

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 24

PARTICULAR LODGES – BY-LAWS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Constitutional Provisions

Every Particular Lodge has a right to adopt its own By-Laws in conformity to Grand Lodge Regulations, and subject to the supervision of the Grand Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 10)

The Grand Lodge has the *** supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with. (Art. V, Sec. 4)

Regulations

24.01 By-Laws are of no validity until approved by the Grand Master, subject to review by the Grand Lodge.

24.02 A Lodge cannot suspend its By-Laws, or any section of them.

24.03 Cemetery arrangements and similar matters may be provided by Resolution, and therefore need not be incorporated in the Lodge By-Laws. (1985)

MATTERS TO BE FIXED IN BY-LAWS

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

References

Dues and assessment must be fixed by By-Laws to be enforceable. Const. Art. X, Sec. 18; Regs. 27.01, 27.02, 27.03, 27.04, and 27.05

Dues of those unable to pay because of infirmities or misfortune may be remitted. Const. Art. X, Sec. 13; Regs. 26.08 and 26.09

COMMUNICATIONS

References

See Reg. 25.02

AFFILIATION FEE

References

If affiliation fee is charged it must be fixed by By-Law. Reg. 41.33

A By-Law fixing affiliation fee according to number of years applicant has held his dimit is void. Reg. 41.35

AMENDMENTS

24.04 A Lodge adopting, revising, or amending By-Laws shall forward an original and three copies signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with

date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon to the Grand Secretary who shall forthwith examine the same as to form, regularity of procedure, and compliance with Masonic Law. If the proposal is found to have been regularly submitted, in proper form, and in compliance with Masonic Law, the Grand Secretary shall retain one copy, and the original and two copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Grand Master for approval or disapproval. Upon approval, the original shall be returned to the Lodge, one copy forwarded to the Grand Secretary for Grand Lodge files, and one copy retained by the Grand Master for his files. If the proposed By-Law is not in proper form or is contrary to Masonic Law or is not properly submitted, the Grand Secretary shall return the same to the Lodge for appropriate action.

The Committee on Masonic Digest shall, on request of the Grand Secretary, advise with him in regard to proposed amendments.

**UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS
PARTICULAR LODGES
GRAND JURISDICTION OF FLORIDA**

24.05 The following Uniform Code of By-Laws is adopted. The Uniform Code shall become effective immediately upon its adoption. Lodges shall incorporate the provisions of the Uniform Code into their By-Laws without change, variation, or modification; inserting the matter hereafter set forth. In submitting By-Laws for approval Lodges will not include in their proposals the provisions of the Uniform Code but will submit only those additional or supplemental By-Laws they wish to adopt.

Particular Lodges in adopting By-Laws shall adopt the provisions of the Uniform Code without change or variation with authority, however, to insert the following matters:

- (A) In Section 1.01 fill in date of Charter and location of the Lodge.
- (B) Section 3.02 relating to dual membership is optional with each particular Lodge.
- (C) In Section 3.03(b) the fee for life membership may be fixed at any amount not less than \$400.00.
- (D) In Section 4.01 the amount of dues shall be inserted.
- (E) In Section 5.01 the dates and time of Communications of the Lodge shall be inserted.
- (F) In Section 9.01 the fees for the Degrees shall be inserted.
- (G) In Section 9.02 the fee for affiliation shall be inserted, or if no fee is charged the word “none.”

- (H) Lodges wishing to make additional provisions may do so under appropriate section numbers, but such provisions shall not conflict with this Uniform Code, the Regulations of Grand Lodge, nor the Constitution thereof, nor with other recognized Masonic Law.

