regular Members except as follows: (June, 2013)

- a. They may not hold office in their lodge
- b. The number of Social Members allowed in a lodge *will be determined by each individual lodge.*

## CHAPTER TWO - DUTIES OF MEMBERS

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 2

No member of the Order shall resort to any civil court to enforce any claim, demand, right or cause of action which he/she may have against any Local Lodge, Grand Lodge or against any of their respective institutions or against any of the Officers as such, unless and until, he/she has pursued and exhausted all remedies provided by the laws of the Order.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 3

Members MAY belong to more than one (1) Local Lodge. (June 2013)



## **CHAPTER THREE- MEMBERSHIP**

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 4**

An applicant for membership to a Local Lodge must first be accepted by a majority vote of the assembly of the Local Lodge. Subsequent approval by the Grand Lodge is necessary before the applicant becomes an official member.

## **CHAPTER FOUR - TRANSFERS**

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 5**

Unless otherwise provided in the laws of the Grand Lodge, any member in good standing may transfer from one Local Lodge to another Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge or from one Local Lodge to another under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.

Members who change their residence outside of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of which their Local Lodge is an affiliate unit may, but in no event shall they be required to apply for transfer to a Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge in the State of their new residence.

## **CHAPTER FIVE - LOCAL LODGES - NATURE AND CHARACTER**

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 6**

Whenever a new Local Lodge is formed, its founder members must meet all of the requirements which govern admission to membership in the Order.

When a new Local Lodge is formed, it shall be instituted at a meeting called for such purpose. The institution ceremony is to be conducted in the manner prescribed by the RITUAL, as adopted by the Supreme Council. The Charter is to be presented to the Local Lodge, with due ritualistic formality, during the institution ceremony by a State or National Officer or other persons to whom power has been delegated.

If a Charter member of the Local Lodge is absent during the institution ceremony, the Charter member may be initiated in the course of any of the three successive meetings of the assembly. If the Charter member fails to appear for initiation during such three successive meetings, the Charter member's name shall be stricken from the roll.

When a member whose name appears in the Charter has been expelled from the Order, the member's name shall be stricken from the Charter. The name so stricken shall be replaced by the name of a member chosen by the assembly of the Local Lodge.

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 7**

Any member of the Lodge in good standing who has been a member of the Order for six (6) months prior to his nomination for an office is eligible to run for any office in the Council of the Lodge with the exception of the office of President.

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 8**

To be eligible to run for the office of President of the Lodge, the member must have been an Officer in the Council of the Lodge for at least one(1) term of office. (June 1999)

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 9**

The above requirements regarding 'eligibility' for officers in the Council do not apply to new Lodges which have been in existence less than one (1) year. In such cases, any member of the new Lodge has the right to be elected to any office in the new Lodge.

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 10**

Officers of Local Lodge may be elected to more than one (1) consecutive term.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 11

The term of office for elective offices shall be one (1) year for officers of the Local Lodge, unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Local Lodge. However, no term shall be more than two (2) years. (June 1999)

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 12

At the close of each term of office, the Council must present to the Lodge for its approval during the meeting in which the new officers are to be installed:

- a. A complete financial accounting for the entire term of office
- b. Guaranty bonds for the new financial officers (June 1999)

## CHAPTER SIX - DELEGATES TO GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 13

Each Local Lodge shall elect and send as its representative to the Grand Lodge Convention, one (1) State Delegate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof greater than fifteen (15). Each Lodge shall elect one (1) *alternate* Delegate for each of its State Delegates. The term of office shall be for two (2) years.

- A. In the event that the membership of the Grand Lodge of Maryland shall exceed 3,000 members, but not more than 4,000, then each Local Lodge shall elect one (1) State Delegate for each forty (40) members or fraction thereof greater than twenty (20). Each Lodge shall elect a corresponding number of *alternate* Delegates.
- B. In the event that the membership of the Grand Lodge of Maryland shall exceed 4,000 members but less than 5,000 each Local Lodge shall elect one (1) State Delegate for each fifty (50) members or fraction thereof greater than twenty-five (25). Each Local Lodge shall elect a corresponding number of *alternate* Delegates.
- C. Local Lodges may send an elected Delegate/s to the Grand Lodge Convention IF it has at least twenty-six (26) members.
- D. Future increases in membership beyond 5,000 shall follow the format of above - Article 13.**
- E. Each Local Lodge shall forward payment of their Delegate convention fees\* assessed to the Grand Lodge of Maryland by April 15 of Convention year, based on the number of Delegates the Lodge is allowed per Maryland Article 13. This assessment is to be paid with consideration of the intent of any Delegate to attend. (May 2000)

\*The fees for Delegate/s to Convention must be paid by the Local Lodge whether Delegate/s does or does not attend Convention. (2015)

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 14

The President of the Grand Lodge, as a matter of right, is a State Delegate and shall act as Chairperson of the Lodge's State Delegation and shall call all necessary meetings and preside over these meetings.

#### *MARYLAND ARTICLE 15*

Notice for a regular meeting of the Lodge shall be mailed to the members at least five (5) days in advance; notice for 'special or emergency' meeting at least twenty- four (24) hours in advance.

#### *MARYLAND ARTICLE 15A*

Lodge meetings shall be valid, if called in compliance **with** the aforesaid provisions as to notice and if the number of members present who are in good standing totals ten (10) or more.

