

Affiliation Information for Master Masons

This document applies to Master Masons seeking affiliation with Gulf Beach Lodge (GBL).

Dual Membership: Joining GBL and maintaining membership in mother Lodge in another grand masonic jurisdiction, but only from such jurisdictions that accept 'dual' memberships...some do not.

Petitioner requests a 'certificate of good standing' from the Secretary of his mother Lodge.

The Secretary of his mother Lodge will prepare a certificate of good standing (CGS) and send it to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge (GL) of the petitioner's mother lodge.

That GL completes its portion of the form and sends it on to the Grand Secretary of the GL of Florida, who forwards it to the Secretary of GBL.

Upon receipt of said certificate the Secretary presents the petitioner with a Petition for Dual Membership (GL-608).

When the Petition is completed the Petitioner meets with the Petitions Committee to assure that the form is filled out completely.

The Petition is then read at the next stated communication and held over 30 days for an investigation, after which it is balloted upon. If the ballot is favorable, the Petitioner becomes a member of GBL and retains membership in his mother lodge under the other GL. This is what is meant by 'Dual' membership.

Full Affiliation: Joining GBL as a full member and drops membership from the other jurisdiction.

There are two ways to do this:

1st way (safest): Definition: Dimit or Demit: The document a lodge issues in response to a request by a mason to resign from membership from a particular lodge.

If granted, a dimit simply removes him from membership in that lodge and he remains a mason. In effect, a dimit is a statement that the brother has resigned his membership in that lodge while in good standing.

Dimits cannot be issued to a brother who is in arrears in his dues, is under sentence of suspension, or is in the process of being charged with a masonic offence.

Petitioner requests a 'certificate of good standing' from the Secretary of his mother Lodge as above.

Upon receipt of said certificate the Secretary of GBL presents the petitioner with a Petition for Affiliation (GL-603).

When the Petition is completed the Petitioner meets with the Petitions Committee to assure that the form is filled out completely.

The Petition is then read at the next stated communication and held over 30 days for an investigation, after which it is balloted upon.

If the ballot is clear the petitioner's Grand Lodge (GL) is notified and a request for a dimit is signed by him and sent to his GL.

The Grand Secretary of the Petitioner's previous GL then sends the dimit to the petitioner's mother Lodge.

Upon acceptance of the dimit, the Petitioner is no longer a member of his previous lodge.

The petitioner is now a full member of GBL, which becomes his new mother lodge.

2nd way (not so safe)

The Petitioner requests a dimit from his mother Lodge and brings it to the Secretary.

The Secretary presents him with a Petition for Affiliation (GL-606) which requires a dimit to be attached.

When the Petition is completed he meets with the Petitions Committee to assure that the form is filled out completely.

The Petition is then read at the next stated communication and held over 30 days for an investigation, after which it is balloted upon.

If it is a clear ballot the petitioner's former GL is notified and he becomes a full member of GBL.

The reason this is not so safe is because most dimits are good for no more than a year and if rejected at the ballot box he becomes a brother without a Lodge.

Note: If current membership is in a jurisdiction which does not allow for dual membership, then this is the only way to effect a transfer of membership.

Plural Membership: Joining GBL from another Lodge within the state of Florida. The same issues apply as with Dual membership, except that there are no restrictions on holding more than one lodge membership in Florida, and communications are all within the GL of Florida and its lodges.

Time Frames:

Grand Lodge of Florida does not entertain any Affiliations (in this jurisdiction or outside of this jurisdiction) between October 1st and January 1st due to the complications which arise at the close of one masonic year and the beginning of the next.