



# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

December 12, 2013

At the December Quarterly Communication, I issued an edict on the floor of the Grand Lodge in reference to the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association.

The full text of my edict can be found as follows:

It is the Grand Master's responsibility to protect and uphold the principles and prerogatives of the fraternity. Any club, association, or group that requires membership in the fraternity as a pre-requisite falls under the authority of the Grand Lodge.

In 1931, at the March Quarterly Communication, M.W. Herbert W. Dean put it best when he said "the attitude of this Grand Lodge towards [clubs] has... been one of neutrality, as long as their [actions do] not intrude upon [the principles and] prerogatives [of our] Fraternity, or [that] their conduct in any way bring discredit to [the Fraternity.]"

The time has now come when it is necessary to protect our fraternity's principles and prerogatives. Recent activities in connection with the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association have underscored a divergence between the practices of their association and the principles and prerogatives of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.

By its own rules, the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association permits no Chapter to be formed in a Masonic jurisdiction without the consent of its local Grand Lodge. The Widows Sons Massachusetts Grand Chapter never requested or received the permission of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts to operate in this jurisdiction.

Therefore, it is my edict that no member of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts be a member of any Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association. Failure to comply with this edict shall subject the offending member to the disciplinary action of suspension or expulsion.

No one has been suspended as a result of this edict.

This was not an easy decision to make. This course of action was taken because it is in the best interest of Massachusetts Freemasonry.

Please direct any inquiries or comments to the business office of Grand Lodge. They can be reached via email at [BusinessOffice@MassFreemasonry.net](mailto:BusinessOffice@MassFreemasonry.net).

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

M.W. Richard J. Stewart  
Grand Master



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