

# The Grand Lodge



## Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey

LARRY S. PLASKET, P.G.M.  
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August 6, 2009

TO: Lodge Secretaries  
DDGMs

Dear Brother Secretary

The Grand Master and the elected line have instituted a policy concerning the use of alcoholic beverages in Lodge buildings and at Lodge functions. This policy is designed to protect the Lodges, Lodge officers, Lodge members, Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge officers in the event of a problem arising out of the consumption of alcohol.

The policy was explained in detail to the District Deputy Grand Masters at a meeting held on August 6, 2009. Your District Deputy Grand Master will be in touch with you to review and implement the policy. The policy is attached and is effective as of September 1, 2009.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry S. Plasket".

Larry S Plasket, PGM  
Grand Secretary

Cc: elected line

## **Grand Lodge Mandatory Alcohol Policy for Grand Lodge, Subordinate Lodges and Appendant and Coordinate Bodies**

**I. The Grand Master and Elected line find that the dispensing of alcohol in any Masonic setting is a serious matter, which has immeasurable consequences if left unrestricted; that there is a need to implement an alcohol policy in this State, not only to Grand Lodge and its chartered Blue Lodges, but equally, to all Appendant and Coordinate Bodies recognized and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey. Therefore, by the powers invested in the Grand Master, he does invoke the following policy**

**A. No Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body chartered by or acting under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey, shall dispense, serve, sell or make available for consumption, any alcoholic beverage, to any Mason or profane, in any Masonic Temple, other structure, or as part of an event hosted by such Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body, whether inside or outside the State of New Jersey, unless the following conditions have been met prior to the dispensing, serving, selling or making available for consumption, such alcoholic beverage:**

- 1. Receipt of all permits relating to the dispensing, serving, selling or making available for consumption, such alcoholic beverage from the local or State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board or other body having jurisdiction over the same.**

- a. It will be the responsibility of each Lodge and Appendant or Coordinate body to contact the local or State Board to determine the terms and conditions required to obtain such permit, to pay all fees and meet all conditions associated therewith. As such each lodge is urged to obtain local legal counsel to assist in this undertaking.
2. **Liability Insurance providing coverage for any negligent act in the dispensing, serving, selling or making available for consumption, alcoholic beverages.**
  - a. The insurance shall provide coverage to the Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate body, its officers, trustees, members, and any person serving such alcoholic beverages.
  - b. The insurance shall provide coverage, as additional insureds, to the Grand Lodge, its officers, trustees, members and the District Deputy of the district in which the beverages are dispensed.
  - c. It shall be the duty of the Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body to arrange for the appropriate liability policy. The Grand Lodge makes no warranties or representations to its subordinate Lodges or to any Appendant or Coordinate Body, their officers, trustees or members that the Grand Lodge insurance policy contains any such coverage for their acts or failures to act.
3. **No person shall serve any alcoholic beverage without first having obtained a certification from TIPS or such other agency as Grand Lodge shall determine, providing training to alcoholic beverage servers in the identification of underage and inebriated patrons.**
  - a. The current cost of the program is \$40.00 per server and is to be paid by the Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body on behalf of the servers it shall designate.
  - b. TIPS is reached through <http://www.tipsalcohol.com/>
  - c. Prior to acting in the capacity of an alcohol beverage server, the server shall provide the Secretary of the Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body with a copy of the certification.
4. **Such server as is designated by the Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body is empowered to refuse to serve any person, Mason or profane where in the sole determination of the server, such person is either underage or meets the training criteria to be refused any further alcoholic beverage.**

- 5. Such server as is designated by the Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body is empowered to demand such person to surrender his car keys and to arrange alternate transportation for such person.**
- 6. No Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body, nor any profane conducting an event in any Masonic structure in this state, shall allow any alcoholic beverage to be "self served" without a member certified by TIPS being present and acting as a supervisor over the self-serving of such beverages.**
- 7. No Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body shall rent or otherwise make available its building or hall for use to any Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body, nor to any Mason or profane, where alcoholic beverages are to be served without first receiving proof of compliance with the conditions set forth above.**
- 8. No Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body shall rent any Masonic structure in this state for any event in which alcoholic beverages are to be consumed without a member of such Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body, who has been certified by TIPS, being present and supervising the dispensing or self serving of such beverages. Nor shall any Masonic structure be rented to a profane without an agreement in writing describing the date, starting and ending times of the event, purpose of the event, rental amount, and containing a clause that the persons hosting the event comply with the permit and insurance requirements set for above and that Lodge Appendant or Coordinate Body reserves the right to terminate the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the event of a disturbance or of terminating the event itself prior to the ending time, in the event of a disturbance; all of which shall be in the sole discretion of the representative of the Lodge Appendant or Coordinate Body.**
- 9. No Lodge, Appendant or Coordinate Body shall dispense or make available any alcoholic beverage prior to the opening of or following the closing of a Table Lodge, Table Chapter or Table Council other than the alcoholic**

beverages dispensed during the Table Lodge, Table Chapter or Table Council.

10. The District Deputy Grand Master of each Masonic District shall supervise and coordinate with the lodges in his district on a continuing basis to assure compliance with this policy.

B. This Policy shall become effective as of September 1, 2009.

1. This policy shall be sent to the secretary of every Blue Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey and to the Grand Secretary or its equivalent of every Appendant and Coordinate Body recognized and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey, to be implemented in all of their chapters, councils and other bodies.
2. This policy shall be published in the Trestleboard or other means of communication by all lodges, counsels, chapters, & other bodies receiving notice of same in its next communication.



Attest: Larry S. Plasket,  
Grand Secretary

Dated this 6 day of August, 2009



William H. Berman  
Grand Master

