

EDICT
Expelling Frank J. Haas of Wellsburg Lodge No. 2*
**[Italicized text added]*

To: The Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren of the subordinate lodges of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of the State of West Virginia

Brethren:

There is a coalition of brethren and members of concordant bodies within the Grand Jurisdiction of West Virginia that has come to be known as the Masonic Crusade. The activities of this coalition consist mainly of campaigning, recruiting, advertisement of false information and unauthorized circulation. Furthermore, these activities have disrupted the peace and harmony of the craft and to demonstrate intent to control this Grand Lodge and do violate and circumvent our laws, rules, regulations and the obligations to which all West Virginia Masons are bound.

Whereas, our Masonic Law speaks to these offenses in Articles II and XI of our Code of Trials (CT.II, Sec. 1.

[The offenses of which a Lodge may take cognizance, and to which it shall give full, fair and lawful trial, and upon conviction, administer adequate punishment, are immorality, and particularly acts which tend to impair the good name of Masonry, or which violate Masonic obligations or the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.]

CT.II.1.17.

[A member of a particular lodge who exercises his ballot in a malicious and arbitrary manner is guilty of a Masonic offense.-1973 Proceedings 41.]

CT.II.1.20.

[It shall be a Masonic offense for any Lodge or any committee, officer or member thereof to circularize by letter, petition or other form of publication to other Lodges or officers or members of other Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction proposing or advocating any amendments, repeal or enactment of laws, rules, or regulations of this Grand Lodge, without securing a dispensation for such purpose from the Grand Master. Any Lodge violating this section shall be promptly suspended until the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge, and unless restored by this Grand Lodge its charter shall be forfeited. Any officer or member of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of un-Masonic conduct and dealt with accordingly.-1959 Proceedings 93, 110.]

CT.II.1.24.

[It is imperative that all of us --regardless of the body in which we find our major Masonic activity --recognize the Grand Lodge as the sole arbiter, within its own jurisdiction, of what is or is not acceptable Masonic conduct or an acceptable or unacceptable program or activity. It is the only body to which all of us owe our allegiance. Our Grand Lodge is sovereign and has complete jurisdiction in the affairs of Craft Masonry within our State, and outside interference cannot and will not be tolerated. It shall be a violation of Masonic Covenant and shall constitute un-Masonic conduct for any member or

sojourner within the Grand Jurisdiction of West Virginia, to provide information to this "Task Force (Talk Group)" on matters pertaining to Masonry without the express written permission of the Grand Master.-1988 Proceedings, 26.]

and CT.XI., Sec. 2.

[When a controversy shall arise between Lodges, or between a Lodge and its Master, or when an important complaint shall be made, the same shall be filed with the Grand Lodge if it is in session, or during recess with the Grand Master. If the matter be deemed of sufficient importance by the Grand Master to warrant an investigation, he may proceed in person, or may appoint a commission of not fewer than three Masters or Past Masters with (if consistent) the District Deputy Grand Master as chairman, to investigate such charges or complaint. Such commission shall have authority to summon witnesses and shall have such other powers as may be delegated to it by the Grand Master; and said commission shall make such report to the Grand Master as will enable him to make a final decision.].),

Regulations

24.F.15.

[The ancient rules and customs of Freemasonry strictly prohibit addresses, lectures, discussions, etc., within the tiled Lodge or at meetings sponsored by the craft, on questions of creed, partisan politics, or any other subject of a controversial nature whereby personal animosities may be excited and the peace and harmony of the Fraternity disturbed.-1939 Proceedings 118.],

31 (31.9)

[Under the constitutions and laws of Masonry and its customs and usages, Freemasonry is essentially an exclusive organization; it affiliates with no others; it condemns no others; it sponsors no others; and the doors of its Lodge rooms in this grand jurisdiction are open to no others, except under emergent dispensation.-1946 Proceedings 99.],

39 (A.10.)

[It is un-Masonic for any member either to ask how another member has voted or to tell how he himself voted; nor can a member give any information about the ballot to a rejected candidate. The ballot is secret, and neither officers nor members can destroy its character.-1883 Proceedings 156; 1890 Proceedings 31; 1914 Proceedings 76.]

and our Landmark number five

[“Secrecy: Applied to the modes of recognition, certain symbols, the ballot, obligations, signs, passwords, and forms of initiation”.:]

Know ye that by virtue of the authority vested in me in Article III

[ARTICLE III. Grand Master’s Powers, Succession.]

of the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of the State of West Virginia, Inc., our Landmark number four

[“The government of the Fraternity by a Grand Master.”]

and elsewhere as provided under our laws, I Charlie Law Montgomery, hereby order and reaffirm that participation in the affairs of the Masonic Crusade, including

participation in its illegal website activities, or any related endeavor, constitutes un-Masonic conduct and will be treated as such.

Whereas, Frank J. Haas has participated in the affairs of the Masonic Crusade, and has incited, endorsed, aided, abetted and perpetuated the same, and whereas

Frank J. Haas did on December 2, 2006 [*installation of officers of Pilgrim Lodge #691, Steubenville, Ohio*], October 26, 2007 [*Annual Banquet, Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of West Virginia*] and on other occasions, speak to delegations of concordant bodies where the profane were also present, and did on such occasions propose and advocate support for amendments and repeal of our laws, such activity being strictly prohibited under CT.II.1.20. [*see above*] of our Code of Trials, and whereas

Frank J. Haas did on August 30, 2007 circulate email promoting and encouraging the affairs of the Masonic Crusade, and whereas

Frank J. Haas did during the week of October 1 through 6, 2007 promote, contact and encourage other brethren to participate and subscribe to the illegal website of the Masonic Crusade, and whereas

Frank J. Haas, during the One Hundred and Forty Third Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, and on numerous occasions during the year preceding such Annual Communication, did endeavor to gain voting support for amendments and repeal of our laws as well as voting support to subvert the principles of the order and the actions of the Grand Lodge and Grand Master, and whereas

Frank J. Haas, on November 5, 2007 [*stated communication of Wellsburg Lodge No. 2, Oyster Night*] and on other occasions, has been publicly insubordinate and disrespectful toward the Grand Lodge, its Grand Master and other Grand Lodge Officers, and has demonstrated conduct unbecoming a Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction, and whereas

I, Charlie Law Montgomery, have received and investigated reports and complaints in these matters, and whereas

The officers and members of Wellsburg Lodge No. 2 have failed their duty to take any action in these matters;

I, Charlie Law Montgomery, consistent with my responsibility and authority as described in CT.XI, Sec.2 [*see above*], further order that Frank J. Haas is expelled from Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction [*in this Grand Jurisdiction*], and that no mason under the authority of this Grand Lodge [*under the authority of this Grand Lodge*] shall, from this moment forward, have converse or contact with him on any matter Masonic.

I further order that the Charter of Wellsburg Lodge No. 2 is placed on probation. Further infractions consistent with those named above will result in forfeiture of said Charter. Such probation shall remain in effect for an indefinite period of time.

I further order that his edict be read in each subordinate lodge at the next two stated communications following its receipt, and that it be made a part of the minutes.

I further order that failure to receive or be present for the reading of this edict shall not constitute exemption therefrom.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Master on this nineteenth day of November A.D. 2007, A.L. 6007 in the One Hundred and Forty Third year of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of West Virginia.

/s/ Charlie L Montgomery
M.W. Charlie Law Montgomery
Grand Master of Masons

Form 05