

ARTICLE XXXIV. PAST MATRONS AND PAST PATRONS

Sec. 1. A Worthy Matron upon the installation of her successor becomes a Past Matron and another Worthy Matron elected to fill the unexpired term also becomes a Past Matron at the end of the year. A Past Matron's jewel may be presented to each. (1959)

Sec. 2. On Past Matrons' and Patron' Night, the Worthy Matron may call upon any Past Matron to preside during initiation, if it is to be held.

Sec. 3. The terms, Past Matron and Past Patron, shall be held To apply to one who, after installation as Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron, shall have presided over a chartered Chapter in this Jurisdiction during her or his term of office. (1959)

ARTICLE XXXV. VOLUNTARY PREPAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voluntary Prepaid Life Membership (VPL) shall be available to all members of this Jurisdiction who are in good standing. If the member holds dual membership in two Chapters within the Jurisdiction of Montana, voluntary Prepaid Life Membership must be paid in the Primary Chapter before the Secondary Chapter. Per capita tax will be paid to the Grand Chapter on all Voluntary Prepaid Life members by the VPL member's Chapter so long as the Chapter has jurisdiction over the member's investment.

Section 2. Fees for voluntary Prepaid Life Membership shall be assessed at sixteen times the annual dues of the Chapter in which a member desires VPL Membership.

A. Voluntary Prepaid Life Membership must be paid before December 1st in a year in which a member's dues are fully paid.

B. One year's dues from the assessed amount shall be retained by the Chapter as the following year's dues. The remaining fifteen times the annual dues shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for investment by the Finance Committee in insured investments at the highest possible interest rate.

C. Five percent (5%) of the annual interest earned will be retained by the Grand Chapter to manage the Fund and will be placed in the Grand Chapter General Fund. The remainder of the yearly interest earned will be paid by the Grand Secretary on January 1 annually to participating Chapters based on their share of the Fund. After the death of a VPL member, the funds remain the property of the Subordinate Chapter, with investment and interest payments the same as though the member were still living. However, per capita tax will not be paid to Grand Chapter on deceased VPL members. This rule shall apply so long as the VPL member's Chapter retains its Charter.

D. That the VPLM program as approved by the 1984 Grand Chapter Session be implemented and available for participation by the members of the Grand Jurisdiction on July 1, 1985.

1. Payment of VPLM assessment by member to Chapter Secretary.

2. Chapter Secretary accumulates member VPLM payments in separate fund.

3. Chapter Secretary sends accumulated VPLM payments to Grand Secretary on or before December 1 of the same year.

4. Grand Secretary invests ALL VPLM payments as directed by the Finance Committee before December 31 of same year.

5. Annual interest received by Grand Secretary shall be distributed by Grand Secretary to Subordinate Chapters as outlined

in Section 2, Paragraph C.

Sec. 3. Transfer. A member may transfer Voluntary Prepaid Life Membership funds to another chapter together with transfer of membership within this Grand Jurisdiction. The VPL member Will not have to pay the difference in yearly dues if the dues of the new chapter are lower. If at all possible, however, the Chapter closing or consolidating should pay or help towards paying the difference in the amount for the increase in dues for the VPL member. (1998)

A. If a Voluntary Prepaid Life member's chapter merges with another Chapter, the VPL member's funds shall be transferred together with membership. The VPL members will not have to pay the difference in yearly dues if the new chapter has higher dues and will not receive a refund if the dues of the new chapter are lower. If at all possible, however, the Chapter closing or consolidating should pay or help towards paying the difference in the amount for the increase in dues for the VPL member. (1998)

B. If a demitted Voluntary Prepaid Member does not affiliate with another Chapter within one year, the entire amount of the VPL member's investment shall revert to the ESTARL Endowment Fund of the Grand Chapter. (2005)

C. If a Voluntary Prepaid Life Member is suspended or expelled, the entire amount shall be handled as if the member were deceased.

Sec. 4. Memorial. A memorial Voluntary Prepaid Life Membership may be purchased by others to honor a deceased or living member of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Sec. 5 Amounts may be voluntarily added to a life membership at any time in amounts not less than \$25.00 by the member but may not be returned for any reason. These amounts will be paid to the Chapter Secretary who will in turn send them to the Grand Secretary. (2004)