AUTHORITY

- 1.01 Charter

JURISDICTION

- 2.01 Territorial
2.02 Personal
2.03 Other Provisions (optional)

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.01 General
3.02 Dual (optional)
3.02.1 Plural Membership (optional)
3.03 Life (optional)
3.03.1 Perpetual Membership
3.04 Honorary
3.04.1 Honorary Perpetual
3.04.2 Perpetual Friend Account
3.04.3 Honorary to Plural Perpetual
3.05 Emeritus
3.06 Roll of Members
3.07 E.A. and F.C. Members
3.08 Other Provisions (optional)

DUES, SUSPENSION, AND REINSTATEMENT

- 4.01 Dues
4.02 Suspension
4.03 Reinstatement
4.04 Other Provisions (optional)

COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.01 Stated Communications
5.02 Dispensing with Stated Communication
5.03 Change of Hour of Stated Communication
5.04 Called Communications
5.05 Notice
5.06 Business at Called Communications
5.07 Quorum
5.08 Festivals
5.09 Other Provisions (optional)

OFFICERS

- 6.01 Officers
- 6.02 Chaplain and Marshal
- 6.03 Duties
- 6.04 Secretary
- 6.05 Treasurer
- 6.06 Reports
- 6.07 Other Provisions (optional)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 7.01 Time of Election
- 7.02 Manner and Method of Election
- 7.03 Other Provisions (optional)

BUSINESS OF THE LODGE

- 8.01 Master's Authority
- 8.02 Reconsideration of Vote or Decision
- 8.03 Other Provisions (optional)

FEES

- 9.01 Fees for the Degrees
- 9.02 Fee for Affiliation
- 9.03 Other Provisions (optional)

COMMITTEES

- 10.01 Committees of the Lodge
- 10.02 Finance Committee
- 10.03 Vigilance Committee
- 10.04 Petitions Committee
- 10.05 Committee on Masonic Education
- 10.06 Board of Relief
- 10.07 Investigation Committee
- 10.08 Committee on Charity
- 10.09 Committee on Lodge Property
- 10.10 Neglect of Committee Duty
- 10.11 Attendance and Direction of Worshipful Master
- 10.12 Other Committees - (optional)

CHARITY

- 11.01 Charity Fund
- 11.02 Continued Charity
- 11.03 Other Provisions (optional)

DISCIPLINE

- 12.01 Discipline and Procedure

LODGE FUNDS

- 13.01 Use of Funds
- 13.02 Custody of the Treasurer
- 13.03 Disbursements
- 13.04 Other Provisions (optional)

LODGE PROPERTY

- 14.01 Sale or Conveyance
- 14.02 Construction, Repairs, Financing
- 14.03 Other Provisions (optional)

AUTHORITY OF GRAND LODGE

- 15.01 By-Laws Under Authority of Grand Lodge
- 15.02 Grand Lodge Laws Part of By-Laws
- 15.03 Grand Lodge Law Supreme

AMENDMENTS

- 16.01 Amendments

AUTHORITY

1.01 Charter.—This Lodge exists by virtue of a Charter, dated ____, from The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida, and is located *_____ in the county of _____ in this state.

(NOTE: *Fill in the most accurate description of the location as follows:

- (a) Street address (if any) in the (City or Town) of (Name)_____, or if in a rural area in the (Fractional) of Section_____ Township _____, Range _____ on road (Name or number) (Distance) miles (Direction) of (Nearest Town).

JURISDICTION

2.01 Territorial Jurisdiction.—The territorial jurisdiction of this Lodge shall be determined as provided by the Constitution and Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida.

2.02 Personal Jurisdiction.—This Lodge preserves the inherent right of exclusive, original jurisdiction over all its members wherever they may reside and over all Masons, to whatever Lodge they may belong, and over all dimitted Masons living within its jurisdiction subject only to the original and concurrent jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

- 2.03** Other Provisions.—(Optional)

MEMBERSHIP

3.01 General.—All Master Masons whose names are now upon the roll of members, and who shall hereafter petition and receive the Third Degree in, or affiliate with, this Lodge, shall be members thereof.

3.02 Dual.—Any member in good standing of a Particular Lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction with which The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida sustains fraternal relations, and the laws of which do not prohibit dual membership, may petition this Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; in such petitions all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the dual membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit; *provided* if such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of this Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge; *provided further*, that upon the suspension, or expulsion, of such member by the Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for dual membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from this Lodge; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of dual membership in this Lodge, shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit and his full membership in this Lodge; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to this Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of this Lodge to suspend such member from membership. (Optional) (1997)

3.02.1 Plural Membership. — A member in good standing of a Particular Lodge in Florida may petition this Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; regardless of any action that his home Lodge may or may not have taken with respect to accepting Plural Members. In such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the plural membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit. If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of this Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge, except, that such member shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed an Officer in more than one Particular Lodge at one and the same time; and *provided further*, that upon suspension, or expulsion, of such member by any Lodge of which he is a member, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from this Lodge; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of plural membership shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in a Particular Lodge in this

Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of plural membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to this Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of this Lodge to suspend such member from membership. (Optional) (2004)

3.03 Life.—

(a) Life memberships shall be of three classes:

(1) Life membership conferred by the Lodge upon payment of a fixed fee therefore which life membership shall exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue.

