

159th Grand Lodge Session



RESOLUTIONS
Austin, Texas
June 30, 2024 – July 3, 2024

BALLOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Tuesday, as you enter the Assembly Hall, there will be specially designated lines for those holding voter credentials and others for non-voting members.

If you are a voting member, bring your credentials along with both A and B voting coupons. You must present a voting coupon to the Grand Lodge Officials to receive your ballot. Retain the remaining coupon in the event a second ballot is needed.

Balloting on resolutions will be by paper ballot. All delegates holding voter credentials should be in place with a paper ballot and voting pencil in their possession. After discussion of each resolution and a vote having been called for, you will mark your ballot "yes" if in favor of the resolution or "no" if not in favor of the resolution. Please do not bend or distort the ballot as it may invalidate your vote.

After completing all voting, please pass the ballots and pencils to the right of your section where the ballots and pencils will be collected. Please remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Counting of the ballots will be done outside the main entrance of the Assembly Hall in plain sight of the delegates who wish to view the proceedings. The results will be reported before the end of the day's session.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation!

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-01: To remove the word indoctrination, which has negative connotations linked to forced acceptance of certain values or beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization's principles and beliefs.

Resolution 2024-02: 1) To move the control of the assets from the Grand Exalted Ruler's appointed Defunct Lodge Trustees to that of the State Sponsor(s). 2) Lodges and State Associations are both 501(c)(8)s. This change will allow funds to be given to State Associations without placing a restriction on their use if so deemed by the State Sponsor(s).

Resolution 2024-03: To remove the word indoctrination, which has a negative connotation linked to forced acceptance of certain values of beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization's principles and beliefs.

This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-01.

Resolution 2024-04: To allow the ability to download and print a current membership application directly from Elks.org.

Resolution 2024-05: To make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy procured by Grand Lodge optional for the local Lodges.

Resolution 2024-06: To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Secretary through an outside insurance company.

This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-05.

Resolution 2024-07: To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Treasurer through an outside insurance company.

This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-05.

Resolution 2024-08: To REMOVE the requirement for the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics.

Resolution 2024-09: To give the Local Lodges the opportunity to add or not add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

Resolution 2024-10: To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order.

Resolution 2024-11: To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order.

Resolution 2024-12: The purpose of this resolution is to clarify and make consistent the process for nominations following the requirement that two meetings be held.

Resolution 2024-13: To make the year-round entry of the charitable service statistics a formal duty of the Secretary.

Resolution 2024-14: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee.

Resolution 2024-15: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee.

This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-14.

Resolution 2024-16: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order.

Resolution 2024-17: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order.

Resolution 2024-18: To clarify the role of the Exalted Ruler as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees and a voting member of the Board of Directors of an incorporated lodge.

Resolution 2024-19: To provide a right of due process, hearing, and appeal to a member who is subject to expulsion from membership for an undisclosed felony conviction.

Resolution 2024-20: To clarify the appellate jurisdiction and review process of the Grand Forum over appeals of an Order entered under the revised GLS 9.090.

This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-19.

Resolution 2024-21: To make a record of the preliminary hearing.

Resolution 2024-22: To codify what flags or other insignia may be displayed within the Order.

RESOLUTION 2024-01:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 4.357 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 4.357. The Committee on Public Relations and Membership Marketing is charged with the duty and responsibility of implementing a Public Relations and Membership Marketing Program of the Order, which will include the recruitment, investigation, indoctrination, initiation, lapsation, and reinstatement of Members.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 4.357. The Committee on Public Relations and Membership Marketing is charged with the duty and responsibility of implementing a Public Relations and Membership Marketing Program of the Order, which will include the recruitment, investigation, ~~indoctrination~~ orientation, initiation, lapsation, and reinstatement of Members.

Purpose: To remove the word indoctrination, which has negative connotations linked to forced acceptance of certain values or beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization's principles and beliefs.

