**NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INCORPORATED**

**7942-R Cluny Court**

**Springfield, Virginia 22153**

##  C9 13 JUNE 2018

**NATIONAL REGULATION 3.1**

**Subject:** Membership

Reference: (a) National By-Laws, Article 3

(b) Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 311

(c) National By-Laws, Article 17.1.2

Encl. (1) National Sojourners, Incorporated, Membership Application Form

1. PURPOSE. To more specifically define the eligibility and categories of membership in National Sojourners, Incorporated set forth in reference (a).

2. MEMBERSHIP.

a. Membership in National Sojourners, Incorporated, shall be open to a citizen of the United States who is

(1) A Master Mason in good standing in any duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons whose Grand Lodge is recognized by and maintaining fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge member of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America within whose jurisdiction the prospective member’s chapter is located; **and**,

(A) Serving or has served honorably as a Commissioned Officer, Warrant Officer or Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, regular or reserve, in the uniformed services of the United States, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or predecessor services, or in the National Guard or Militia of the United States as defined in reference (b), or who has served in time of war as a Commissioned Officer or Warrant Officer, or the equivalent, in an armed service allied to the United States of America; or

 (B) Regularly elected to Honorary Membership as herein provided.

b. Any question relating to eligibility for membership will be forwarded to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who shall refer the question to the National President for resolution by the most expeditious means.

c. A Senior Non-Commissioned Officer in the uniformed services of the United States is defined to mean a service member who is serving or has served in the pay grade of E-9, E-8 or E-7 on and after July 1, 1958, or a service member who was discharged or retired in the pay grade of E-7, E-6, or E-5 on or prior to June 30, 1958.

d. An Active Member shall be a U.S. citizen who is Master Mason defined in paragraph 2.a.(1)(A).

e. An Honorary Membershall be a U.S. citizen who is a Master Mason and is ineligible for Active membership, but who has been regularly elected to Honorary membership in a Chapter of National Sojourners, Incorporated in recognition of his meritorious service to the United States of America and/or Masonry.

(1) An Honorary Member shall:

(A) Have all the rights of an Active Member, including the right to be elected and/or appointed to and serve in all national positions, provided, however, he shall not be eligible to be elected to the National Progressive Line or be appointed to the National Honor Awards Committee.

(B) If serving as a Chapter President, Chapter Secretary or Chapter Delegate, be entitled to vote at the National Convention on all matters pertaining to the Order, including matters affecting Honorary Members.

(C) Have the right to vote or hold elective office at the Chapter level when so authorized by the Chapter By-Laws.

(2) Honorary membership shall be limited to fifteen percent (15%) of the total of all categories of membership (except multiple and honorary members) of any Chapter, except that *elected Grand Lodge Officers, past and present, of Grand Masonic Jurisdictions who are members of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America shall be excluded from the percentage computation*. An Honorary Member who is a Member-In-Perpetuity and counts against a Chapter’s fifteen percent (15%) limitation may, nevertheless, take multiple Memberships-In-Perpetuity in that same Chapter or in another Chapter, which multiple memberships shall be excluded from the percentage computation. Honorary Members in excess of the fifteen percent (15%) currently on Chapter rolls may be retained; provided, however, that such a Chapter cannot initiate any new Honorary Members until its Honorary membership falls below the fifteen percent (15%) level. Chapters may, however, under exceptional circumstances, initiate an additional Honorary Member in excess of the fifteen percent (15%), but only after receiving specific written authorization to do so from the National President. Deceased Honorary Members-In-Perpetuity will not be counted against a Chapter’s fifteen percent (15%) membership restriction.

3. CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP. A member may be further classified, when applicable, as a Member-in-Perpetuity (MIP), Multiple or In-Memoriam Member-in-Perpetuity, subject to the provisions and limitations of such membership as may otherwise be prescribed.

a. Membership-in-Perpetuity (MIP). Any Active or Honorary member in good standing may become a MIP upon written application, accompanied by the required fee, sent through his Chapter to the National Secretary-Treasurer. MIPs shall be exempt from payment of all further National and Chapter dues in the Chapter in which he is a MIP. The name of each MIP will be perpetually carried on the rolls of his Chapter and the National Headquarters, whether he is living or deceased. If the Chapter carrying the name of a deceased MIP is dissolved, his name and MIP will be transferred to the National Headquarters Chapter.

a. Multiple Membership: A member, Active or Honorary, may become a “Multiple Member” by election to membership in one or more other Chapters. A multiple member, unless, upon his application and election, becomes a MIP in the Chapter, shall pay the full dues required, including the national per capita tax, in each Chapter to which he is elected to Multiple membership. Unless his election is as a MIP, he will be issued a membership card by each such Chapter and be reported to National Headquarters as a member by each Chapter issuing him a membership card. A Multiple Member shall have all the rights and privileges of other Active or Honorary members of each Chapter of which he is a Multiple Member.

c. In-Memoriam Membership-In-Perpetuity (IMMIP). A deceased Master Mason who would have met the membership eligibility criteria as herein defined may be granted a posthumous In-Memoriam Membership–In-Perpetuity (IMMIP). An IMMIP may be sponsored by a Chapter or an individual who must complete the membership application, designate the Chapter to receive the membership, and forward the required fees to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who shall ensure that the IMMIP nomination meets the criteria for membership, and, upon doing so, shall issue the requested IMMIP.

4. ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP.

a. Active Members. Admission to active membership in a local Chapter (new, Multiple, MIP or reinstatement) shall be by submission of a written application using enclosure (1) and the applicant’s subsequent election at a meeting of the Chapter. Admission of a new member to the National Headquarters Chapter shall be by submission of a written application using enclosure (1) to the National Secretary-Treasurer and upon the written approval of the National President.

b. Honorary Members. Honorary membership may be conferred upon a Master Mason having the qualifications set forth in paragraph 2.e. above as follows:

(1) In any Chapter, upon election in accordance with its By-Laws at a regular meeting of the Chapter subsequent to that at which such Honorary membership has been proposed. Election by unanimous ballot is considered most desirable, but not required unless required by the Chapter’s By-Laws.

(2) At a National Convention, upon nomination by any accredited delegate and election by unanimous ballot. A member so elected shall be designated an Honorary Member-At-Large and will be carried on the rolls of the National Headquarters Chapter.

5. INITIATION/OBLIGATION: Each candidate elected to active or honorary membership shall be initiated and obligated into the Order in accordance with reference (c). Under exceptional circumstances, the National President may waive this requirement by written notation on the candidate’s application form.

6. TRANSFERS OF MEMBERSHIP:

a. Any member in good standing in any Chapter may transfer his membership to another Chapter upon making application and being elected to membership in such Chapter. The transfer of membership to and from the National Headquarters Chapter shall be by written application submitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer. A member holding a MIP in a Chapter may transfer that MIP from one Chapter to another by making a written request to the National Secretary-Treasurer and delivering one copy of his request to the MIP’s original Chapter and one copy to the Chapter to which he is requesting that his membership be transferred. If the MIP membership of a member seeking to transfer that MIP membership to another Chapter was not purchased solely by the member, he will not be permitted to transfer that MIP membership.

b. The Secretary of the Chapter that has elected a member by affiliation will promptly report such election to the National Secretary-Treasurer and to the Secretary of the Chapter from which the affiliating member is transferring (“losing Chapter”).

c. The national per capita tax may not be collected twice during the same fiscal year, nor shall Chapter dues paid by the transferring member to the losing Chapter be transferred by the losing Chapter to the Chapter with which the member is affiliating.

d. A replacement dues card may be issued to the affiliating member at the discretion of the Chapter with which the member is affiliating.

7. CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

a. Each member shall keep his Chapter Secretary advised of his current address.

b. When a Chapter member relocates to an area in which there is a Chapter of National Sojourners, Incorporated, it shall be the duty of the member’s Chapter Secretary to expeditiously send to the Secretary of the Chapter(s) in the new area the relocating member’s name, mailing and email addresses, and any other available contact information. It shall then be the duty of the President of the new area Chapter(s), acting through his Membership Committee or otherwise, to fraternally contact the newly relocated Sojourner to assist in maintaining his interest in National Sojourners and possible affiliation with the Chapter(s).

8. MEMBERSHIP CARDS. The Chapter Secretary shall annually issue to each Active and Honorary member in good standing who does not possess a MIP membership in that Chapter a membership card as provided by the National Secretary-Treasurer. Since a Membership-In-Perpetuity member is issued a permanent card by National Headquarters, the local Chapter Secretary is not required to issue a local Chapter membership card to its MIP members. A Membership card issued to an Honorary member shall be inscribed with the designation, “Honorary Member” or “Honorary Member-At-Large,” as appropriate. A member holding a multiple membership shall be issued an appropriate membership card by each Chapter of which he is a member unless he holds a MIP membership in that Chapter.

9. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

a. Membership in National Sojourners, Incorporated, or in a Chapter shall be terminated by death (except for members who hold a MIP), resignation, non-payment of dues, termination of membership in a recognized Masonic Lodge, that is, failure to remain as a member in good standing in at least one Masonic Lodge as herein provided, or for disciplinary reasons in accordance with the governing National Directives.

b. If the membership of a member who holds a MIP is terminated, regardless of the reason therefor, the MIP fees will not be refunded. The terminated member shall no longer be a member of the Chapter and shall not be reported as such by the Chapter, but his MIP shall remain with the Chapter of which the member whose membership in National Sojourners, Incorporated and that Chapter has been terminated, regardless of the reason therefor, such that the Chapter shall continue to receive the dividends related to the MIP membership of the terminated member.

ATTEST:

WILLIAM R. SANNER EDWARD W. NOLTE

National Secretary-Treasurer National President