

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

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To all Constituent Lodges:

It has come to our attention a change to the interpretation of Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4861.17 Article 1721 was made in Louisiana Department of Revenue's Office of Charitable Gaming resulting from an audit conducted by the Department of Revenue's auditors. It was determined the licensing for exempt and non-profits to conduct raffles, without a permit and fee, was not in compliance with the statute.

For several years, Lodges and our appendant bodies have applied for and have been granted licenses to conduct raffles with ticket prices, dollar amounts of the prizes, and total amount of funds raised at their discretion. This license process was without fees or charges by the Office of Charitable Gaming (OCG). Going forward, for Lodges desiring to continue as above, it must first submit Form OCG2000, pay a \$75 per year fee, and be in total compliance with all training requirements, submit a complete set of by-laws and minutes showing the officers being elected and installed, and complete and file "Session Schedules" on a quarterly basis. This type of license is more fitting to an organization conducting bingo sessions, which are not allowed in our Lodges.

For Lodges wishing to conduct a raffle, without going through the lengthy requirements as described above, they will be limited in scope. The online license process that is currently being used will continue, however the ticket price cannot exceed \$1.00, the total cost of the prize(s) cannot exceed \$2,000.00, the total amount raised through the one-dollar ticket sales cannot exceed \$3,000.00, and there can be no more than two raffles held during a calendar year.

Lodges currently holding a license and permit to conduct a raffle can continue to sell tickets at the permitted price and prize awards provided on the date of the drawing. Lodges that recently applied for a license may receive a notice from the OCG indicating your ticket price, prize awards and amount raised is not in line with the current regulations.

Regardless of the type of license or permit a Lodge chooses, a dispensation must be requested and approved by Grand Master to conduct the raffle.

Fraternally,

Steve Pence, PGM
Grand Secretary

“Charity, Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love”

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