(2) Life membership conferred by the Lodge without payment of fee therefore which exempts recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue, and

(3) Life membership conferred by the Lodge which does not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue, and

(b) No life membership conferred for payment of fixed fee therefore and which shall exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue may be conferred for a fee of less than *\$ _____ dollars, which fee, in whatever amount fixed, shall be deposited or invested as hereinafter set forth.

(NOTE: *Insert amount, which must be not less than \$400.00.)

(c) No life membership which exempts recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue may be conferred by the Lodge without payment of fee therefore except upon the condition that the Lodge immediately set aside from its own funds for deposit or investment as hereinafter provided a minimum sum of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars except where the amount already in reserve funds is sufficient to equal two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per life membership at all times.

(d) All funds derived from fees for life memberships and all funds set aside by the Lodge upon conferring life membership without payment of fee therefore shall be invested in bonds of the United States of America or deposited in savings accounts in institutions where such savings accounts are insured or in such other securities or stocks as shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, the interest derived from such deposit or investment to be deposited in the General Fund of the Lodge.

(e) Upon the death, expulsion, dimit, or disappearance of a life member as provided in Regulation 26.06 the Lodge may withdraw the deposit provided for such life member or dispose of the government bonds purchased with the proceeds thereof and return said funds to the general funds of the Lodge.

(f) This Lodge may confer life memberships which do not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue without requiring any payment therefore by the life member or without making any deposit or investment by the Lodge.

(g) Each life membership of this Lodge shall be issued an annual card evidencing such life membership.

(h) No life membership conferred by this Lodge shall exempt such Lodge from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue. (Optional)

3.03.1 Perpetual.—Perpetual Memberships are authorized by Particular Lodges subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) Any member or Plural Member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a Perpetual Member of his Lodge pursuant to the provisions of this section. (2003)

(b) The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Secretary of his Lodge for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of the application, but in no event less than twenty (20) times the minimum dues prescribed in Regulation 24.05, Section 4.01 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws. The Lodge Secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certified he received the application.

(c) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Lodge Secretary. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Secretary. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the Perpetual Membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Secretary determines that the minimum fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge Secretary's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the Particular Lodge Secretary. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent Lodge Secretary for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a Certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Secretary to use computerized records.

(d) After the Perpetual Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for Perpetual Membership as of the date of the application.

(e) After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Article VI, Section 10 of the Constitution. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Lodge basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Lodge dues and Grand Lodge per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Lodge funds. The funds shall be audited annually as required in Article XIV, Section 7.

(f) A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Lodge of which he is a perpetual member. An annual dues card shall be issued by the Lodge Secretary who shall denote Perpetual Membership thereon. (Reg. 26.11)

(g) The Perpetual Membership fee, less any amount required to supplement net income to pay the constituent Lodge the first year's dues and per capita, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Net profit or loss from the sale of securities shall mean the profit or loss realized from the sale of securities. Earned Income shall mean the interest and dividends received reduced by any net loss realized from the sale of securities. The net profit from the sale of securities plus earned income shall be allocated to a sub-account for each member's account. Net income shall mean earned income plus 60% of the net profit from the sale of securities, less administrative costs. The net income, but not less than five percent (5%) of the fair market value of all assets in the Perpetual Membership Fund, shall be paid proportionately annually to each constituent Lodge for each perpetual member at the time of per capita billing. The amount paid shall first be deducted from the sub-account, as to each member, and, if that is insufficient, then from any existing separate "Capital Gains" account. Allocations shall be based on the principal in each member's account, plus the sub-account of each member as of the beginning of each year, all as shall be equitably determined by the Grand Secretary. (2001)

(h) The Grand Secretary shall, at the time of the annual net income distribution, submit a statement to the Lodge for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessment in effect at the time the member joined the plan. The Lodge shall, during the member's lifetime and thereafter, pay to the Grand Lodge the amount designated by the Grand Secretary's per capita statement. (2001)

(i) The obtaining of a Perpetual Membership in one Lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Lodge to which he belongs. Dual Perpetual Memberships are permitted.