#### *MARYLAND ARTICLE 16*

No Lodge can vote any assessment or obligatory tax without first notifying each and every member by inserting the relative proposal in the notice of the call of the meeting in which the proposal is to be discussed and voted upon. Said notice must be sent at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

#### *MARYLAND ARTICLE 17*

No expenditures, except such expenditures as have previously been approved by the Supreme Lodge General Laws, Grand Lodge By-Laws or Local Lodge By-Laws, shall be made unless authorized by the assembly of the Lodge by a majority vote.

Previously approved payments shall be made immediately by the officers charged therewith, without the necessity of approval by the assembly.

#### *MARYLAND ARTICLE 18*

The Local Lodge is prohibited from obtaining loans from members or other persons for the purpose of meeting the expenses incident to the administration of their affairs in conformity to the laws of the Order unless the consent of the Grand Council is first obtained in writing.

- a. This prohibition shall not preclude the Lodge from borrowing money which may be necessary to pay in part for the purchase of the building, remodeling of premises or edifices to be used by the Local Lodge for the purposes of the Order, providing that the repayment of the money so borrowed shall be secured only by mortgaging the premises involved.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 19

Every Lodge shall have the power to acquire and administer real and personal property necessary for its function and activities, subject to the following:

- a. All Local Lodges are absolutely forbidden, individually or as a group, to purchase or sell real estate, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Grand Council in writing.
- b. The funds and assets of a Local Lodge, however constituted, cannot be liquidated or divided among the members.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN - GRAND LODGE**

### **MARYLAND ARTICLE 20**

The Grand Lodge of Maryland of the Order Sons of Italy in America, duly incorporated and recorded among the records of the Department of Assessments and Taxation of the State of Maryland, on April 19, 1920, is a fraternal organization and derives its origin and its existence from the Supreme Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America, which was created by the State of New Jersey on June 22, 1905 by the authority of the Supreme Lodge.

In conformity with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Supreme Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Maryland exercises jurisdiction over all Lodges and members of the Order with the State of Maryland.

## CHAPTER EIGHT - GRAND COUNCIL

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 21

The Grand Lodge of Maryland is composed of the following entities:

- a. The representatives of the Lodges in the State of Maryland called STATE DELEGATES.
- b. All members of the **Grand** Council are called STATE OFFICERS.

The Grand Council is the Executive body of the Grand Lodge. It exercises the Executive powers of the Grand Lodge when the Grand Lodge is not in convention assembled.

The Grand Council has the power to issue orders and decrees in case of necessity in matters not otherwise provided for under the laws of the Order; provided no order or decree shall impose new dues or assessments; and provided further that it shall not annul any law of the Order imposing such dues or assessments.

The Grand Council shall be elected at the Biennial Grand Convention and its term of office is two (2) years.

The Orders or decrees of the Grand Council go into effect immediately after adoption. All such orders or decrees adopted by the Grand Council during the interval between Grand Conventions shall be submitted to the next Grand Convention for ratification by the Grand Lodge. Failure to so ratify these orders or decrees shall not nullify their effect retroactively, but such actions will put an end to the orders or decrees as of that date.

The Grand Council shall be elected (*exceptions* noted by \*) at the Biennial Grand Convention and its term of office is two (2) years and until their successors are duly elected and qualified:

State President  
State First Vice President  
State Second Vice President  
State Third Vice President  
State Immediate Past President in good standing  
State Orator  
State Recording Secretary  
State Financial Secretary  
State Treasurer  
State Trustees  
All Past State Presidents in good standing (\*)  
All Local Lodge Presidents in good standing (\*)

Delegates, State Officers and Presidents of Grand Lodge Commissions who have



indicated their availability may be elected or re-elected to the Grand Council.

The State Cabinet shall be composed of all Local Lodge Presidents. The purposes of this Cabinet shall be to consider, discuss and make recommendations to the Grand Council on any programs or problems which the State President, Grand Council or State Cabinet, on its own motion, may present to said Cabinet for consideration, discussion and recommendation.

The State Cabinet will meet when called to order by the State President, but no less than once each quarter.

The State Cabinet will consist of:

Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge All Local Lodge Presidents in good standing

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 22

Notice for a regular meeting of the Grand Council shall be mailed to the members at least five (5) days in advance; notice for special or emergency meetings at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. No regular or special meeting of the assembly of the Grand Council shall be declared open unless a quorum is present. Not less **than** fourteen (14) members will constitute a quorum.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 23

The Grand Council shall be presided over by the State President and in his/her absence, by the State First Vice President. In the absence of the latter, the next ranking Grand Lodge Officer shall preside.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 24

Any member of the Order who is in good standing in every respect with his/her own Lodge may attend meetings of the Grand Council in plenary session, but he/she shall have no right to speak or vote.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 25

To be re-elected to the office of State President after having served two (2) consecutive two-year terms as State President, the nominee must receive a 2/3rds majority of the votes cast.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 26

Only State Delegates who have served at least one full two-year term can be elected to the offices of- State President, First, Second, Third Vice President or State Orator.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 27

Officers of the Grand Council may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 28

An elected State Officer is obliged to attend the meetings of the Grand Council and the sessions of the Grand Lodge. If he/she absents himself/herself without justified excuse from three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she automatically forfeits his/her position as a State Officer. When, for any reason vacancies occur, the Grand Council will fill the vacancies as stated in *National* Article 50.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 29

No member of the Grand Council shall act as Chairperson of any social affair being conducted by an affiliate Lodge.

## MARYLAND ARTICL 30

The Grand Council will meet on the 'second' Monday of each **month**, or at a time determined by the State President.

