

Grand Lodge Policy Regarding Changes in Masonic District Boundaries and/or Lodge Requests to Move from One District to an Adjoining District

The Constitution and Laws of the MW Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, AF&AM, make no provision for the geographic delineation of Masonic Districts. Districts are simply numbered around a group of Lodges; and the geographic area comprising each District is determined by the density of the lodges in any particular area of the State. District Deputy Grand Masters are then appointed each year and assigned a particular District Number.

There is also no provision in the Constitution and Laws regarding the number of Lodges that can exist within a District; nor are there any provisions regarding how Lodges can be relocated from one District to another.

In the absence of any legal direction regarding the number and size of Masonic districts, or the number of lodges situated within any district, it is assumed such designations have been made on considerations of close proximity, natural boundaries, or population densities.

As a result of the number of lodges which have gone defunct since the District boundaries were originally established, travel distances between lodges have increased over time. The result is that some lodges may be more conveniently located to, and fraternally attached to other lodges outside their existing district, than to lodges within their district. These subtle changes over time necessitates that a procedure be put in place so the Grand Lodge can respond to requests in changes to district sizes, the number of districts, and requests for lodge relocations from one district to another.

In the absence of any direction given by the Code, the following procedures are hereby adopted by the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees:

1. A request for lodge relocations from one district to another must be made to the District Deputy Grand Masters of both Masonic Districts. Upon consultation with their lodges, the District Deputies will give their recommendation of endorsement or disapproval, stating their reasons thereof, and the same shall be attached to the lodge's request. The request for relocation must then be presented to the Lodge for approval by a majority vote at a Stated Communication. Upon approval, the request shall be made in writing under the Worshipful Master's signature and forwarded to the Grand Secretary, outlining the reasons for the request and attaching all supporting documentation.
2. The request shall be forwarded by the Grand Secretary to the Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge for consideration. Upon a favorable vote of the Trustees and notification of the same to the Lodge, the Lodge will be assigned to the adjoining district; and noted on the record of the lodges in both districts.

3. In the absence of any legal direction (such as a Statewide restructuring of Masonic districts), requests for changing an individual Masonic district boundary will be handled in a similar manner, with all effected lodges participating in the request.

Signed and approved on the 23rd day of April 2021 by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge, to wit:

GM Robert A. Davis
DGM Edward J. West
SGW/ Paul Allen Chaney
JGW John Carter

GT David H. David
GS [Signature]
GL Ronnie Gray