Resolution proposed by: Washington Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-02:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 9.170 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 9.170. Upon the final adjudication by the Courts of the Order, the revocation or suspension of a Dispensation or Charter, or the surrender of a Charter under the Laws of the Order shall be conclusive upon the Lodge and its Members.

...

Upon such final adjudication, the Grand Exalted Ruler may appoint a number of Trustees, who in his judgement would be appropriate, who shall be authorized and empowered to take all necessary actions and execute all required instruments to receive, hold, conserve, manage, sell or encumber, mortgage, borrow against the Lodge property, as they may deem necessary, retaining the proceeds therefrom, until such time as said Lodge may be reinstated or a new Charter granted in the same community. However, the number of Trustees appointed shall be at least three (3) where such trust assets exceed thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00).

...

(c) The appointed Trustees shall convert to cash any property necessary to pay valid debts of the Lodge and written permission to sell or lease said real estate shall be obtained from the Board of Grand Trustees, and the net proceeds shall be invested for the benefit of the trust, as provided by local laws relating to investment of trust funds, and shall be held until said Lodge be reinstated or a new Lodge or Lodges be organized in the same jurisdiction. Provided, however, and subject to the approval of the Grand Exalted Ruler, the appointed Trustees may annually distribute to the State Association in which the Lodge in question was located, part or all of the net earnings of the Trust to be restricted to the sole purpose of paying expenses incurred in connection with the effort to form a new Lodge or Lodges in the same state. Such distribution shall be in an amount that will not diminish the corpus or principal of the Trust.

If the net assets total \$35,000.00 or less, said amount may immediately be transferred, as allowed pursuant to Subsection (d) of this Section, to the State Association in which the Lodge was located for use by that State Association for its major project or other exempt Purposes within the State Association and within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code.

(d) At any time after five (5) years from the date of the creation of the trust, when it appears to the Grand Exalted Ruler and the State Sponsor that the Lodge in question may not be reinstated, or a new Lodge or Lodges are not likely to be formed in the same jurisdiction, the Grand Exalted Ruler may order all or part of the remaining trust assets conveyed to either:

1) upon the recommendation of the State Sponsor either:

a) one or more tax-exempt charitable organizations of the State Association in which the Lodge was located for use by that State Association for its major project or other exempt purposes within the State Association and within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code, or:

b) one half of the assets to an investment fund for that State's Association and one half of the assets to one or more tax-exempt charitable organizations of the State Association in which the Lodge was located for use by that State Association for its major project or other exempt purposes within the State Association and within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code, or:

....

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 9.170. Upon the final adjudication by the Courts of the Order, the revocation or suspension of a Dispensation or Charter, or the surrender of a Charter under the Laws of the Order shall be conclusive upon the Lodge and its Members.

...

Upon such final adjudication, the Grand Exalted Ruler may appoint a number of Trustees, who in his judgement would be appropriate, who shall be authorized and empowered to take all necessary actions and execute all required instruments to receive, hold, conserve, manage, sell or encumber, mortgage, borrow against the Lodge property, as they may deem necessary, retaining the proceeds therefrom, until such time as said Lodge may be reinstated or a new Charter granted in the same community. However, the number of Trustees appointed shall be at least three (3) where such trust assets exceed ~~thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00)~~ **fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00)**.

...

(c) The appointed Trustees shall convert to cash any property necessary to pay valid debts of the Lodge and written permission to sell or lease said real estate shall be obtained from the Board of Grand Trustees, and the net proceeds shall be invested for the benefit of the trust, as provided by local laws relating to investment of trust funds, and shall be held until said Lodge be reinstated or a new Lodge or Lodges be organized in the same jurisdiction. Provided, however, and subject to the approval of the Grand Exalted Ruler, the appointed Trustees may annually distribute to the State Association in which the Lodge in question was located, part or all of the net earnings of the Trust to be restricted to the sole purpose of paying expenses incurred in connection with the effort to form a new Lodge or Lodges in the same state. Such distribution shall be in an amount that will not diminish the corpus or principal of the Trust.