## STATE PRESIDENT

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 31

The State President shall have the power to call special meetings of the Grand Council or Executive Committee of the Grand Council, whenever he/she deems it necessary.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 32

The State President as a matter of right, is a National Delegate and shall act as Chairperson of the Delegation, call all necessary meetings and preside over these meetings.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 33

No later than three (3) months after being elected and inducted into office, the State President shall make all appointments to commissions, committees, sub-committees and officers as provided by the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 34

The State President shall sponsor annually within three (3) months of Local Lodge and Grand Lodge elections, a one (1) day seminar on the laws, procedures, duties and responsibilities related to Local Lodge officers and conduct of Local Lodge meetings. The Local Lodge Presidents, Orators, Financial Secretaries and Treasurers shall be required to attend the seminar for the purpose of receiving instructions in the performance of their duties as provided by the General Laws of the Supreme Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

## STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 35

The State First Vice President is the second ranking Officer of the Grand Council. In case the State President is absent or unable to act during the sessions of the Grand Council or the Grand Convention, the State First Vice President assumes the office of State President and acts in his/her stead, with like powers and prerogatives. If for any reason the State President ceases to occupy his /her position, the position shall be filled by the State First Vice President.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 36

The State Second Vice President is the third ranking Officer of the Grand Council. In the event that the State First Vice President is absent, unable to act or for any reason ceases to occupy his/her position, the State Second Vice President shall assume the office of State First Vice President and act in his/her stead, with like powers and prerogatives.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 37

The State Third Vice President is the fourth ranking Officer of the Grand Council. In the event that the State First and Second Vice Presidents are absent, unable to act or for any reason cease to occupy their positions, the State Third Vice President shall assume the office of State First Vice President and act in his/her stead, with like powers and prerogatives.

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 38

The 'immediate' predecessor of the State President in office is a member of the Grand Council with the qualifications and the title of Immediate Past State President. He/she is the fifth ranking Officer of the Grand Council.

During the absence of the State President and the three (3) State Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past State President exercises all the attributes of the State President. When the Immediate Past State President in office ceases, for any reason, to take part in the Grand Council, his/her immediate predecessor shall succeed him as a matter of right.

## STATE ORATOR

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 39

The State Orator is the sixth ranking Officer of the Grand Council. Whenever requested by the State President, the State Orator shall give opinions on the interpretation of the Laws of the Order. He/she is also charged with the duty of enforcing the Judiciary Code of the Order.

## STATE RECORDING SECRETARY

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 40

The State Recording Secretary shall be an ex-officio secretary of the Commission on Public Relations.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 41

Recording Secretaries of Local Lodges, when corresponding with the State Recording Secretary, shall send one (1) copy of the correspondence to the State President.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 41-A

The State Recording Secretary must prepare an annual written inventory of the equipment of the Grand Lodge, which must be submitted to the Grand Council on June 1.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 42

The State Recording Secretary shall be paid an honorarium of \$100.00 every three (3) months.

## STATE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 43

The State Financial Secretary is responsible for assuring that the budget line items are in compliance with the financial authorization; that all Grand Lodge expenditures are in conformance with the approved budget; and that adequate records are kept to allow periodic auditing by the State Trustees.

The State Financial Secretary shall publish a monthly financial report stating the actual disbursements to date, compared to the initial budget amount and balance thereof for each line item.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 44

The State Financial Secretary shall be paid an honorarium of \$100.00 every three (3) months.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 45

The State Financial Secretary is the only official of the Grand Council authorized to collect or receive monies or revenue on behalf of the Grand Lodge, except where these By-Laws provide otherwise.

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 46

Receipts related to financial transactions of a Local Lodge or the Grand Lodge shall be in duplicate, signed by the person receiving the money and the Financial Secretary of the Local Lodge or Grand Lodge. Each receipt shall be numbered in sequence and accounted for and audited by the Trustees of the Local Lodge and the State Trustees of the Grand Lodge. Violations of this Article will constitute sufficient reason for suspension of membership in accordance with the laws related to suspension of members in the Order.

## STATE TREASURER

## MARYLAND ARTICLE 47

The State Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Grand Lodge and must keep the funds deposited in the bank and other depository designated by the Grand Council. All deposits are to be made within three (3) days after receiving them from the State Financial

Secretary. The State Treasurer shall not make payments unless the appropriate voucher bears the signature of the State President, the State Financial Secretary and the State Treasurer.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 48

The State Treasurer shall be paid an honorarium of \$100.00 every **three** (3) months.

#### STATE TRUSTEES

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 49

At the State Convention there shall be elected a minimum of eight **(8)**, but no more than twelve (12) State Trustees to serve on the Grand Council. **(June 2019)**

The number of Trustees per Local Lodge shall be limited to one (1). **(June 1999)**

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 50

The State Trustee shall:

- a. Examine and audit the records of the State Financial Secretary and State Treasurer and verify their operations.
- b. A majority of those present must sign the quarterly statements, the account to be presented at the Grand Convention, and the inventory. However, there should be no less than five (5) signatures of the State Trustees. **(June 2019)**
- c. Examine and audit the bank books, verify assets and collateral and examine quarterly the financial situation of the Grand Lodge.
- d. Verify the validity of the bonds furnished by the State Financial Secretary and the State Treasurer.
- e. Examine the inventory of the property of the Grand Lodge at least once a year.
- f. A member of the State Trustees will be nominated to serve as Head Trustee. Head Trustee will be selected by majority vote of the Trustees.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GRAND COUNCIL**

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 51

The Executive Committee of the Grand Council shall be composed of the State President, the three State Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past State President, the State Orator, the State Recording Secretary, the State Financial Secretary and the State Treasurer.  
(June 1999)

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 52

The Executive Committee shall act in lieu of the Grand Council when the latter is not in session, and it may exercise all of the powers and prerogatives of the Grand Council, except the authority to issue decrees.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 53

The Executive Committee will meet when called together by the State President or by four (4) members of the Executive Committee.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 54

The Executive Committee may spend \$50.00 per illness and/or \$100.00 for deaths (a death notice and/or obituary will also be placed in the local newspaper) for a member of the Grand Council. There will be no exceptions.