(j) A perpetual member may affiliate under Chapter 41 of the Digest of Masonic Law. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Membership he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Membership fee shall remain with the Lodge of which he was a perpetual member.

(k) Any Certificate of Good Standing issued under Regulation 41.13 of the Digest of Masonic Law to a perpetual member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the Perpetual Membership fee which shall be transferred to the Particular Lodge in Florida with which he affiliates.

(l) If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of State, his Perpetual Membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

(m) If a Lodge consolidates, surrenders its Charter or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to that Lodge in the Perpetual Membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant Sections of the Constitution and Laws and Uniform Code dealing with consolidations, surrendering, and arrests of Charters.

(n) A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellow Craft Mason, or Master Mason of a Florida Lodge by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be \$200.00 (two hundred dollars). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

(o) A Brother, at any future time, may add any amount to his Perpetual Membership fee through his local Lodge Secretary.

(p) Applications for Perpetual Membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and the Grand Secretary shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

(q) Where perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary to report the names of such missing Brethren to the Grand Lodge on the membership report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased Perpetual Membership, but, this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Lodge and Grand Lodge for that perpetual member as set forth in sub-sections (g) and (h).

(r) There shall be no cost to the Constituent Lodge for administration of this program by the Grand Lodge. (1988)

(s) An Honorary Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person in honor of a living or deceased Master Mason by following the procedures provided for by Regulations concerning Honorary Memberships and as outlined in this section. The minimum fee for an Honorary Perpetual Membership shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

(t) A Perpetual Membership may be purchased by a 50-year Master Mason who meets the provisions of Regulation 26.12(d) by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) the total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge of which he is a member and twenty-five (25) percent to the Grand Lodge on the first \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of per capita billing. (2001)

3.04 Honorary.—Distinguished and revered Masons may be made honorary members of this Lodge by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication after having been proposed for membership by Resolution at some previous Stated Communication. Such membership imposes no duties or responsibilities and confers no rights or privileges except the right of visitation and speaking from the floor. Honorary memberships may be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication.

3.04.1 Honorary Perpetual.—Distinguished and revered living or deceased Masons of this or another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by The Grand Lodge of Florida may be made Honorary Perpetual Members of this Lodge by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication after having been proposed for membership at some previous Communication. Honorary Perpetual Memberships may be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication in which case all funds credited to his account shall be transferred to The Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

The minimum fee for an Honorary Perpetual Membership shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and must conform to Regulation 3.03.1 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws. The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

3.04.2 Each Particular Lodge shall have an account within the Perpetual Membership Fund titled the “Perpetual Friend Account.” The minimum donation that may be made to this account in the name of a single person or entity is \$200.00. The Grand Secretary shall issue a suitable certificate for each person or entity so donating. (1999)

The total amount of net income derived from this account shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

3.04.3 All monies paid for an Honorary Perpetual Membership of a Brother in a Particular Lodge may be credited toward the purchase by that Brother of a Perpetual Membership in that Particular Lodge. (2003)

3.05 Emeritus.—Each year upon written recommendation of its elective Officers a Lodge may, by majority vote, place upon the Emeritus List and remit the dues for such year to those members who from bodily infirmities or misfortune have become unable to pay dues, and in order for the Lodge to be exempt from payment to Grand Lodge of annual revenue on such emeritus members, the Worshipful Master and Secretary must certify on the annual return that each and every member of the Emeritus List is unable to pay dues because of bodily infirmities or misfortune, *provided however*, that any member of this Lodge who is a resident guest of the Masonic Home shall automatically be placed upon the Emeritus List.

3.06 Signing Roll of Members.—Every member is required to sign the Roll of Members with his own hand.

3.07 Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Members.—Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, though not entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of membership, are subject to discipline.

