

Board of Custodians

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Date: December 1, 2007

To: All North Carolina Lodges, Certified Lecturers and Certified Instructors

Re: Mandatory Five-Hour Lecture Service beginning 2008

Due to the concern of a decline in the proficiency of our ritual work, the Board of Custodians at its meeting on April 13, 2007 unanimously voted to re-implement the Lecture Service beginning in 2008 but at a reduced number of hours. This new requirement of five hours will be mandatory for all even number lodges in 2008 and all odd numbered lodges in 2009. At the present time all lodges will still be required to attend two Schools of Instruction per year but a proposed amendment to be voted on at the 2008 Annual Communication could change that requirement for 2009 if passed by the delegates.

The intent of this decision is not to penalize lodges that are performing well but to improve the overall proficiency of all lodges, however, we have found that many lodges struggle to perform the basic tasks of our ritual. Since most lodges have routine rehearsals this should be viewed as merely a supervised practice session and not additional work for the lodges. In addition, lodges that fail to meet the minimum requirements for attending the Schools of Instruction will still be subjected to the full fifteen-hour Lecture Service for non-compliance or if the DDGL recommends that a lodge is in need of the additional work. Three such Lecture Services were required in 2007 for lodges failing to meet the minimum School of Instruction requirements.

The lodges will be required to provide the cost of mileage at the new rate of .25/mile as approved at the Annual Communication in September 2007 for the Certified Lecturer or Certified Instructor who conducts the Lecture Service, if required by that Brother. The Grand Lodge will not reimburse such expense. As a result of a change to the Rules for the Government of the Lecture Service a few years ago, a Certified Lecturer or Certified Instructor may provide this service to their own lodge if desired.

Enclosed you will find the revised Rules Governing the Lecture Service, Form No. 38, which must be filed with the Secretary of the Board on or before September 15th of the year the Lecture Service is required, and a suggested format of what should be covered during this service.

The Board of Custodians thanks you for your support of this new requirement and to all of the Certified Lecturer's and Certified Instructor's who will be supporting this effort.

With kindest fraternal regards, The

Board of Custodians

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LECTURE SERVICE

Under Provisions of Regulation 29-10, the Board of Custodians has adopted the following rules for the Government of the Lecture Service. These rules became effective upon adoption on September 27, 2007.

Mandatory Five Hour Service (begins in 2008 for even numbered lodges, 2009 for odd numbered lodges)

1. The instruction for the Bi-yearly scheduled mandatory five (5) hour Lecture Service shall be required for all even numbered lodges to occur during even years and all odd numbered lodges to occur during odd years and may be complied with in either of the following two methods:

- (A) The lecturer may visit the lodge for one day, and he shall give not less than five (5) hours of ACTUAL INSTRUCTION, excluding travel time and time when he *is* not instructing.
- (B) The lecturer may make several trips to the lodge, in which case instruction must be given not less than five (5) hours of ACTUAL INSTRUCTION, excluding travel time and time when he is not actually instructing, provided, also that there shall be instruction on each of not less than two different days, and all within a period of ten (10) days, beginning the first day of the lecturer's engagement.

2. Lodges requiring the mandatory Bi-yearly Lecture Service shall be required to have this service completed by September 15 of the applicable year.

Non-Mandatory Lecture Service (required in accordance with Rule 3, if applicable)

3. Each subordinate lodge shall engage the service of a Certified Lecturer for instruction in the Ritualistic work for one week or the equivalent thereof under one or more of the following conditions, and upon direction by the Board of Custodians:

- (A) On recommendation of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer and certified by the District Deputy Grand Master.
- (B) On recommendation of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer if the lodge does not meet the minimum attendance requirements at two consecutive schools of instruction.
- (C) By request of the lodge.

4. The required instruction in accordance with Rule 3 may be complied with in either of the following two methods:

- (A) The lecturer may visit the lodge for a period of five consecutive days, and he shall give not less than fifteen (15) hours of ACTUAL INSTRUCTION, excluding travel time and time when he is not instructing, provided also that there shall be instruction on each of not less than three different days.
- (B) The lecturer may make several trips to the lodge, in which case instruction must be given not less than fifteen (15) hours of ACTUAL INSTRUCTION, excluding travel time and time when he is not actually instructing, provided, also that there shall be instruction on each of not less than five different days, and all within a period of fifteen (15) days, beginning the first day of the lecturer's engagement.