## GRAND LODGE MEETINGS - STATE CONVENTIONS

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 55

The Grand Lodge shall meet:

- a. In ordinary session, called the Grand Convention, in the ODD numbered years, during the month of June in the town or city established by the preceding Convention, and for as many days as the Grand Council determines to be necessary for the accomplishment of business.
- b. In extraordinary session, whenever it is called by a deliberation of the Grand Council and passed by an absolute majority vote.
- c. In extraordinary sessions, upon the written request of an absolute majority of the State Delegates.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 56

The order of the day for every extraordinary session shall be determined by the Grand Council unless it is determined upon the request of an absolute majority of the State Delegates, in which case, it shall be based upon **their** request.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 57

The Ritual of the Supreme Lodge shall be the Ritual of the Grand Lodge. However, the Grand Council, in its discretion, may authorize a dispensation or change in form or application.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 58

The Grand Lodge when in session has the following power:

- a. To establish and maintain a publication as its recognized official publication.

## RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE GRAND LODGE

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 59

The "Capita Tax" establishes the right of the Local Lodge and its members to membership in the Order. Its payment shall take precedence over any other payment

that the Lodge must make.

Unjustified failure to make such payment within the prescribed period shall affect the suspension of the Local Lodge and all rights and benefits of its members.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 60

Each Local Lodge of the Grand Lodge shall impose a Capita Tax in conformity with National By-Laws, and this will be remitted by February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year (2019) to the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

New member applications will not be processed without payment of the Initiation Fee. The Capita Tax will be prorated by 50% for 'new or reinstated' members who join between July 1 and December 31.

With each membership application or reinstatement submitted by the Local Lodge to the Grand Council, an Initiation Fee payable to the Grand Lodge of Maryland shall be submitted in the amount determined by National guidelines. In the event that the membership application is rejected by the Grand Council, the Initiation Fee shall be returned to the Local Lodge. (June 1995)

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 61

The State Financial Secretary, upon receipt of the Capita Tax from each Local Lodge, shall immediately set aside that portion fixed by the Supreme Lodge as the Capita Tax to be paid to the Supreme Council, and the Grand Lodge shall remit quarterly the share of the Supreme Lodge to the National Financial Secretary, within thirty (30) days from the end of the quarter.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 62

The financial operations of the Grand Lodge shall be by a biennial budget estimating revenues and appropriation on an annual fiscal year basis, to be prepared by the State Executive Committee and submitted to the Grand Council no later than three (3) months prior to the date of the Grand Convention for its consideration, approval and submission to the Grand Convention.

The biennial period shall begin on the first day of April and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March of the year in which the Grand Convention is held. The biennial budget shall be classified and designated so as to show separately each commission, committee function and special event for which an appropriation is recommended. The incumbent chairpersons shall provide the Executive Committee, for their approval, estimated budget items for all commissions, committees and special events for inclusion in the forthcoming biennial budget.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 63

The State Financial Secretary shall send to the State Delegates, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the call of the Convention, a copy of the proposed biennial budget. The Grand Council may, upon the recommendation of the State Financial Secretary, modify the budget within the authorized budget limits by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 64

All bank accounts, bonds, securities, property and goods belonging to the Grand Lodge of Maryland shall be registered or listed in the name of the Grand Lodge of Maryland Order Sons of Italy in America. All business transactions authorized by the Grand Council of whatever nature by any officer, committee, or persons shall be transacted in the name of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The State Treasurer shall make reports regarding the status of all financial transactions of the above Grand Lodge assets at regular Grand Lodge meeting.

#### MARYLAND ARTICLE 65

All payments, including the Capita Tax, due the Grand Lodge by the Local Lodges, shall be remitted to the State Financial Secretary within fifteen (15) days of the due date. Failure to make payment within the fifteen (15) day period shall result in an additional ten percent (10%) penalty of the amount not paid.

## CHAPTER NINE – CHARTERS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 66

Local Lodges may be incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland, provided:

The purposes for which they are incorporated do not conflict with the laws, ideals and purposes of the Order

- a. The Articles of Incorporation include among its Articles a statement that the corporation is subject to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and of the Supreme Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America
- b. Before the Articles of Incorporation are filed with the Department of Assessments and Taxation of the State of Maryland, they should be submitted to the Grand Council for approval.

## CHAPTER TEN – PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE GENERAL LAW

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 67

All By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland heretofore enacted as provided by and pursuant to its corporate charter (originally created under the style name of "The Grand Lodge of the Sons of Italy in America of the State of Maryland, Incorporated", on April 19, 1920 and recorded among the records of the Department of Assessments and Taxation of the State of Maryland in Liber No. 20, Folio 541, which corporate name was subsequently changed to 'Grand Lodge of Maryland, Order Sons of Italy in America, Incorporated' by Articles of Amendment dated and recorded on September 5, 1962 among the records of the said Department in Liber F320, Folio 40, are hereby repealed in their entirety, saving and excepting and vested substantive rights heretofore acquired by any *Regular* member of the Grand Lodge.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN – INCOMPATIBILITY OF OFFICE

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 67-A

No husband and wife, brother or sister, parent or child, shall serve together as officers of a Local Lodge or Grand Lodge UNLESS by a majority vote of all those present and eligible to vote.