If the net assets total ~~\$35,000.00~~ **\$50,000.00** or less, said amount may immediately be transferred, as allowed pursuant to Subsection (d) of this Section, to the State Association in which the Lodge was located for use by that State Association for its major project or other exempt Purposes within the State Association and within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) **or Section 501(c)(8)** of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code.

(d) At any time after five (5) years, from the date of the creation of the trust, when it appears to the Grand Exalted Ruler and the State Sponsor that the Lodge in question may not be reinstated, or a new Lodge or Lodges are not likely to be formed in the same jurisdiction, the Grand Exalted Ruler ~~may~~ **shall** order all ~~or part~~ of the remaining trust assets conveyed to either:

1) upon the recommendation of the State Sponsor either:

- a) one or more tax-exempt charitable organizations of the State Association in which the Lodge was located for use by that State Association for its major project or other exempt purposes within the State Association and within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) **or 501(c)(8)** of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code, or:
- b) one half of the assets to an investment fund for that State's Association and one half of the assets to one or more tax-exempt charitable organizations of the State Association in which the Lodge was located for use by that State Association for its major project or other exempt purposes within the State Association and within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) **or 501(c)(8)** of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code, or:

....

Purpose: 1) To move the control of the assets from the Grand Exalted Ruler's appointed Defunct Lodge Trustees to that of the State Sponsor(s). 2) Lodges and State Associations are both 501(c)(8)s. This change will allow funds to be given to State Associations without placing a restriction on their use if so deemed by the State Sponsor(s).

Resolution proposed by: Washington Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-03:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 13.022 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 13.022. The Fraternal Committee shall be charged with the following:

...

(c) Prepare, supervise, and conduct a planned program for indoctrination of candidates and their families prior to initiation in order that all candidates and their families may become fully informed as to the good works of the Order of Elks.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 13.022. The Fraternal Committee shall be charged with the following:

...

(c) Prepare, supervise, and conduct a planned program for ~~indoctrination~~ orientation of candidates and their families prior to initiation in order that all candidates and their families may become fully informed as to the good works of the Order of Elks.

THIS RESOLUTION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2024-01.

Purpose: To remove the word indoctrination, which has a negative connotation linked to forced acceptance of certain values of beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization's principles and beliefs.

Resolution proposed by: Washington Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-04:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 14.020 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER, WHICH STATES AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 14.020. A person desiring membership in the Order must be proposed in writing by a Member of the Order, with said application being submitted at a regular Lodge meeting of the Lodge of the proposed candidate for membership. If the person is proposed by a Member of the Order not a Member of the Lodge to which the application is submitted, a certification from the Secretary of the Lodge of the proposer must accompany the application certifying that the proposer is a Member in good standing of the Order. Membership applications may be included in Lodge Bulletin mailings or in a sealed envelope going only to Elks. The official application of the Order, signed by the applicant, shall state his name, occupation, date and place of birth, present residence, residences and occupations during the five (5) years last preceding the date of the application, two references who are Members of the Order and whether or not the applicant has been proposed for membership in another Lodge of the Order, and, if so when, where and with what result.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 14.020. A person desiring membership in the Order must be proposed in writing by a Member of the Order, with said application being submitted at a regular Lodge meeting of the Lodge of the proposed candidate for membership. If the person is proposed by a Member of the Order not a Member of the Lodge to which the application is submitted, a certification from the Secretary of the Lodge of the proposer must accompany the application certifying that the proposer is a Member in good standing of the Order. Membership applications may be included in Lodge Bulletin mailings or in a sealed envelope going only to Elks; *or official membership application downloaded from the Grand Lodge web site at Elks.org.* The official application of the Order, signed by the applicant, shall state his name, occupation, date and place of birth, present residence, residences and occupations during the five (5) years last preceding the date of the application, two references who are Members of the Order and whether or not the applicant has been proposed for membership in another Lodge of the Order, and, if so when, where and with what result.