3.08 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

DUES AND SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT THEREOF AND REINSTATEMENT

4.01 Dues.—Every member of this Lodge shall pay to the Secretary, for the use of the Lodge, the sum of \$_____ per annum plus the Grand Lodge Per-Capita Assessment, which sum shall be due and payable in advance on or before the first day of each Masonic Year, which Masonic Year shall begin on the 28th day of December of each year and end on the 27th day of December of the following year, except life members, honorary members, and those members whose dues are remitted in accordance with Masonic Law. (2014)

4.02 Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues.—Every member of a Lodge who is six (6) months or more in arrears for dues shall be notified thereof by the Secretary, and in case of failure or refusal to come forward and pay his dues, or give satisfactory excuse, within three (3) months after such notification, may be suspended at the discretion of the Lodge.

Three (3) months after such notices have been served, if the dues still remain unpaid, the Secretary shall issue a summons or notice to the

delinquent to be present at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, to answer the charges of delinquency or neglect, and show cause why he should not be suspended.

Such notice or summons shall be served at least ten (10) days before the Communication appointed for the hearing. The Secretary's account shall be sufficient charge. If the Brother does not appear after service of notice, default shall be entered and a hearing shall proceed in his absence. At the hearing, the Secretary shall have prepared a list of such delinquent members in advance, as to such list; the Secretary shall read the names of each and every member contained in such list, after which the Worshipful Master may propound the following questions, addressing the same to the entire list of delinquents collectively:

Is the Brother six (6) months or more in arrears for dues?

Has he been duly notified of his indebtedness to his Lodge?

If the answers to said questions be in the affirmative, the Worshipful Master shall proceed by propounding the following question:

Has he given satisfactory excuse for non-payment?

If this answer is in the negative, vote may be taken as to the names contained in such list collectively, and if the vote be to suspend, such members shall stand suspended.

Any member of the Lodge may request a separate vote on any particular name or names, and if so requested, said separate vote shall be taken, or the Worshipful Master may order such separate vote in his discretion. Collective vote may be taken as above provided, on the remaining names of said delinquent list, as to whom separate votes are not requested. (Amended 1962 Proc. 298)

4.03 Reinstatement.—A member suspended for non-payment of dues can be reinstated only after a petition for reinstatement has been properly submitted which shall take the same course as a petition for the Degrees; *Provided*, any such petition which is rejected may be renewed by a new petition at the end of three (3) months from date of such rejection. A favorable vote of three-fourths of the members present by ball ballot or written secret vote shall be necessary to reinstate a suspended member.

4.04 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

COMMUNICATIONS

5.01 Stated Communications.—The Stated Communications of this Lodge shall be held at its hall on the _____ in each month at _____ o'clock, ____ m., provided that such Stated Communication may be suspended during the months of July, August, and September of each year by special action of the Lodge, and, *provided further*, that the place of meeting for any single or particular Stated Communication may be changed by special action of the Lodge when the occasion shall require it, *provided* that such change of meeting place is approved in writing by the District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic District in which this Lodge is situated and that written notice of such change of meeting place is given to the membership of the Lodge, and, *provided further*, that no business shall be transacted at such Communication held in such different place except that specifically mentioned in the notice to the membership.

5.02 Dispensing with Stated Communications.—By special action of the Lodge at a Stated Communication the next succeeding Stated Communication may be dispensed with, *provided, however*, this Lodge shall hold at least one Stated Communication in each month.

5.03 Change of Hour of Stated Communication.—By special action of this Lodge at any Stated Communication the hour of meeting of the next succeeding Stated Communication may be changed, *provided*, written notice of such special action of the Lodge changing such hour of meeting shall be given immediately to the membership.

5.04 Called Communication.—Communications may be called by the Worshipful Master, or in his absence from the Jurisdiction by the Warden next in line, at any time and at any place within the jurisdiction of the Lodge. Notice of the Called Communication to be held at regular meeting place of the Lodge may be given by announcement of such Communication at the Stated Communication preceding the date of such Called Communication or by written notice to the membership.

