**ARTICLE XXXII.  
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 once her successor is elected and installed. A Past Matron's jewel may be presented to each. (1959)

**Sec. 2**. A Worthy Patron, upon the installation of his successor, becomes a Past Patron and another Worthy Patron elected to fill the unexpired term also becomes a Past Patron once his successor is elected and installed. (2023)

**ARTICLE XXXIII.**

**VOLUNTARY PREPAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**Sec. 1.**  Voluntary Prepaid Life Membership (VPLM) shall be available to all members of this Jurisdiction who are in good standing.  If the member holds plural membership in two or more Chapters within the Jurisdiction of Montana, VPLM must be paid in the Primary Chapter before the Secondary or Plural Chapters.  Per capita tax will be paid to the Grand Chapter on VPLMs by their Chapter(s) so long as the Chapter(s) have jurisdiction over the member’s investment. (2014)

**Sec. 2**. Fees for VPLM shall be assessed at sixteen (16) times the annual dues of the Chapter in which a member desires VPLM.

A. VPLM 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 (15) 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 VPLM, 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 is not paid to Grand Chapter on deceased VPLMs. This rule shall apply so long as the VPLM's Chapter retains its Charter.

D. The VPLM program was approved by the 1984 Grand Chapter Session and implemented and made available for participation by the members of the Grand Jurisdiction on July 1, 1985. The procedures for the VPLM program are as follows:

1. Payment of VPLM assessment by member to Chapter Secretary; check or money order payable to the Chapter.
2. Chapter Secretary maintains records of member VPLM payments.
3. Chapter Secretary sends accumulated VPLM payments to Grand Secretary on or before December 1 of same year.
4. Grand Treasurer 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.** A member may **transfer** VPLM funds to another Chapter together with transfer of membership within this Grand Jurisdiction. The VPLM 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. (2011)

A. If a VPLM’s Chapter consolidates with another Chapter, the VPLM’s funds shall be transferred together with membership. The VPLMs 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 consolidating Chapter should pay or help towards paying the difference in the amount for the increase in dues for the VPLM. (1998, 2011)

B. If a demitted VPLM does not affiliate with another Chapter within one year, the entire amount of the VPLM’s investment shall revert to the ESTARL Endowment Fund of Grand Chapter. (2005)

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

**Sec. 4.** A **memorial** VPLM 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 VPLM 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)