Purpose: To allow the ability to download and print a current membership application directly from Elks.org.

Resolution proposed by: Washington Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-05:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 4.232 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 4.232. The Board of Grand Trustees shall acquire by contract with a qualified insurance company, and maintain in effect, a master comprehensive all risk of physical loss and crime coverage program for the properties and functions of the Grand Lodge, each Local Lodge, and separate corporations organized and existing under Section 16.030 of the Grand Lodge Statutes as they shall require from time to time, and shall be available. Premiums for coverage shall be separately assessed against those entities in such amounts and at such times as will be required to provide the coverage requested and in place.

Each of said entities shall be required to participate in the program. The program shall be effective as to each line of insurance coverage for each entity on the annual date its present policy (policies), in effect on the adoption of this Section, expires.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 4.232. The Board of Grand Trustees shall acquire by contract with a qualified insurance company, and maintain in effect, a master comprehensive all risk of physical loss and crime coverage program for the properties and functions of the Grand Lodge, each Local Lodge, and separate corporations organized and existing under Section 16.030 of the Grand Lodge Statutes as they shall require from time to time, and shall be available. Premiums for coverage shall be separately assessed against those entities in such amounts and at such times as will be required to provide the coverage requested and in place.

~~Each of said entities~~ **Grand Lodge** shall be required to participate in the program. **Each Local Lodge, and separate corporations organized and existing under Section 16.030 of the Grand Lodge Statutes may participate in the program but are not required to do so.** The program shall be effective as to each line of insurance coverage for each entity on the annual date its present policy (policies), in effect on the adoption of this Section, expires.

Each Local Lodge, and separate corporations organized and existing under Section 16.030 of the Grand Lodge Statutes not participating in the contract obtained by the Board of Grand Trustees, shall acquire and maintain, with a licensed insurance company in the State where the Local Lodge or separate corporation exists, a policy to cover risk of physical loss and crime coverage. Proof of coverage will be provided to the Grand Lodge if requested by the Grand Lodge.

Purpose: To make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy procured by Grand Lodge optional for the local Lodges.

Resolution proposed by: Indiana and Minnesota State Elks Associations.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee does not recommend the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-06:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 12.050 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 12.050. The Secretary of the Lodge shall:

...

(k) Give bond of at least \$5,000 or in a greater amount as may be provided in the By-Laws, unless such coverage is provided through the Grand Lodge insurance program.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 12.050. The Secretary of the Lodge shall:

...

(k) Give bond of at least \$5,000 or in a greater amount as may be provided by the By- Laws, unless such coverage is provided through The Grand Lodge insurance program **or through a licensed insurance company used by the Lodge in accordance with Section 4.232.**

THIS RESOLUTION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2024-05.

Purpose: To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Secretary through an outside insurance company.

Resolution proposed by: Minnesota Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee does not recommend the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-07:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 12.060 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER, AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 12.060. The Treasurer of the Lodge shall: ...

(d) Give bond of at least \$5,000 or in a greater amount as may be provided in the By-Laws, unless such coverage is provided through the Grand Lodge insurance program.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 12.060. The Treasurer of the Lodge shall: ...

(d) Give bond of at least \$5,000 or in a greater amount as may be provided by the By- Laws, unless such coverage is provided through the Grand Lodge insurance program **or through a licensed insurance company used by the Lodge in accordance with Section 4.232.**

THIS RESOLUTION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2024-05.

Purpose: To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Treasurer through an outside insurance company.

Resolution proposed by: Minnesota Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee does not recommend the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-08:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 12.060 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 12.060. The Treasurer of the Lodge shall:

...

(i) Attend all District Deputy Clinics unless excused for good cause by the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 12.060. The Treasurer of the Lodge shall:

...

~~*(i)* Attend all District Deputy Clinics unless excused for good cause by the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.~~

Purpose: To REMOVE the requirement for the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics.

