

**2026 REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION  
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF NORTH AMERICA**

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful Brethren, Right Worshipful  
Brethren, Brethren All:

I am Anthony Craaco, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and the  
Chairman of the Commission.

At this time, I am pleased to present the other members of the Commission, all of whom  
are styled Most Worshipful:

Adam Hathaway, New Mexico Vice-chairman (old Southwest)

John Liley, Utah (Rocky Mountain)

Bradley Phillips, Arkansas (Southeast)

Richard Maggio, Massachusetts (Northeast)

Marc David, Quebec (Canada)

Sean Metroka, California (Western)

Darrin Galde, ND (Nominee, Midwest)

Glen A. Cook, Utah, Secretary/Treasurer, is participating electronically. Daniel J. Laws,  
Utah, is present as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

For your information, the next region to nominate a Commissioner will be Mexico, as  
the Southwest Conference has dissolved.

Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I will reiterate the standards for  
Recognition adopted for our guidance. These are the guidelines used to evaluate the regularity of  
a grand lodge, and to thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for recognition by  
our member Grand Lodges. The Commission provides this data for use by our Grand Lodges and

does not attempt to influence or recommend what action should be taken. The Commission serves you in an investigative and advisory capacity only.

The standards for recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin.
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks-specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion in Lodge.

### **Gran Logia Benito Juarez del Estado de Coahuila**

This Grand Lodge has enjoyed recognition of a number of regular grand lodges. In summary, the Grand Lodge presided over by Adalberto Chapoy, address Absaolo #763 Pte, Primitivo Centro, Torreon, alleges that their identity was stolen by a splinter group, and that this has affected their recognition by other Grand Lodges.

The Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of Mexico (CRGLM) considers the Grand Lodge currently presided over by Grand Master Cesar Davila Torres (elected in January 2026) as the legitimate Grand Lodge of Coahuila, and they are members of that Confederation. Their address is on the CMI website, Bahia de Ballenas #933 Col Nueva California, Torreon.

Your Commission requires additional information to make an informed decision. We have also contacted our colleagues in the Inter-American Masonic Confederation (CMI). We wish to have their input before making findings (if any) to this Conference.

### **St. James Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois**

The St. James Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois submitted charters of its founding lodges. None of the charters were issued by regular grand lodges, i.e., “Hirm [sic] Grand Lodge”

of Pennsylvania, “Enoch Grand Lodge” of New York, and “St. John Grand Lodge” of the District of Columbia. This group is not in amity with either the Grand Lodge of Illinois nor the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois.

The St. James Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois does not meet the Standards of Recognition of this Conference.

### **Armed Forces Europe and Middle East Grand Lodge**

A representative of the Armed Forces Europe and Middle East Grand Lodge (AFEMEGL) appeared before your Commission but was not heard upon objection of a member grand lodge.

In its written submissions, the group states that it was created “in full accordance with the ancient usages, custom and solemn ceremonies of Regular Craft Masonry” on May 2, 2025. When queried by e-mail prior to the presentation as to which lodges or grand lodge(s) created the AFEMEGL, the spokesman simply repeated the unsupported claim.

Additionally, the group asserts sovereignty on US military installations “where no civilian Grand Lodge exercise lawful jurisdiction.” The underlying error regarding the civil law seems to be an erroneous belief regarding the civil jurisdiction of US military bases outside the United States. US overseas military bases are generally not U.S. territory or soil; they remain under the sovereignty of the host nation (in this case Germany) and operate under a “status of Forces Agreement “(SOFA) which may allow U.S. laws to apply to the US personnel on the base. However, the land itself is still that of the foreign nation.

The AFEMEGL has failed to demonstrate that it meets the Standards of Recognition adopted by this Conference.

### **The Grand Lodge of Kosovo**

The country of Kosovo has been widely accepted as being under the Masonic jurisdiction of the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia (RGLS). When the Grand Lodge of Albania was constituted in 2011, with the RGLS as a consecrating Grand Lodge, there was an agreement that no lodges would be formed in Kosovo, consistent with that being the Masonic jurisdiction of the RGLS. Unfortunately, the Grand Lodge of Albania chose to place (at that time) a single lodge in Kosovo, contrary to that agreement. This error was recognized by the Grand Lodge of Albania and reduced to writing in a June 2015 Belgrade agreement. The single lodge was to be withdrawn from Kosovo to Albania.

Sadly, instead of withdrawing the single lodge, the Grand Lodge of Albania established two more lodges in violation of both the original agreement, and the 2015 Belgrade Agreement. Finally, those lodges were withdrawn by Albanian Grand Mater Piro Dode on 31 January 2018. Because of GLA's actions, a number of grand lodges suspended recognition of GLA. See, e.g., United Grand Lodge of England action of June, 2018. In 2023, the Grand Lodge of Albania expressly stated in writing that "the territory of Kosovo is under masonic jurisdiction of the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia."

The Grand Lodge of Kosovo seeks findings that they meet the Standards of Recognition. They submit that the three referenced Albanian lodges voted to form a new Grand Lodge of Kosovo on August 9, 2017, and the new grand lodge was constituted that date.

The Standards of Recognition state that a Grand Lodge must demonstrate legitimacy of origin. As the Kosovo petitioners acknowledge, this requires that a grand lodge be formed by "regularly constituted lodges." It does not appear the three lodges were regularly constituted by the Grand Lodge of Albania. The three lodges were formed in express violation of agreements by

the Grand Lodge of Albania. Even after they agreed the first lodge was to be withdrawn in the Belgrade agreement of 2015, they constituted two more lodges in violation of that agreement.