Any election to office in violation of this By-Law shall be null and void and of no effect.

## CHAPTER TWELVE – ELECTIONS

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 68

Elections, general as well as special, must be held by secret ballot and by means of a single or cumulative ballot as determined by a majority of the vote cast by the Grand Lodge or the Local Lodge.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 69

A written or printed ballot shall be provided by the Electoral Board for each contested election according to the hierarchy of the Order, commencing with the State President of the Grand Lodge or the President of a Local Lodge.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 70

No member shall be nominated to any office in absentia UNLESS a letter of acceptance is presented to the Electoral Board prior to the beginning of the nomination procedure for all offices.

No such letter of acceptance of the nomination shall be acted upon unless the members of the Grand Lodge or Local Lodge, by a majority vote of those present and qualified to vote, agree that the nominee is necessarily absent for good cause.

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 71

The rule of absolute majority requires one-half (1/2) plus one (1) of the votes cast, which are recognized as valid by the Electoral Board. The rule of relative majority requires the highest number of votes, even though it is less than one-half (1/2).

### MARYLAND ARTICLE 72

Whenever the assembly so deliberates, the election of officers and of Grand and Supreme Delegates may be effective if the candidates receive a relative majority of the votes cast for each office.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN – STANDING RULES

Standing rules are previously adopted main motions and like By-Laws, have continuing effect until they are amended, modified or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote without previous notice or a majority vote with previous notice.

Between Grand Conventions, the Grand Council can adopt, amend, or rescind Standing Rules subject to the ratification, amendment or rescission by the next Grand Lodge Convention.

### SR-1 OFFICIAL HYMN

All official meetings of the Grand Lodge and Local Lodges may be opened and closed with the official hymn of the Order:

#### *SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA*

America! America!  
Home of the brave and of the free America!  
We cherish thee  
Your faithful Sons of Italy  
You give to all true Liberty Equality, Fraternity, America!  
We'll die for thee your loyal Sons of Italy  
America! America!  
Light of the earth and of the sea America!  
Most proud of thee Are we the Sons of Italy  
Through storm and strife with bravery,  
We will defend our loved country America!  
Fidelity Pledge we the Sons of Italy.



## SR 2- PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Public Relations shall be appointed by the State President and shall consist of no more than nine (9) members. From its members one shall act as Chairperson who shall be appointed by the State President.

The State Recording Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of this Committee and shall act as its Secretary.

The duties of the Committee on Public Relations are as follows:

- a. To completely supervise the publication of the official publication of the Grand Lodge known as the *IL GIORNALE*, except for editorial and news contents, which shall be sent to all members in good standing (one per household) of the Local Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland at a cost per member or household as determined by the Grand Council. (June 1997)
- b. To prepare a biennial budget of all receipts for advertisements, contributions and other income and expenses for publication cost and mailing for the official publication *il Giornale* to be submitted to the Grand Convention for its approval; and to recommend an assessment to balance the budget, so that said publication shall be self-sustaining. (June 1997)
- c. To gather news items from officers, committee members and other media for submission to the Editor-in-Chief for publication. It shall be the duty of each chairperson of committees of the **Grand** Lodge to forward copies of all reports, programs and activities of his/her respective committee to the Committee on Public Relations.
- d. To furnish local newspapers, television and radio stations and other new agencies with prepared stories and pictures of:
  - 1 Activities of the Grand Lodge and all Local Lodges
  - 2 Activities of the Supreme Lodge
  - 3 Visitations to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland of dignitaries and government officials from the Republic of Italy
  - 4 Activities of Conventions and Plenary Session
  - 5 To induce the Public Relations Committee of each of the Local Lodges of the Grand Lodge to prepare and submit news of members, such as illnesses, deaths, trips, marriages, public attainments, biographies of members, etc.

- 6 To advise the Grand Council of any forthcoming events in which it would be good public relations for the Grand Lodge to participate
  - 7 To perform all other duties as may from time to time be delegated by its Local Lodges and members
- e. The Editor in Chief of the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland shall be appointed by the State President. He/she shall consult with the Committee of Public Relations but shall otherwise have the freedom and discretion to determine the editorial and news contents of the official publication and to appoints staff to the Editor-in-Chief of the official publication of the Grand Lodge shall be assist him/her. (June 1997)
- The Editor-in-Chief shall be the custodian of all materials, photographs, equipment, copy and newspaper related to or used in conjunction with the preparation and publication of the *il Giornale* and shall render an annual report of inventory to the State Recording Secretary on January 1 of each year.
- f. The Chairperson of the Committee on Public Relations must give reports of its programs and activities,- in writing, to the Grand Council. (June 1999)
- g. Each Committee member is obliged to attend the meetings of the Committee on Public Relations. If he/she absents himself/herself without justifiable cause from three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she automatically forfeits his/her position as a member of said committee.

