

GAMES OF CHANCE

The ruling on Games of Chance formally adopted at a regular communication by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts on March 8, 1939 follows:

“It is inconsistent with the profession and purposes of Freemasonry for any Masonic Body to promote, participate in, or profit by any lottery, game of chance, door prize, or other device or activity whereby the individual participant may be able, through the element of luck or chance, to win a greater value than he pays, and each Masonic Body within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge is hereby enjoined to observe the letter and spirit of this Resolution; and it was further resolved that all so called collateral bodies, clubs or other organizations in Massachusetts who’s membership is related to or dependent on Masonic membership, or which in the public mind are likely to be regarded as Masonic organizations, are requested and enjoined to respect the purpose of this Resolution.”

A further Resolution was formally adopted at a regular communication by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts on June 11, 2003:

“It is consistent with the Constitutions and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, our Declaration of Principles and the purposes of Masonry and the teachings of the fraternity to permit Masonic bodies to promote, participate in and profit from a raffle or bazaar as described in and in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 271, Section 7A; or similar games as described in and in accord with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 10, Section 38; and in conformity with the requirements of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations Title 940, Chapter 12 & 13 and all other laws, rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Raffle Guidelines to be established by the Grand Lodge.

It is further provided that no raffle or bazaar shall be permitted by any Masonic Lodge under the Jurisdiction without the written permission of the Grand Master ; and it is further resolved that all so-called collateral bodies, clubs or other organization in Massachusetts that conduct a raffle, bazaar or other such activity, whose membership is related to or dependent on Masonic Membership, or which in the public mind are likely to be regarded as Masonic Organizations, are requested and enjoined to respect the purpose of this Resolution and to comply with the laws, rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Raffle Guidelines to be established by the Grand Lodge.”