

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR HOSTING AN MRF SYMPOSIUM

OWNERSHIP OF SYMPOSIUM

The Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium (hereafter referred to as “the Symposium” or “symposia”) is an entity belonging to the Masonic Restoration Foundation (hereafter referred to as “MRF”), and as such is required to represent the goals and purposes of the Masonic Restoration Foundation. For this reason, the following terms and conditions are agreed to between the Board of Directors of the MRF, and the host Lodge, in order to agree to and sanction a Symposium. The Board of the MRF selects the host based upon the following criteria:

[a] The financial ability of the host Lodge, and the assessment of general ability of the prospective host Lodge to logistically plan the entire event.

[b] Geographical concerns related both to facility of travel, and the desire to have symposia throughout North America.

WHO MAY HOST?

Lodges who are included the MRF List of Lodges are eligible to host symposia. Multiple Lodges may submit a proposal to host a Symposium collectively, provided that at least one of the Lodges is on the MRF List of Lodges. A Lodge not yet on that list may be offered the opportunity to host under the direct supervision of the MRF Board.

HOST LODGE'S REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A host Lodge must submit a proposal outlining their plan for a Symposium, to include:

[a] A commitment to and explanation of the financial resources available to the Lodge which would enable the hosting of a Symposium. Symposia are funded by their registration fees as set by the host, and any other funds the host might solicit from within their Lodge or their Grand Lodge; the MRF does not provide funding to the host for the event.

[b] A detailed description of all travel options to the proposed destination, as well as any possible resources available to the host Lodge to facilitate local travel between venue (e.g. the Lodge), lodging, and points of travel (e.g. airports, train stations).

[c] A detailed proposal for lodging and costs of lodging to the registrants.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

A Symposium must include the following elements in order to be sanctioned and agreed by the MRF:

[a] A Symposium is a three-day event, beginning customarily on the evening of the first day, and ending before noon on the third day. The bulk of the program is on the second or day, and customarily is followed by either free time or a social event on the evening of the second day. Variations on this format may be approved by the Board of Directors of the MRF.

[b] The host Lodge must hold a tyled Masonic communication during the event. This has customarily taken place on the afternoon of the second day.

[c] The host Lodge must offer a Masonic festive board during the event. The festive board is to seat Masons only. Profane guests are not to be admitted to a festive board. The festive board has customarily taken place on the opening evening, i.e. the first day.

[d] The host Lodge must agree that only regular Masons are to be permitted to attend the event. "Regular" is defined as Masons holden under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge enjoying mutual recognition among the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

[e] The host Lodge must provide a program of speakers in at least two tracks, i.e., two concurrent sessions, throughout the Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon portions of the Symposium. In the event that a Symposium should be held during the week, this requirement would apply to the second day of the event.

SPEAKERS

Speakers at a Symposium must be regular Masons, as defined in Section [d] of the "Format Requirements" of this document. The proposed roster of speakers and/or presenters at a Symposium must be approved by the Board of Directors of the MRF prior to any public announcement of said roster.

The presentations made by speakers at a Symposium should be directly related to the purposes of the MRF, to include:

[a] The transformation of an existing Lodge or creation of a new Lodge according to the concept of best practices and excellence in Masonic labor.

[b] The historical and/or philosophical justification in speculative Masonry for the desired aims, or elements thereof, of the MRF.

[c] The implementation of strategies and methods which may bring, do bring, or have brought significant improvement in the Lodge experience.

VENDORS

Vendors may be invited to participate in a Symposium, based upon their approval by the Board of Directors of the MRF. The host Lodge may charge a fee to vendors for their participation.

As the quality of Masonic regalia and merchandise is closely related to the interests of quality and excellence in the Craft, vendors must be, unlike any other trade conference, only those who can be trusted to deal reputably with our brothers. The MRF should never allow businesses at a Symposium whose practices have at any time been known to be questionable, or whose merchandise does not meet the standard of quality that the MRF seeks to uphold.

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As an organization which seeks more vigorously to promote quality and standards across the Masonic landscape, the MRF has a special responsibility to abide by the highest standards of conduct in all of its endeavors. The host Lodge, and its representative thereof, by signing this agreement, agrees to its terms, and agrees that the Board of Directors of the MRF has the authority of final approval over all aspects of a Symposium, as well as the right to withdraw sanction at any time if the terms stated herein are not met.

President, Masonic Restoration Foundation

Representative of Host Lodge

Date