SR-3 CHARITY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE (CHC) (June 1999)

- A. The Charity and Health Committee (CHC) shall be appointed by the State President and shall consist of no more than nine (9) members. From its members, one shall act as Chairperson, who will be appointed by the State President.
- B. The Charity and Health Committee shall supervise and conduct charitable drives for members, as well as non-members, and on behalf of other charitable organizations, whenever it is directed to do so by the Grand Council. The Grand Council has the express power to authorize fundraising drives for worthwhile charities not connected with the **Grand** Lodge and for worthwhile recipients who are not members of the Order.
- C. The intent of this Article is to make the Grand Lodge a more meaningful instrument in the area of community betterment and to give it the place it deserves in the mainstream of community affairs.
- D. It shall be the duty of the Charity and Health Committee to collect funds, by private or public solicitation in the Order and outside of the Order, and it may adopt other means commonly used by similar charitable organizations. The CBC shall review all requests for donations for charity or charitable organizations proposed to the Grand Council. Committee recommendations for approval, modification or disapproval, shall be presented to the Grand Council in the meeting following the proposal for their action.
- E. The Chairperson of the CBC must give a report of its programs, in writing, to the Grand Council.
- F. Among the official charities of the Grand Lodge shall be:
  - 1) Those programs related to research, prevention, treatment and cure of Alzheimer's. A Committee Chairperson shall be recommended by the State President and appointed by the Chairperson of the CHC Committee. The Committee Chairperson shall assist the Local Lodges, upon request, in raising of funds for the Alzheimer's Association. (June 1999)
  - 2) Those programs related to the research, prevention, treatment and cure of Cooley's Anemia. A Committee Chairperson will be recommended by the State President and appointed by the Chairperson of the CHC Committee. (June 1999)
- G. Each member of the Charity and Health Committee (CHC), or any committee thereof, is obliged to attend the meetings of the Committee and/or

committee to which he/she has been appointed. If he/she absents himself/herself without justifiable cause from three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she automatically forfeits his/her position as a member of the CHC and/or any committee thereof.

SR- 4 - EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (ESC) (June 1999)

- A. The Education and Scholarship Committee (ESC) shall be appointed by the State President shall consist of no more than nine (9) members. From its members, one shall act as Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the State President.
- B. The Education and Scholarship Committee (ESC) shall supervise the diffusion of the ideals and purposes of the Order in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge by means of written publications or lectures, and by visitation ceremonies.

This Committee, as part of its education program, shall have the responsibility of study and evaluating the extent to which Americans of Italian descent participate in local, state and federal government. Subject to the approval of the Grand Council, this Committee shall communicate to the appropriate government officials the results of its findings and shall recommend to such government officials corrective actions and suggestions so that the right of the members of the Grand Lodge to full and active citizenship may be recognized and fostered.

- C. The ESC shall initiate and carry out programs for the teaching of the Italian language in the lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. Further, this Committee shall:
  - 1) Encourage the teaching of the Italian language in the public and private school of Maryland
  - 2) Study and determine how many public and private schools are teaching the Italian language and inform the Grand Council.
  - 3) Obtain and relay information if schools have programs that inform its student of the great contributions of Italians to the Western civilization, and to encourage studies thereon.

- D. The Education and Scholarship Committee shall cooperate and assist students seeking admission to colleges and
  - 1) A Committee Chairperson shall be recommended by the State President and appointed by the Chairperson of the ESC to a committee to be known as the "Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee"
  - 2) The members of this committee shall consist of five (5) members, who shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the ESC, and a representative recommended by the President of each Local Lodge desiring to participate in this program.
  - 3) This committee is authorized to sponsor fundraising events to supplement the scholarship fund, with the approval of the Grand Council.
- E. The Chairperson of the ESC is obliged to present to the Grand Council, in writing, a report of its programs and activities. (June 1999)
- F. Each member of the ESC or any committee thereof is obliged to attend the meetings of the Committee and/or committee to which he/she has been appointed. If he/she absents himself/herself without justifiable cause from three (3) Consecutive meeting, he/she automatically forfeits his/her position as a member of the Education and Scholarship Committee and/or any committee thereof.

SR 5 MEMBERSHIP AND EXPANSION COMMISSION (June 1999)

- A. The Commission on Membership and Expansion shall be appointed by the State President and shall consist of no more than nine (9) members. From its members, one shall act as Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the State President.
- B. The Commission on Membership and Expansion shall supervise and conduct such membership drives as are approved by the Grand Council.
- C. The duties of this Commission are as follows:
  - 1) To meet with Americans of Italian heritage in the communities of Maryland and inform them of the purposes of the Order Sons of Italy in America and of its many worthwhile programs for the betterment of all citizens.
  - 2) To assume all responsibilities and take care of all details in formalizing the formation of new Lodges, consistent with the requirements of the Supreme Laws pertaining to the admission of new members and the creation of new Lodges.
- D. The Chairperson of this Commission shall assume full responsibility that new Lodge charters presented to the State President are consistent with the requirements of application for Local Lodge charters as provided by the Supreme Laws.

- E. The Chairperson of the Commission, with the advice and consent of the members of this Commission, shall prepare a budget to implement its Membership and Expansion programs to be submitted to the Grand Convention for its approval and funding. Provided, however, that the sum of \$1,000.00 annually may be disbursed from the General Fund of the purposes of this Commission, with the approval of the Grand Council.
- F. The Chairperson of the Commission on Membership and Expansion must give a report of its programs and activities, in writing, to the Grand Council. (June, 1999)
- G. Each Commission member is obliged to attend the meetings of the Commission on Membership and Expansion. He/she absents himself/herself without justifiable cause from three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she automatically forfeits his/her position as a member of said Commission.