Resolution proposed by: Oregon Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-09:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 16.020 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 16.020.

...

An incorporated Lodge may make provision for a Board of Directors which shall be designated in accordance with the requirements of the corporation laws of the State or Territory in which such Lodge is situated and which shall be composed of the four Chair Officers of the Lodge, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Trustees, and which shall be vested with the powers and duties conferred upon the Board of Trustees by the Laws of the Order, including, but not limited to, Section 12.070.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 16.020.

...

An incorporated Lodge may make provision for a Board of Directors which shall be designated in accordance with the requirements of the corporation laws of the State or Territory in which such Lodge is situated, ~~and~~ **The Board of Directors** ~~which~~ shall be composed of the four Chair Officers of the Lodge, ~~the Secretary, the Treasurer,~~ **and** the Trustees, which shall be vested with the powers and duties conferred upon the Board of Trustees by the Laws of the Order, including, but not limited to, Section 12.070. **The Lodge may amend its By-laws to include the Secretary and Treasurer as members of the Board of Directors.**

Purpose: To give the Local Lodges the opportunity to add or not add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

Resolution proposed by: Oregon Elks Association

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-10:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 9.210 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 9.210. All Executive Orders provided for in Sections 9.010, 9.011, 9.012, 9.020, 9.030, 9.040, 9.110 and 9.160 shall be final unless timely appealed as provided herein. Upon trial of an appeal from an Executive Order, it shall be the burden of the Grand Exalted Ruler to prove one or more of the charges contained within the Executive Order by a preponderance of the evidence. The decision of the Grand Forum on the appeal shall be final.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 9.210. All Executive Orders provided for in Sections 9.010, 9.011, 9.012, 9.013, 9.020, 9.030, 9.040, 9.110, and 9.160 shall be final unless timely appealed as provided herein. Upon trial of an appeal from Executive Order, it shall be the burden of the Grand Exalted Ruler to prove one or more of the charges contained within the Executive Order by a preponderance of the evidence. *The preponderance of the evidence standard of proof shall be applied by the Grand Forum at all trials resulting from an appeal of Executive Order authorized in the Laws of the Order, both those presently enacted and those which may, from time to time, be enacted in the future.* The decision of the Grand Forum on the appeal shall be final.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-11:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 9.013 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 9.013. The Grand Exalted Ruler, by written Executive Order specifying the grounds, may suspend a Member for engaging in Conduct Unbecoming an Elk, or Conduct Injurious to the Order, when such acts are an egregious nature, such as, but not limited to, acts or threats of physical violence, sexual assault or harassment, theft, malicious destruction of property or conduct involving moral turpitude. If the Grand Exalted Ruler has clear and convincing evidence the conduct is “willful”, the Member may be expelled....

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 9.013. The Grand Exalted Ruler, by written Executive Order specifying the grounds, may suspend a Member for engaging in Conduct Unbecoming an Elk, or Conduct Injurious to the Order, when such acts are of an egregious nature, such as, but not limited to, acts or threats of physical violence, sexual assault or harassment, theft, malicious destruction of property or conduct involving moral turpitude. If the Grand Exalted Ruler ~~has clear and convincing evidence~~ **determines** the conduct is “willful”, the Member may be expelled....

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-12:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 3.080 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 3.080 Nominations for offices to be filled at the annual election in Lodges shall be made in the order in which they appear in Section 2 of Article VII of the Constitution of the Order at any regular meeting of the Lodge on or after the 1st day of January if meetings are held monthly, or after the 1st day of February and prior to the date of the annual election, provided, however, that if no nomination for an office shall have been made prior to the date of the election, or if all candidates previously nominated for an office, shall have declined or withdrawn, nominations for that office may be made on the date of election...

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 3.080 Nominations for offices to be filled at the annual election in Lodges shall be made in the order in which they appear in Section 2 of Article VII of the Constitution of the Order at any regular meeting of the Lodge on or after the 1st day of January if meetings are held monthly, or after the 1st day of February and prior to the date of the annual election, provided, however, that if no nomination for an office shall have been made prior to the date of the election, or if all candidates previously nominated for an office, shall have declined or withdrawn, nominations for that office may be made on the date of election..."