5.05 Notice.—Notice of Called Communications to be held at a place other than regular meeting place of this Lodge shall be by written notice to all the membership.

5.06 Business at Special Communications.—No business shall be transacted at any Called Communication except such business as is permitted to be transacted in Called Communications and named in

the call of such Communication. Certain business shall not be transacted at any Called Communication, to-wit:

- (a) Receiving petitions for Initiation or affiliation or balloting, except by permission of the Grand Master.
- (b) Reversing action of a Stated Communication.
- (c) Filing charges for unmasonic conduct.
- (d) Masonic trials.
- (e) Petitions for reinstatement and action thereon in all cases of suspension or expulsion for unmasonic conduct.
- (f) Any action acquiring or disposing of real estate.

5.07 Quorum.—The quorum of a Master Mason Lodge is three, a Fellow Craft Lodge, five, and an Entered Apprentice Lodge, seven. In the case of a Master Mason Lodge, three members of the Lodge are necessary to constitute a quorum, exclusive of the Tyler, who must be a member of some Lodge; if three members of the Lodge are present, the quorum necessary to open an E.A. or F.C. Lodge may be supplied with visitors, as the two latter Lodges are never opened, except for “Work and Instruction.”

5.08 Festivals.—The annual June and December Festivals shall be observed as convenience and sound discretion may dictate, in accordance with established usages.

5.09 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

OFFICERS

6.01 Officers.—The Officers are: a Master, whose title is Worshipful; a Senior Warden; a Junior Warden; a Treasurer; a Secretary; a Senior Deacon; a Junior Deacon; two Stewards and a Tyler; the first five of whom shall be elected by separate ballot, at the first Stated Communication in December in each and every year. The Master shall appoint the other Officers, but the Senior Warden may nominate the Junior Deacon; *provided*, that when, from any cause, the election is not held at the time above specified, the Master may order an election at any time thereafter, on or before December 27, but not afterwards, except by Dispensation from proper authority.

6.02 Chaplain and Marshal.—The Worshipful Master, if he so desires, may appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal.

6.03 Duties.—The duties of the Officers, jointly and severally, shall be such as are prescribed by the Constitution, Resolutions, and Edicts of The Grand Lodge of Florida, and the ancient established usages and customs of the Masonic Fraternity.

6.04 Secretary.—The Secretary shall keep full and accurate records of all proceedings of the Lodge, preserve all books and records of the Lodge, shall be ex-officio Librarian of the Lodge, and shall have custody of the Lodge Seal subject to the direction and control of the Worshipful Master.

6.05 Treasurer.—The Treasurer shall have custody of all Lodge funds, and shall keep full and accurate records of the receipt and disbursement thereof.

6.06 Reports.—The Treasurer and Secretary shall each present full written annual reports of the state of the Lodge finances as they appertain to their offices respectively, which shall be placed on file and noted in the records, and shall also report quarterly, when required to do so.

6.07 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7.01 Time of Election.—The election and appointment of the Officers of this Lodge shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed; *provided*, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, but not thereafter except by Dispensation from proper authority.

7.02 Manner and Method of Election.—In the election of Officers, nominations shall be made in writing to the Lodge Secretary prior to the opening of the first Stated Communication in December. The written nomination shall also include a statement from the Brother making the nomination that the nominee has agreed to accept the position if elected. Discussions regarding nominees for office may take place among Brethren, but not in open Lodge. A majority of all votes cast, respectively, shall determine. In each succeeding ballot for the same office, when more than two (2) members are voted for, the name or names of the Brother or Brethren having the lowest number of votes, shall, by order of the Master, be dropped; and all votes cast in derogation of said order shall not be counted. (2015)

7.03 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

BUSINESS OF THE LODGE

8.01 Master's Authority.—All appropriate business of general character shall be transacted in the Master Mason Lodge, under the special and absolute direction of the Master.

8.02 Reconsideration of Vote or Decision.—The vote or decision at a Stated Communication of the Lodge cannot be rescinded, altered, or amended at a Called Communication of the Lodge, nor at any subsequent Stated Communication unless the membership of the Lodge is given due notice of such proposed reconsideration.

