

**DIGEST OF THE CONSTITUTIONS, LAWS
AND DECISIONS OF THE ANCIENT ORDER
OF UNITED WORKMEN: AS
ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME LODGE, AT
ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION, AT
NASHVILLE, TENN, MARCH, 1879**

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Digest of the Constitutions, Laws and Decisions of the Ancient Order of United Workmen: As Adopted by the Supreme Lodge, at Its Seventh Annual Session, at Nashville, Tenn, March, 1879 by Ancient Order of United Workmen

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DIGEST OF THE LAWS AND DECISIONS.

OF THE

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

CHAPTER I.

THE SUPREME LODGE.

NAME AND STYLE.

1. This body shall be known by the name and style of the "Supreme Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen."—*Const., Art. I.*

POWERS.

2. The Supreme Lodge, when convened agreeably to the provisions of its Constitution, has original and exclusive jurisdiction over all subjects pertaining to the welfare of the Order, and appellate jurisdiction from the decisions of Grand Lodges and of Subordinate Lodges under its immediate jurisdiction; and its enactments and decisions, upon all questions, are the supreme law of the Order. Under these restrictions, the Supreme Lodge may hear and determine all matters of controversy or grievance which may be brought before it by appeal or otherwise; issue Charters to Grand Lodges, and to Subordinate Lodges in territory not under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge; reprove and punish the misconduct of Grand Lodges and of Subordinate Lodges under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge; adopt laws and regulations of general application for the government of the Grand Lodges, and of the Subordinate Lodges under its immediate jurisdiction, and alter, amend or abrogate the same; regulate and control the unwritten work of the Order, which shall not be altered or amended except by a two-thirds vote of the Representatives present at an annual meeting; establish, print

and provide all charters, rituals of the Order, and clearance, traveling and final cards; make such assessments for revenue as may be necessary to defray the expense of the Supreme Lodge; and generally, do all things right and proper for the promotion of the honor, dignity and welfare of the order.—*Const., Art. IV, Sec. 1.*

3. The Supreme Lodge may adopt such regulations and general laws as may be deemed necessary for the welfare of the Order, not inconsistent with the provisions of its Constitution, and alter, amend or abrogate the same.—*Const., Art. XI.*

4. The Supreme Lodge shall issue, or cause to be issued, all certificates of the Beneficiary Fund.—*Const., Art. VIII, Sec. 4.*

5. *Note.*—The Constitution of the Supreme Lodge, Laws Applicable to Grand Lodges, and Laws of General Application, having been adopted by the Supreme Lodge in accordance with its powers as above enumerated, are of binding force on the entire Order, and can only be altered or amended by the Supreme Lodge. All Grand Lodges (those set apart as separate jurisdictions, as well as those under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge) having been granted power to issue Beneficiary Certificates, subject to the same laws, rules and regulations as those prescribed for the government of Subordinate Lodges under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge, it follows that the provisions of Article VII of the Supreme Lodge Constitution, and all other laws, rules and regulations of the Supreme Lodge in regard to the Beneficiary Fund, are of binding force in every jurisdiction throughout the Order. They can be modified only to adapt them to Grand Jurisdictions, but cannot be altered, repealed or amended except by the Supreme Lodge. In this view, the following laws are general, and cannot be altered or amended by Grand Lodges:

1. The Beneficiary Laws, Rules and Regulations.
2. Laws Applicable to Grand Lodges.
3. Laws of General Application.

6. To the Supreme Lodge is reserved the power to establish the Ancient Order of United Workmen in States and Countries where the same does not exist.—*Pro. 3d An. Sess. S. L. p. 146.*

7. To the Supreme Lodge belongs the exclusive power to design and regulate all the regalia, tools, emblems, and other paraphernalia for the work of the Order.—*Ib., p. 147.*

8. The Supreme Lodge has, and of right should have, absolute control over all the secret and ritualistic work of the Order.—*Pro. 6th An. Sess. S. L., p. 367.*

9. The Supreme Lodge has the power to correct a Grand Lodge Constitution submitted for its approval, so as to make it conform to the Constitution of the Supreme Lodge, and the Laws of General Application, regulations and decisions thereof.—*Pro. 4th An. Sess. S. L., p. 204.*

OF WHOM COMPOSED.

10. The Supreme Lodge shall consist of the following officers: Past Supreme Master Workman, Supreme Master Workman, Supreme Foreman, Supreme Overseer, Supreme Recorder, Supreme Receiver, Supreme Guide, Supreme Watchman, and three Trustees. Also, of the duly elected Representatives of Grand Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge. All Past Supreme Master Workmen, other than the one in office as such, shall be entitled to all the rights of membership in the Supreme Lodge, except the right to vote, while they remain members of the Order in good standing.—*Const., Art. II, Sec. 1.*

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

11. The Supreme Lodge shall meet annually, on the third Tuesday in March, at such place as may be designated at the preceding annual meeting; *provided*, the time may be otherwise fixed by resolution passed at the preceding annual meeting. Should unavoidable circumstances arise, which, in the opinion of the Supreme Master Workman and a majority of the officers of the Supreme Lodge, would prevent a majority of the members from attending an annual meeting, he may postpone the same until such attendance can be had (not to exceed three months), due notice thereof being given to the members.—*Const., Art. III, Sec. 1.*

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

12. Special meetings of the Supreme Lodge shall be called by the Supreme Master Workman when requested so to do by a majority of the Representatives from one-third of the Grand Lodges.—*Const., Art. III, Sec. 2.*

QUORUM FOR BUSINESS.

13. No business shall be transacted in the Supreme Lodge except the admission of members and adjourning from time to time, unless there be present one or more of the Representatives from a majority of the Grand Lodges entitled to representation therein.—*Const., Art. III, Sec. 3.*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

14. All the officers of the Supreme Lodge (except the Trustees, one of whom shall be elected each year to serve for three years) shall be chosen at each annual meeting by a majority of the votes cast, but no vote shall be counted which may be given for any one not in nomination. When only one nomination shall be made for an office, the Supreme Lodge may dispense with the ballot and elect by acclamation.—*Const., Art. IV, Sec. 2.*

REPORTS TO BE MADE BEFORE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

15. The election of officers of the Supreme Lodge shall not take place until all officers required to make reports to the Lodge have done so, and said reports have been referred to appropriate