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: The purpose of this resolution is to clarify and make consistent the process for nominations following the requirement that two meetings be held.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-13:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 12.050 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 12.050. The Secretary of the Lodge shall...

(p) Collect all records, materials, other information and personal property of the Lodge as described in Section 12.180.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 12.050. The Secretary of the Lodge shall...

(p) Collect all records, materials, other information and personal property of the Lodge as described in Section 12.180.

(q) Perform or supervise year-round entry of charitable and community service statistics into Pending Charity Report in the Chicago Lodge Membership System.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To make the year-round entry of the charitable service statistics a formal duty of the Secretary.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-14:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE LAWS OF THE ORDER BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 13.025, WHICH WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 13.025. The Government Relations Committee, consisting of not fewer than three members, is charged with implementing the Government Relations Program of the Lodge, its State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-15:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 13.020 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 13.020. The Exalted Ruler, at the first meeting after his installation, shall appoint a lawyer, if available, and if not available, he may appoint a lawyer who is a Member of another Lodge, as the Presiding Justice of the Local Forum, a Mediator from his or another Lodge and no fewer than three Members to the following committees: Auditing and Accounting Committee, Activities Committee, Public Relations Committee and Fraternal Committee. These committees shall have responsibilities set forth in the following Sections: Auditing and Accounting (13.040), Activities Committee (13.021), Public Relations Committee (13.024) and Fraternal Committee (13.022). Special committees may be appointed for special purposes as the Lodge may direct. An Exalted Ruler may appoint multiple Presiding Justices and/or Mediators as the needs of a Lodge may require. The Exalted Ruler shall assign a specific Presiding Justice and Mediator on each case.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 13.020. The Exalted Ruler, at the first meeting after his installation, shall appoint a lawyer, if available, and if not available, he may appoint a lawyer who is a Member of another Lodge, as the Presiding Justice of the Local Forum, a Mediator from his or another Lodge and no fewer than three Members to the following committees: Auditing and Accounting Committee, Activities Committee, Public Relations Committee, **Government Relations Committee**, and Fraternal Committee. These committees shall have responsibilities set forth in the following Sections: Auditing and Accounting (13.040), Activities Committee (13.021), Public Relations Committee (13.024), **Government Relations Committee (13.025)**, and Fraternal Committee (13.022). Special committees may be appointed for special purposes as the Lodge may direct. An Exalted Ruler may appoint multiple Presiding Justices and/or Mediators as the needs of a Lodge may require. The Exalted Ruler shall assign a specific Presiding Justice and Mediator on each case.

THIS RESOLUTION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2024-14.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-16:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 13.021 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 13.021. The Activities Committee shall be charged with the following: (a) Implementing the Drug Awareness Program and the Hoop Shoot® Program of the Lodge, State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 13.021. The Activities Committee shall be charged with the following: (a) Implementing the Drug Awareness Program, the Hoop Shoot® Program, **and Soccer Shoot Program** of the Lodge, State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-17:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 18.020 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 18.020. Each State Association shall regulate its own internal affairs in a manner as it shall see fit, consistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Order

...

The Constitution or By-Laws of a State Association shall provide for the appointment of standing committees on Americanism, Business Practices, Drug Awareness, Elks National Foundation, ENF-MVS Scholarship Contest, Government Relations, Hoop Shoot®, Lodge Activities, Membership, National Veterans Service Commission, Public Relations, Ritualistic and Youth Activities. The duties of each Committee are to accomplish and promote the programs of the Grand Lodge Committees.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 18.020. Each State Association shall regulate its own internal affairs in a manner as it shall see fit, consistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Order

...

