

## PREFACE

At the meeting for the purpose of organizing the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, which was held in Asheville on May 20, 1905, Brothers L.M. Cook, G.H. Haigler and W.H. Woodbury were appointed the Committee to draft a Constitution and Bylaws. At the afternoon session the Committee made its report, which on adoption became the first law of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina.

The report of this Committee was quite lengthy. It consisted of a Constitution of the Grand Chapter, Bylaws of the Grand Chapter, Rules and Regulations for the Subordinate Chapters and Rules of Order for Conducting Business in the Grand Chapter Sessions.

At the Grand Chapter Session held in Charlotte on June 10, 1914, Brother J. Edward Allen introduced a resolution that the Worthy Grand Matron appoint a Committee of three "to revise and codify the Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Chapter." This Resolution was adopted, and the Worthy Grand Matron appointed Mr. W.H. Woodbury, Mrs. Gerdie Woodbury and Dr. S.H. Lyle. No revision of the laws was reported to the Grand Chapter Session and adopted until 1917, when Brother J. Edward Allen made a report of having codified the laws himself in his report as Worthy Grand Patron.

At the same session of the Grand Chapter, several resolutions were introduced and carried, making amendments to the laws.

From time to time, resolutions have been introduced before the Grand Chapter, making changes in the law. In 1928, Sister Alice H. Parker, Worthy Grand Matron, recommended that all changes in the law be printed and added to the book, which was done by Sister Elspeth C. Setzer, Past Grand Matron.

At the Grand Chapter Session in 1938, the Jurisprudence Committee recommended that the Constitution and Bylaws and Regulations be re-edited, making the necessary corrections to conform with the Ritual. This Committee offered to assume the

duties if the Grand Chapter so desired. The Grand Chapter ordered that it be done.

At the Grand Chapter Session in 1939, this Committee asked for additional time, which was granted, and the Grand Chapter ordered that such changes be made in the law as the Committee should think proper. At the Grand Chapter Session of 1940, a report was made and adopted by the Grand Chapter. The revised work was ordered printed.

A Committee was appointed in the summer of 1946, for the purpose of bringing the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations up-to-date. After studying all conflicts, checking anything that might be obsolete, clarifying that which was unnecessarily obscure and incorporating all acts of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina which had the effect of becoming amendments to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, this Committee brought an excellent report to the Grand Chapter Session, which was adopted and referred to the Finance Committee. However, the Finance Committee took no action on this report. Whereupon the incoming Worthy Grand Matron, with the assistance of the Worthy Grand Patron, appointed a Committee of five to revise the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations.

The Committee reported at the 1948 Session. This report was adopted after slight changes in the wording were made by the Jurisprudence Committee, mainly for clarification purposes. In 1949 the Worthy Grand Matron appointed a Committee for the purpose of proofreading the work of the 1948 Committee in preparation for printing. This Committee reported at the 1949 Session and the Jurisprudence Committee recommended that another Committee be appointed to make a further study as well as to incorporate the amendments of the 1949 Grand Chapter Session. The Worthy Grand Matron, therefore, appointed another Committee to prepare the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations for printing. This Committee finished its work about 90 days before the 1950 Grand Chapter Session. It was decided that it would be

impractical to send this book to press at this time. Therefore this Committee reported at the 1950 Grand Chapter Session, and the report was adopted. The Worthy Grand Matron appointed a Committee and instructed them to incorporate the amendments and revisions of the 1950 Grand Chapter Session and send the materials to the Grand Secretary for printing.

Accordingly a new law book was printed in 1950, and, as the color of the binding was red, it was commonly referred to as the Red Book. Since 1950 every Grand Chapter Session made amendments to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations. In 1958 numerous amendments were adopted, so that now practically one-fourth of the Sections have been changed since the 1950 printing. Many of these changes are of great importance.

In 1955, the Worthy Grand Patron recommended that the Jurisprudence Committee make such changes as are necessary to bring the law into compliance with the new Ritual. Sister Marise S. Conyers, Worthy Grand Matron in 1957, recommended that a new printing of the law be made. The same year the Committee on Unfinished Business called attention to the recommendation of the Worthy Grand Patron in 1955 about having a new law book printed and recommended that the Jurisprudence Committee compile a new book. This was approved.

In 1958 the Jurisprudence Committee recommended that the Committee be authorized to renumber Sections, placing new amendments under proper headings, making new index and those things that will be necessary to bring the law up-to-date with action taken by this Grand Chapter. This was adopted. The Jurisprudence Committee has prepared a new law the Finance Committee in 1959 placed \$2,000 in the budget, approved by the Grand Chapter, for a new book to be printed.

In 1962, the Jurisprudence Committee recommended that our Grand Secretary make available to our members, at cost prices, printed revised pages to our Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and

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Regulations, showing all the changes which Grand Chapter Adopts each year.

This book now contains the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star, as of the close of the Grand Chapter Session of 2017.