SR-6 CIVIC, CULTURAL AND ETHNIC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (June 1999)

- A. The Committee on Civic, Cultural and Ethnic Activities shall be appointed by the State President and shall consist of no more than nine (9) members. From its members one shall act as Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the State President.
- B. The programs sponsored by this Committee are the following:
  - 1) Columbus Day Celebration
  - 2) Any other programs approved by the Grand Council
- C. A Committee Chairperson for each of these programs shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee on Civic Cultural and Ethnic Activities, on recommendation of the State President.
  - 1) The members of each committee shall consist of no more than five (5) members of the Committee on Civic, Cultural and Ethnic Activities, who shall be appointed by the Chairperson of this Committee; and no more than five (5) persons who shall be appointed by the State President from the membership of the Order in Maryland.
  - 2) Each Committee Chairperson shall submit the program and budget of his/her committee to the CCEA Committee for its approval.
    - a. The CCEA Committee shall submit all programs and budgets of its committees, approved by it, to the Grand Council for its consideration and final approval.
  - 3) The Committee Chairperson and the chairperson of each committee are authorized to expand their respective Committee or committees to include in an advisory capacity, additional members, consisting of either the President of each Local Lodge or a representative of the Lodge designated by the President.
- D. The Chairperson of this Committee and the chairpersons of each committee shall inform the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Relations, State President and the Grand Council of the progress of their activities.
- E. The Committee on CCEA Committee is authorized to set up additional committee relating to the purposes of this Committee, subject to the approval of the Grand Council and the appointment of committee chairpersons by the State President.

- F. Each member of the CCEA Committee or any committee thereof, is obliged to attend the meetings of the Committee and/or committee to which he/she has been appointed. If he/she absents himself/herself without justifiable cause from three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she automatically forfeits his/her position as a member of the CCEA Committee and/or any committee thereof.



## SR-7 BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- A. The Committee on By-Laws shall be appointed by the State President and shall consist of no more than nine (9) members. From its members, one shall act as Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the State President.
- B. The Committee shall have general supervision of the publication, revision, addition and modification of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge. Proposals for changes, additions or repeal of laws must be referred to this Committee for its study and consideration. On each proposal submitted, the Committee shall report its opinion to the Grand Council; and subject to approval of the Grand Council, this Committee shall submit and defend its recommendation/s to the Grand Lodge in session.
- C. Proposals by Local Lodges or member in good standing for changes, additions, or repeal of a State By-Law must be submitted to the State Recording Secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to the convening date of the State Convention. The State President will have all proposals as approved by the Grand Council duplicated and one (1) copy sent to each Executive Officer, Lodge President, State Trustee and State Delegate one (1) month prior to the convening date of the State Convention.
- D. Local Lodge By-Law changes, additions or repeals will be proposed at a regular meeting held in one (1) month and then read debated and adopted by no less than two-thirds vote at the subsequent regular meeting of the Lodge. The Lodge changes will contain the following certification signed by the Lodge President and Recording Secretary.

"This is to certify that this resolution was proposed at a regular meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge# \_\_\_\_\_ held on the (date) day of, (month, year); read, debated and adopted by a two-thirds (or unanimous) vote at a regular meeting of the Lodge held on (date) day of (month, year) there being (#) present."

- E. The By-Law change, addition or repeal will be presented by resolution in the following prescribed format:
  - 1. The resolution will be restricted to one subject and may encompass an entire Article of the Constitution and By-Laws.

2. The WHEREAS shall state the number of and the entire Article to be changed, added to, or repealed.
  3. The WHEREAS shall state the reason for resolution.
  4. The RESOLVED shall contain the exact wording of the entire Article as it is proposed to appear in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- F. The Committee on By-Laws will list all changes, additions, or repeal of By-Law adopted by the Grand Council during the interval between State Conventions. This list will be submitted to the State President for distribution in accordance with above SR-7C.
- G. The Chairperson of this Committee must examine the By-Laws of the Local Lodges and recommend approval of them to the Grand Council, provided said By-Laws are in accord with the Laws of the Order. He/she must keep a copy of these By-Laws of Local Lodges in the records of the Grand Lodge.
- H. The Chairperson of this Committee shall have the responsibility of having a Grand Lodge By-Laws Book printed, consistent with the format, structure and type of the Supreme Lodge Law Book, wherever possible.
- The Grand Lodge By-Law Book shall include the Constitution, General Laws and Judicial Code of the Supreme Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America.
- The Committee is authorized to establish a price for the aforesaid By-Law Book containing the laws of the Supreme Lodge and the Grand Lodge, to defray the cost of printing, subject to the approval of the Grand Council.
- I. Each Committee member is obliged to attend the meetings of the Committee on By- Laws. If he/she absents himself/herself without justifiable cause from three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she forfeits his/her position as a member of said Committee.

## SR- 8 JUNIOR (Youth) MEMBERSHIP

- A. To perpetuate the Order and its principles, the Local Lodges may accept Junior members aged 0- 18 years. The qualifications and requirements for membership are to be the same as those for general membership (National Article 1).

Upon reaching the age of 18, those Brothers and Sisters can remain members of their affiliate lodge but will no longer remain a Junior Member. (June 1999)

1. Duly admitted members shall not pay Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax, but their Local Lodge must remit the National Per Capita to the Grand Lodge.
2. **Junior** Members may be included in the computation of qualified members in good standing to determine the number of allowable Delegates to the State Convention. (June 1999)

## SR-9 GRAND COUNCIL MEETINGS ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at meetings of the Grand Council shall be as follows:

Opening of Meeting Roll Call of Officers

Recording Secretary - Record Minutes of present meeting, approval of the Minutes of previous meeting, read correspondence and new member applications for approval from Grand Council

Reports of Financial Secretary Report of Treasurer Committee Reports

Old Business New Business

Good of the Order Closing of the meeting

## SR-10 GRAND CONVENTION ORDER OF THE DAY (June 1999)

The Order of the Day of every Grand Convention shall be as follows:

Convention Committee Chairperson welcome and introductions including introduction of the presiding officer, State President.

State President calls the first convocation to order according to the Order's ritual.