The Constitution or By-Laws of a State Association shall provide for the appointment of standing committees on Americanism, Business Practices, Drug Awareness, Elks National Foundation, ENF-MVS Scholarship Contest, Government Relations, Hoop Shoot®, Lodge Activities, Membership, National Veterans Service Commission, Public Relations, Ritualistic, **Soccer Shoot** and Youth Activities. The duties of each Committee are to accomplish and promote the programs of the Grand Lodge Committees.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-18:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 12.020 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 12.020. The Exalted Ruler is the Executive Officer of the Lodge and shall:

(a) Preside at all meetings, except as provided in Section 15.010.

...

(h) In an unincorporated Lodge, be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Trustees (or Board of Directors as may be applicable).

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 12.020. The Exalted Ruler is the Executive Officer of the Lodge and shall:

(a) Preside at all meetings, except as provided in Section 15.010.

...

(h) In an unincorporated Lodge, be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Trustees ~~(or Board of Directors as may be applicable).~~

(i) In an incorporated Lodge, be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To clarify the role of the Exalted Ruler as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees and a voting member of the Board of Directors of an incorporated lodge.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-19:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 9.090 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 9.090. Whenever it shall become known to any Member of the Order that another Member or an unaffiliated Elk has (1) while a Member, been finally convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or (2) falsely failed to disclose such a previous conviction or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude on his or her application for membership, it shall be the duty of that Member to provide the information to the Lodge of which the convicted Member is or was a Member.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall thereupon obtain and file in his office a certified transcript of the final judgment or the entry of such pleas and sentence imposed. He shall then immediately give thirty days' notice to the Member by personal service or by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the person upon whom it is to be served, at his address of record. The Secretary shall report the final conviction or entry of the plea to the Presiding Justice, who shall enter an order expelling the Member from the Order. This order shall be entered in the minutes of the Lodge and shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and sentence of the Local Forum.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 9.090. Whenever it shall become known to any Member of the Order that another Member or an unaffiliated Elk has (1) while a Member, been finally convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or (2) ~~falsely~~ failed to disclose such a previous conviction or ~~entered~~ entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude on his or her application for membership, it shall be the duty of that Member to provide the information to the Lodge of which the convicted Member is or was a Member.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall thereupon obtain and file in his office a certified ~~transcript~~ **court record** of the final judgment or the entry of such pleas and sentence imposed. He shall then immediately give thirty (30) days' **written** notice to the Member by personal service or by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, **and simultaneously by regular first-class mail**, in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the person upon whom it is to be served, at his address of record. **The notice will include a copy of the certified court record and notify the**

Member that he will be expelled from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks unless he is able to dispute the criminal records in question, by showing that they are inaccurate, currently under appeal, have been reversed on appeal or are otherwise erroneous, that he is not the person named in the certified transcript or that he did not fail to disclose the conviction on his application. A dispute in writing must be filed with the Lodge Secretary within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice.

If a no dispute is filed, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the certified court record of the final conviction or entry of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere to the Presiding Justice who shall enter an Order expelling the member from membership in the Order.

If a dispute is filed, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the certified court record of the final conviction or entry of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere together with the application of the member and a copy of the dispute filed by the member to the Presiding Justice. The Presiding Justice of the Lodge will hold a hearing to determine if the dispute is valid and if not, an Order will be entered permanently expelling the member from membership in the Order.

A written appeal of the expulsion may be filed by the member to the Grand Forum within thirty (30) days of the entry of the Order of Expulsion. The notice of appeal shall be accompanied by a certified check or money order payable to Grand Secretary in the amount of \$250.00.

The Secretary shall report the final conviction or entry of the plea to the Presiding Justice, who shall enter an order expelling the Member from the Order. This order shall be entered in the minutes of the Lodge and shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and sentence of the Local Forum.

Purpose: To provide a right of due process, hearing, and appeal to a member who is subject to expulsion from membership for an undisclosed felony conviction.

Resolution proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-20:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 7.020 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 7.020. The Grand Forum shall have the following jurisdiction:

...