8.03 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

FEES FOR THE DEGREES AND AFFILIATION

9.01 Fees for the Degrees.—The fee for the Background Check shall be \$___; for Initiation shall be \$___; for Passing \$___; and for Raising \$___. In every case the fee shall be paid to the Secretary in advance, without which no petition or application shall be read or announced, and in every case of rejection the fee shall be promptly returned from the treasury, upon the Master's order. (2009)

9.02 Fee for Affiliation.—The fee for the Background Check shall be \$___; the fee for Affiliation with this Lodge shall be \$___. (2009)

9.03 Other Provisions.—(Optional).

COMMITTEES

10.01 Committees of the Lodge.—There shall be the following standing Committees: Finance, Vigilance, Petitions, Masonic Education, Board of Relief, Charity, and Lodge Property. (2010)

10.02 Finance Committee.—The Finance Committee shall consist of the Senior Warden and up to six (6) members, including a Past Master of the Lodge, appointed by the Master, whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon all matters relating or appertaining to the financial concerns of the Lodge, which may be placed in their hands by the Lodge or any member thereof, or other person. They shall also examine carefully and fully, and report upon in writing within thirty (30) days after the close of the Masonic year, all the books, accounts, records, and vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary, or cause all of the same to be done by some competent person recommended by the Committee and approved by the Lodge. (2003)

10.03 Vigilance Committee.—The Committee on Vigilance shall be composed of the Junior Warden and two (2) members of the Lodge appointed by the Master, whose duty it is to exercise a watchful superintendence over the moral conduct of the Craft at all times, except during working hours of the Lodge; to correct all irregularities, so far as they can in keeping with the dignity, nature, and principles of the Fraternity, and to report, by charges, or otherwise, all matters necessary and proper for the vindication of Masonic Law and virtue.

10.04 Petitions Committee.—The Petitions Committee shall be composed of not less than three nor more than seven members, whose duty it shall be to cause each applicant for the Degrees before his petition has been received by the Lodge, to appear personally before the Committee to be interviewed and give such information as may be requested. The Committee shall make its report to the Worshipful Master, after which the petition shall take its usual course.

10.05 Committee on Masonic Education.—The Committee on Masonic Education shall be composed of not fewer than five members of knowledge, dedication, and tact, of which at least one shall be a Past Master and Chairman appointed by the Worshipful Master, who shall be responsible for reporting to the Master on the Candidate's progress through the Three Symbolic Degrees and Masonic Education Program as prescribed by Regulations 37.12 and 37.18.

The Committee on Masonic Education shall have a Sub-Committee for the Masonic Education of Candidates and shall be called the "Lodge Mentor's Committee."

1. This Committee shall be composed of Past Masters, very knowledgeable Brothers, or Brothers willing to invest the necessary time to become knowledgeable about all aspects of Freemasonry, with the same requirements for dedication and tact.
2. The Lodge Mentor **shall not** be the Catechism Instructor.
3. A Lodge Mentor is required to be knowledgeable in the following: Masonic history, tradition, decorum, conduct, Masonic Law, Lodge history, community history in regards to his own Lodge, and American history concerning Masonry.
4. The mentoring of Candidates shall be conducted according to the GL-200 Instruction Booklet in The Lodge System of Masonic Education.
5. This Committee shall report to the Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education on the Candidate's progress through the Three Symbolic Degrees and Masonic Education. (2010)

10.06 Board of Relief.—The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall constitute the Board of Relief and jointly shall draw upon the Charity Fund, from time to time, as urgent fraternal necessity and propriety may require. The board shall render to the Lodge quarterly reports of all disbursements, but in their discretion they may omit the name of any recipient thereof unless such recipient is the object of continued charity. The Board must be scrupulously careful that no worthy cry of distress reaches their ears in vain and no deserving needy hands seek their aid without response, if within their power to grant without causing material injury to the Lodge.