Additional Rules applicable to both Mandatory and non-Mandatory Lecture Services

5. The Board of Custodians recommends that instruction be rendered on consecutive days, but this is not mandatory.
6. A Class "A" Certified Lecturer may accept an invitation to instruct in the Ritualistic Work from any lodge in the State of North Carolina, including his own. A Class "B" Certified Instructor, during the period he is on the roster of such class, may give instruction in the scope of work coming under Class "B".
- 7- There shall be a minimum of seven (five officers and two members) of the lodge present at each Lecture Service session.
8. A lodge desiring instruction in the Ritualistic Work or one ordered by the Board of Custodians shall make all the necessary arrangements and agreements for the service with the Class "A" Certified Lecturer of its choice. (See Rule 6). Immediately after such service has been rendered, the Lodge shall:
 - (A) Pay all proper transportation, board and lodging expense necessary to fill the engagement incurred by the lecturer. The Grand Lodge will not reimburse such expense.
 - (B) Transportation expense shall not exceed the Grand Lodge official mileage rate per mile actually traveled each way, when private automobile is used, or it may be the actual railroad or bus fare between the residence of the lecturer and the lodge served. Transportation expense may properly be the subject of a special agreement between the lodge and the lecturer, before the instruction is commenced. It is the intent of the Board of Custodians that travel expense, board and lodging shall not be made an unreasonable burden on lodges.
9. A lodge may obtain special lecture service or instruction as often as it desires, but the lodge, in such case, will pay all expenses incident thereto without reimbursement from the Grand Lodge. A report of any such work done must be made as required in Rule 10.
10. Within fifteen days after any lecture service is rendered a lodge, Rule 1(A) or 1(E), Rule 4(A) or 4(B), whether or not it is paid for by the lodge, shall be reported by the Secretary of the lodge to the Secretary of the Board of Custodians on N. C. Official Form No.38 for the Grand Lodge records and a copy to their District Deputy Grand Lecturer. The Secretary of the Board of Custodians shall prepare and provide all forms for certificates, reports and records under these rules.
11. In all cases in the Ritualistic Work where the Official Standard of the Work is silent as to any action in floor work or any other work, no Certified Lecturer or Certified Instructor or any brother, shall be authorized to insist that his idea of the subject is positively the only way to do that particular thing. He may state "his opinion," but he is not authorized to insist that his way is the only way to do such work. (As approved: Pro. 1953 P. 161) (Effective 4-22-53).

12. When these rules become effective on September 27, 2007, all previous rules that are in conflict herewith *are* hereby repealed.

By authority of Regulation 29-10(1)

Board of Custodians

At Winston-Salem, North Carolina, September 27, 2007.

Suggested Minimum Format for Five Hour Lecture Service

Board of Custodians

	<u>OSW Pages</u>
1. Review of General Rules in OSW	6 - 7
2. Open a Master Mason's Lodge. Include purge and prayer. Observe Regulation. 24-1 (5) (exemplified for instruction)	136-146
3. Dispense with labor as at a stated communication.	15 - 38
4. Resume labor	23 - 24
5. Dispense with labor as at an emergent communication. Include Regulation 71-4 (prescribed questions)	19-22
6. Call from labor to refreshment.	9-11
7. Call from refreshment to Labor.	12 - 14
8. Close Master Mason's Lodge. Include prayer	216-222

The remaining time can be filled with other parts of the ritual as desired by the Lodge and the Brother conducting the Lecture Service. Other suggested areas would be as follows:

* Work covering the operation of the lights in each of the three degrees	49-51 106-107 163-164
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Official Form 38
The Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of North Carolina
OFFICIAL FORM OF CERTIFICATE
LECTURE SERVICE

Mandatory:
 Requested:

THIS CERTIFIES that Brother _____, CL or CI, instructed this lodge in the Authorized Ritualistic Work on these dates, in full conformity to the Regulations and Rules pertaining to such instruction: (Note 1)

DATES

_____, 20____, _____ hours;
 _____, 20____, _____ hours;
 _____, 20____, _____ hours;
 _____, 20____, _____ hours;

DATES

_____, 20____, _____ hours;
 _____, 20____, _____ hours;
 _____, 20____, _____ hours;
 _____, 20____, _____ hours;

_____ Lodge No. _____

By _____ Secretary
 (Note 2)

(SEAL OF LODGE HERE)

 Address for mail

 City State Zip

Date _____ 20____ By _____ Master
 (Note 2)

Date _____ 20____ By _____ Lecturer

- NOTES: 1. The dates on which instruction was given and the number of hours on each day must be entered on the proper lines.
 2. The Master and the Secretary of the lodge must each sign the certificate. The lodge seal must be impressed where indicated.
 3. The Lecturer must fill out completely and sign the certificate
 4. The certificate must be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Custodians within fifteen days after the lecture service has been completed and a copy shall be provided to the District Deputy Grand Lecturer. All such certificates shall be filed before September 15 each year.
 5. Copies of Official Form 38 may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Custodians.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

When your lodge is required to be lectured, you should immediately fill out a copy of above Official Form No. 38
IMPORTANT: Form No. 38 must be properly filled out, signed as required thereon, and forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Custodians promptly after each lecture service has been completed; otherwise, the records of the Grand Lodge will not show the lodge as clear of Regulation 29-10