



WISCONSIN MASONIC HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 14

FOREIGN RELATIONS/VISITATIONS

A. RIGHT OF VISITATION

The inherent right of every Freemason, in good standing, to visit another lodge should not be impaired without just cause. This right is extended to Freemasons from other Grand Jurisdictions, which are recognized by our Grand Lodge. Such a visitor must be in good standing in his own Grand Lodge and must satisfy the Worshipful Master of the lodge he is visiting, to do so. It is the prerogative of the Worshipful Master to say who shall and who shall not be admitted to his lodge, his actions being accountable only to the Grand Lodge.

The sole requirement for admission to a lodge shall be the presentation of a current official uniform receipt card for dues or other current dues card from the Grand Jurisdiction of which the visitor is a member or a demit less than two years old, and such further evidence as may be satisfactory to the Worshipful Master.

The last part of the above code regulation would indicate that the Worshipful Master should assure himself that the visitor is the rightful owner of the dues card he is presenting. Since a suspended Mason cannot enjoy the right of visitation, it may be in order, on occasion, to administer the Test, or Tiler's Oath, which is as follows:

"I, (full name) do hereby and hereon solemnly and swear that I have been regularly initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in a regularly constituted lodge of such; that I am not now I under sentence of suspension or expulsion and know of no just reason why I should not hold Masonic intercourse with my brethren. So help me God."

B. RECOGNITION OF OTHER GRAND LODGES

The Laws of the Wisconsin Grand Lodge permit the recognition of other Grand Lodges and lists the following rules to guide such recognition:

- Rule 1: Such Grand Lodge must be sovereign, independent and supreme -

the sole governing body over its constituent lodges.

- Rule 2: It must be in possession of and exclusively control the work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees in the lodges under its authority.
- Rule 3: It must display the Volume of the Sacred Law on its altars; require a belief in Deity; make Masons of men only; exclude religious and political questions and discussions from its lodges; and must conform to, abide by, and uphold the Ancient Landmarks of Ancient Craft Masonry.
- Rule 4: Lodges forming a new Grand Lodge must be at least three in number and must trace their descent from regular sources recognized by this Grand Lodge.
- Rule 5: Recognition will not be extended to a new Grand Lodge that shall have been formed in occupied territory against the wishes of a recognized Grand Lodge in that territory.
- Rule 6: Recognition will not be extended to a Grand Lodge that shall warrant lodges in territory occupied by a regular Grand Lodge against the wishes of that Grand Lodge.
- Rule 7: In countries where the doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction does not apply, two or more Grand Lodges occupying the same or overlapping territory, recognizing each other as regular and conforming in all other respects to our requirements, may be recognized.
- Rule 8: Grand Lodges of Scottish Rite Descent, having renounced allegiance to any other superior authority, and having since had a long established and continuous existence during which they have conformed to all our requirements, may be recognized.
- Rule 9: Although the original formation of a Grand Lodge may have been irregular, if it has had a long continuous and uninterrupted existence and otherwise conforms to our requirements, it may be recognized.

C. COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

One of the standing committees of the Grand Lodge is the Committee on Foreign Relations. It is the duty of this committee:

1. To keep informed on affairs relating to other Grand Jurisdictions and advise the Grand Master and Grand Lodge in all such matters.
2. To make recommendations to the Grand Lodge for either the granting, withholding or withdrawal of recognition of the Grand Lodges of other jurisdictions, as, in their opinion, the facts warrant.
3. To examine the written or printed proceedings, or other documents emanating from other Grand Lodges in fraternal relationship with the Grand Lodge, and report at each Annual Communication whatever may seem of sufficient importance and interest to the Craft.

D. GRAND JURISDICTIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF WISCONSIN

The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has all recognized Grand Lodges listed in a book. You can call 1-800-242-2307 and request a copy of the book.