The conduct of the Grand Lodge of Albania in establishing these lodges has already been determined to be improper conduct resulting in suspension of recognition. If we were to find that these three lodges were “regularly constituted,” we would countenance the improper conduct of the Grand Lodge of Albania.

The Grand Lodge of Kosovo discussed at some length the history of the territories at issue. We do not have to resolve the nationalistic interests of the Balkans.

The Grand Lodge of Kosovo has not demonstrated that they meet the Standards of Recognition.

We must note that the amity has been restored with the Grand Lodge of Albania by those who took action. Further, we are informed that grand lodges in the region are working to establish regular Freemasonry in Kosovo.

### **Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon (2023)**

The history of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon may be seen from our prior reports of 2022 and 2023. In those reports, we declined to find that the Grand Lodge met the Standards of Recognition.

We are informed that subsequent to our 2023 report, three constituent lodges of the Syria-Lebanon District of the Grand Lodge of New York each voted to form a new grand lodge. These three lodges then held a convention on May 20, 2023, and formed a new grand lodge, the “Lebanese Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Lebanon” (LGL). Subsequently, the LGL voted to amalgamate with the first Grand Lodge of Lebanon. The first grand lodge then ceded its “name, logo, history, belongings, relations, territory, Lodges, and all that is associated with its

existence,” including its main building. The second grand lodge, the LGL, then accepted the amalgamation and changed its name to that of the first grand lodge, The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon. This amalgamation was then reported to those grand lodges with which the first Grand Lodge of Lebanon enjoyed amity.

As precedent for the process they followed, the 2023 F&AM of Lebanon points to the Grand Lodge of Michigan which suffered a lack of recognition subsequent to cessation of activities during the Morgan affair. Lodges received new charters from the Grand Lodge of New York and, in 1844, met in convention to form a new Grand Lodge of Michigan.

We again note (see Commission Report 2022), the well-established custom and practice outside the United States of consultation with other grand lodges working in a jurisdiction. This is the fraternal course that would be expected. It did not occur. Nevertheless, it is not a requirement for forming a grand lodge. We would urge all those with interests in the country of Lebanon to work together as Masons to restore harmony.

It appears the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Lebanon (2023) meets the Standards of Recognition.

### **Grande Orient de São Paulo-Brazil**

In its 2025 report, this Commission declined to find that the Grande Orient de São Paulo (GOSP) met the Standards of Recognition. The GOSP was formed in 1921, in what may have been an irregular manner. Nevertheless, from 1929 until 2018, when the GOSP withdrew, the GOSP was in a “Federation” with the Grand Orient of Brazil (GOB). We are informed that the individual members were considered members of GOB; GOSP was a district. Consequently, it lost its status of regularity when it withdrew from the Federation. Further, the Grand Orient

Paulista and the Grand Lodge of the State of São Paulo (GLESP) share territory and recognize one another. Neither share territory with nor recognise the GOSP.

The GOB, the GLESP and the GOP continue to object to recognition of the GOSP.

We have reviewed the 24-page submission from the GOSP. It is, largely, a restatement of their prior position.

It does not appear the Grande Orient de São Paulo (GOSP) meets the Standards of Recognition.

### **Gran Logia de Valle de Mexico**

This Grand Lodge has presented a report to the Commission regarding its legitimacy.

In 2014, the Commission noted that “Over the last decade, it has been reported that [Valle de Mexico] have invaded the territory of a number of neighboring grand lodges.” In 2022, we stated, “We are advised that they have continued this pattern of conduct in an unrepentant manner.”

In March 2025, the Inter-American Masonic Confederation (CMI) suspended the membership of Valle de Mexico because it admitted issuing charters to existing lodges in the territories of three other Mexican Grand Lodges. Valle de Mexico claimed as its defense that the charters were granted pursuant to a “right of asylum” (*derecho de asilo*). In its written presentation to this Commission, Valle de Mexico explains that the lodges “claimed that it was not possible for them to work under the auspices of their respective Grand Lodges.” They acknowledge that the CMI did not consider this a valid defense to invading the Masonic territory of another grand lodge. Your Commission does not consider it a valid defense either.

Valle de Mexico states that in June 2025 it revoked the charters for the lodges in the three other masonic territories. Additionally, they have revoked a 2013 “Grand Charter” issued to

“Antiguo Gremio Baja California, in the State of Baja California, Mexico, though it is not clear such a grand lodge has been in operation. It is understood there continue to be unresolved issues.

While we are pleased at the progress of this historic grand lodge in rectifying their errors, our prior view remains unchanged: this Grand Lodge does not currently meet the Standards of Recognition.

### **Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan**

This Grand Lodge has asked we provide the following information:

Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan  
Grand Master: Alpysbaev Aidar Kenzhekhanovich  
Apartment 633, House 6/4  
Roza Baglanova Street  
Astana, Z05X2A7  
Republic of Kazakhstan

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Craaco, PGM, Chairman  
Adam Hathaway, PGM  
John Liley, PGM  
Bradley Phillips, PGM  
Richard Maggio, PGM  
Marc David, PGM  
Sean Metroka, PGM

Glen A. Cook, PGM, Secretary/Treasurer

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***18 February2026 Subject to revision***