

Wisconsin Elks Association

Lodge Activities Committee

Rules Governing Traveling Gavel

Revised 05/04/96

Updated 02/04/2012

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The “Traveling Gavel” must be delivered to another Lodge within its respective District by a minimum of the following:

- A) Two (2) Lodge members, of which one (1) must be a Lodge Officer, for membership of 99 or less
- B) Three (3) Lodge members, of which one (1) must be a Lodge Officer, for membership of 100 or more

A Lodge is encouraged to deliver the “Gavel” to a Lodge, within their District, that has not received the “Gavel” within the prior six (6) months. It cannot be returned to the same Lodge from which it was received.

A Lodge has sixty (60) days in which to deliver the “Gavel” once it has been received. It may be delivered during a regularly scheduled meeting of the receiving Lodge, or at any special function that the Lodge has scheduled.

If a Lodge holding the “Gavel” does not deliver the “Gavel” within sixty (60) days, it will be fined three dollars (\$3.00) per day until it is delivered to another Lodge. The “Gavel” may also be retrieved by another Lodge after sixty (60) days, including by the Lodge that delivered the “Gavel”. If a Lodge elects to retrieve the “Gavel”, at least three (3) Lodge members must present themselves to the Lodge holding the “Gavel”. The fine will be credited to the receiving Lodge and made payable to the “Wisconsin Elks’ Benevolent Fund.” If two (2) or more Lodges are present to retrieve the “Gavel”, the Lodge with most members in attendance will receive the “Gavel”. If two (2) or more Lodges have the same number of members, the Lodge traveling the furthest will receive the “Gavel”.

It is recommended that the “Gavel” not be delivered at a Lodge function that is open to the public, nor can the “Gavel” be delivered or picked up at District Deputy Clinics, State Conferences and Conventions, or other state functions such as bowling, golf, curling, trap shoot, ball games, etc.

The “Gavel” is to be accompanied by a card/binder, which will remain with the “Gavel”, stating to which Lodge the “Gavel” was delivered, the date of delivery, and the delivering Lodge. When a Lodge delivers the “Gavel” to another Lodge, the Lodge Secretary should notify the Vice President of the District that the “Gavel” has moved. The State Lodge Activities Committee will act as watchdog for the “Gavel”.

The Lodge that receives the “Gavel” is encouraged to display the “Gavel” for its members, but it is requested that Lodges do not use the “Gavel” in their regular meetings. The “Gavel” is a symbol of Brotherhood among the Lodges in each District and should be treated accordingly.