(c) Appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the Local Forum (*Section 8.230*) and decisions of a Lodge governing body as provided for in Section 14.170 and for review of compliance with the procedural provisions of Sections 12.140 and 12.141 in applicable cases.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 7.020. The Grand Forum shall have the following jurisdiction:...

...

(c) Appellate jurisdiction:

1. An appeal from decisions of a Local Forum (*Section 8.230*).
2. An appeal from decisions of a Lodge governing body under Section 14.170.
- 3. An appeal from an Order of Expulsion entered by the Presiding Justice of a Lodge pursuant to Section 9.090.**
4. Review of compliance with the procedural provisions of Sections 12.140 and 12.141 in applicable cases.

THIS RESOLUTION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2024-19.

Purpose: To clarify the appellate jurisdiction and review process of the Grand Forum over appeals of an Order entered under the revised GLS 9.090.

Resolution proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-21:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 8.050 OF THE LAWS OF THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

The current section now reads as follows:

Section 8.050. The Presiding Justice may enter a final decision upon the stipulation of the Accused and the Accuser whether from Mediation under Section 8.015 or after the filing of a Complaint under Section 8.020, which final decision shall have the same force and effect as a decision entered pursuant to Section 8.140. Such a final decision may not be appealed by either the Accused or the Accuser but this section shall not limit the authority of the Grand Exalted Ruler to appeal the decision pursuant to the Laws of the Order.

The Presiding Justice shall conduct a preliminary hearing at which he will receive the plea of the Accused. The place and time of the preliminary hearing shall be set by the Presiding Justice not less than five, nor more than ten days after the appointment of the Local Forum. The members of the Local Forum, other than the Presiding Justice, need not be present at the preliminary hearing. The Secretary, or in his absence or inability to serve, a designated Officer shall give written notice to the Accused and the Accuser of the time and place of the preliminary hearing.

The time for the Accused to file his plea and the proceedings before the Presiding Justice of the Local Forum may be continued from time to time by the Presiding Justice. A continuance shall be granted only when it appears necessary for the proper presentation of the case.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Section 8.050. The Presiding Justice may enter a final decision upon the stipulation of the Accused and the Accuser whether from Mediation under Section 8.015 or after the filing of a Complaint under Section 8.020, which final decision shall have the same force and effect as a decision entered pursuant to Section 8.140. Such a final decision may not be appealed by either the Accused or the Accuser but this section shall not limit the authority of the Grand Exalted Ruler to appeal the decision pursuant to the Laws of the Order.

The Presiding Justice shall conduct a preliminary hearing at which he will receive the plea of the Accused. The place and time of the preliminary hearing shall be set by the Presiding Justice not less than five, nor more than ten days after the appointment of the Local Forum. **The Presiding Justice shall cause a recorded record of the preliminary hearing to be created and delivered to the Secretary upon conclusion of the matter.** The members of the Local Forum, other than the Presiding Justice, need not be present at the preliminary hearing.

The Secretary, or in his absence or inability to serve, a designated Officer shall give written notice to the Accused and the Accuser of the time and place of the preliminary hearing.

The time for the Accused to file his plea and the proceedings before the Presiding Justice of the Local Forum may be continued from time to time by the Presiding Justice. A continuance shall be granted only when it appears necessary for the proper presentation of the case.

Purpose: To make a record of the preliminary hearing.

Resolution proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2024-22:
(Added language underlined - Deletion ~~stricken~~)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE LAWS OF THE ORDER BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 4.325, WHICH WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 4.325. No Lodge may display or otherwise exhibit flags or insignia other than the American Flag, officially designated state flag, POW-MIA Flag or the Grand Lodge Flag.

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on Judiciary.

Purpose: To codify what flags or other insignia may be displayed within the Order.

Committee on Judiciary: The Committee on Judiciary finds that the adoption of this Resolution would not violate the Constitution or Laws of the Order.

The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of this Resolution.