Roll Call of Officers

Reading of the Principles of the Order

Invocation

Salute to the Flag

Commemoration of Deceased

Members National Anthem/s

Reports of the Credentials Committee. The members must be previously appointed by the State President and their selection announced no later than the May Grand Council meeting. If a quorum is present, the State President will call the first session of the Convention legally open for business.

President distributes Certificates of Merit

Announcements of:

Guard

Mistress/Master of Ceremonies

Electoral Board

Convention Committee

Minutes of the previous Convention

Reports of Officers of the Grand Lodge

Reports of the Judiciary and/or By-Laws

Committee Reports of Special Committees

Nominations for State President

Unfinished Business

Election of State President

(Grand Convention Order of the Day cont'd)

Nominations of candidates for Executive Committee, At-Large Trustees, Arbitration Commission and National Delegates

New Business

Election of Executive Committee, At-Large Trustees, Arbitration Commission and National Delegates

Convention Site Selection

Ann Installation of Officers at a banquet or appropriate ceremony

Aouncement of New Officers, Commission Members and National Delegates

Adjournment of Convention according to Ritual

## SR-11 GRAND LODGE MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

The sessions of the Grand Lodge must be regulated by the following parliamentary procedure and by other special rules that any or each may adopt in its wisdom:

- 1 The parliamentary rules of procedure set forth in Roberts' Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall regulate and govern the procedure and discussions in all matters not specifically covered by the laws of the Order, by the present rules, and by other special rules which each Convention may adopt.

- 2 State Recording Secretary within the proper time established by law, must be assigned to the special committees immediately after the announcement to the Convention of the appointment of members of the committees.
- 3 No member shall have the right to speak more than once on the same subject, except at the direction of the presiding officer and only after any and all other members who desire to speak on the subject have been given an opportunity to exercise their right to speak and be heard. Exception is hereby made for the members, however, who are making reports for the various committees, who shall have the right to speak again to close the discussion.
- 4 The presiding officer cannot take part in the discussion unless he/she assigns his/her chair to another State Officer in order of precedence.
- 5 The right to talk is limited to three (3) minutes. Exception is made, however, for a member who is making a report for a committee when making his/her report.
- 6 The votes shall be taken by the up-raised hand, exception being made for elections which shall be conducted by secret ballot and also excepting voting by Roll Call. A Roll Call vote shall be held when and if a majority of the members of the Grand Lodge request it.
- 7 No motion can be discussed or voted upon if it is not seconded and announced by chair.
- 8 A motion for reconsideration can only be made and seconded by members who voted with the majority for approval or disapproval of the original motion.

## SR-12 GRAND LODGE EQUIPMENT

The equipment of the Grand Council is the custody of the Grand Council and may, with proper receipt given and responsibility assured, be used by the Local Lodges.

The equipment must be returned within ten (10) days from the date of receipt to the custody of the Grand Council, in working order.

## SR-13 TRAVEL AT GRAND LODGE EXPENSE

The State President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Lodge, and as such, is empowered to authorize travel at Grand Lodge expense to permit State Officers and others to conduct State business. Such travel should be kept at an absolute minimum and information will be provided to the Grand Council by the State President within thirty (30) days.

Authorization of Grand Lodge *mileage* expenses shall not exceed the Federal Government guidelines per mile.

*Per Diem* rate not to exceed \$100.00 per day at a destination for Grand Lodge business.

#### SR- 14 MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

The State President, with the approval of the Grand Council, shall have prepared and awarded a 50-Year and 25-Year Membership Certificates to honor Members in good standing, either continuously or cumulatively, for each said respective periods.

#### SR - 15 ELECTORAL BOARD MEMBERS

The Electoral Board shall be comprised of members who are NOT candidates for any State or National office.

#### SR-16 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet on the second Monday of each month or at a time determined by the State President.

#### SR -17 LOCAL LODGE BY-LAWS

Local Lodge By-Laws should be submitted to the Grand Lodge for review every four (4) years.

#### SR-18 NATIONAL EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET (NELA)

The Grand Lodge President and his/her spouse or in the absence of a spouse, a guest will attend the annual NELA banquet sponsored by the OSIA National Foundation. The cost of the two (2) tickets will be paid for by the Grand Lodge.



## SR-19 LOANS TO OSIA MARYLAND LOCAL LODGES

“The Grand Lodge of Maryland, based on the approval of the Grand Lodge Executive Committee, may provide a loan, interest free IF paid within the time limit provided, to any Local Lodge **up to \$1,000 PER YEAR**. To be considered for said loan, the Local Lodge must:

- 1- Justify the request for the loan by providing the most current year-to-date financial statement of income and expense and summary of the total net assets of the lodge.
- 2- Provide a “Plan” outlining how the loan will be used, including:
  - a. Description of the purpose of the loan (EX: an event (with date, time, location); if used for a different project, information to be provided as to what the project is, cost of the project, along with estimate.
  - b. Explain how the Local Lodge will be involved in the event/project.
  - c. Projected total expense incurred by Local Lodge and possible income from event/project.
  - d. Repayment to the Grand Lodge of MD for the loan is to be paid within 18 months.\*

**\*NO ADDITIONAL LOAN will be considered if there is an outstanding balance on a previous loan. Any unpaid loan balance after 18 months may be subject to a 10% interest change.**

## SR-20 Foundation Scholarship Fund

The Grand Lodge of Maryland shall add to each biennial budget, the sum of \$5,000.00 to be dedicated to the Foundation Scholarship Fund only and to be used for the sole purpose of distributing scholarships to students of Italian descent through parents/grandparent/s who are members, in good standing, of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. (June, 2025)