10.07 Investigation Committees.—Upon the Lodge receiving a petition for the Degrees, or for affiliation, or for reinstatement, or for dual membership, or for plural membership, the Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee of three members of the Lodge to inquire into the character and standing of the petitioner. Each member of the Committee shall investigate independently and submit his report in writing to the Lodge or authorize some Brother to report for him if unable to be present in person. The Committee may make a unanimous report or a divided report; *provided*, if only two members of the Committee report, the Worshipful Master, in his discretion, may proceed with the ballot if no objection is made thereto. Upon the filing of a report and acceptance thereof by the Worshipful Master and the Lodge, the Committee is automatically discharged. (2001)

10.08 Committee on Charity.—The Committee on Charity shall, under the direction of the Worshipful Master arrange:

1. That a portion of every Stated Meeting be set aside for a lecture, talk, or discussion of some Masonic or Community Charity or charitable endeavor and members of the Lodge urged to contribute to such charities.
2. Publication in the Lodge bulletin or Trestleboard, if one is published, an announcement of the programs above referred to.
3. That the Lodge offer its facilities at cost or below cost to groups or organizations who support, sponsor, or perform charitable services.
4. That the Lodge contribute to some, one or more community charity or charitable endeavors on a regular and frequent basis.
5. To advise with the Board of Relief in regard to fraternal need and assistance.

10.09 Committee on Lodge Property.—The Committee on Lodge Property shall be composed of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members appointed by the Worshipful Master whose duties it shall be to:

1. Promulgate and propose to the Lodge written Rules for government of use of the Lodge property.
2. Arrange schedules of meetings of other groups using Lodge property to avoid conflicts.
3. Make recommendations to the Lodge for improvements, repairs, additions, and renovations of Lodge property and for maintenance of Lodge Temple and grounds.
4. Under direction of the Worshipful Master and the Lodge, negotiate for agreements between the Lodge and other organizations using Lodge Property.
5. Enforce or report to proper Masonic authorities for enforcement of all Lodge and Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations.

10.10 Neglect of Committee Duty.—If a Committee or any member thereof neglect to perform the required duties, the Worshipful Master may discharge him or them and make a new appointment.

10.11 Attendance and Direction of Worshipful Master.—The Worshipful Master may attend and direct the deliberations of all Lodge Committees.

10.12 Other Committees.—(Optional)

CHARITY

11.01 Charity Fund.—There shall be a separate and distinct charity fund raised and sustained by voluntary contributions of the Brethren, to which attention should be called by the Worshipful Master at every Stated Communication of the Lodge. The Treasurer shall keep a separate account of this fund under the direct supervision of the Board of Relief, and he shall make a report thereon to the Lodge at the close of each Masonic year and at such other times as the Lodge or the Worshipful Master may direct.

11.02 Continued Charity.—Objects of continued charity must be considered by the Lodge.

11.03 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

DISCIPLINE

12.01 Discipline and Procedure.—Every violation of the Moral Code, as comprehensively embraced in the Ten Commandments, and recorded in the Holy Book of Law, every violation of the established Laws of Masonry, written or unwritten, by any member, will subject the offender to punishment by reprimand, suspension, or expulsion, as the Lodge may determine.

LODGE FUNDS

13.01 Use of Funds.—Lodge funds may be used for any purpose not unmasonic, when ordered by the Lodge.

13.02 Custody of the Treasurer.—The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Lodge, even when only held in trust, and all persons having any such funds shall deliver the same unto the custody of the Treasurer at the earliest possible time.

13.03 Disbursement.—The Treasurer shall keep the Lodge funds at all times, subject to the immediate control of the Lodge, and shall pay out none but return fees and charity funds, except by Lodge action, and the Master's written order, which in every instance, must constitute his voucher, *provided* that Lodge action is not required for the payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue and fees.

13.04 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

LODGE PROPERTY

14.01 Sale or Conveyance.—The Master and Wardens of Lodges shall not sell, convey, dispose of, or mortgage property of their respective Lodges, except by special action of the Lodge, at a Stated Communication, after due notice to the Lodge membership of such

contemplated action. All necessary documents, instruments, and papers relating to any such transaction required to be signed in behalf of the Lodge shall be executed in the name of such Lodge by the Worshipful Master under the Seal of such Lodge and attested by the Secretary of the Lodge. (1986)

14.02 Before proceeding with the construction of any new building or repairing, remodeling, or making additions to any old building, or the purchase of any property where the same involves incurring indebtedness by a Particular Lodge, or before proceeding with financing any loan or refinancing any debt, Particular Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to submit plans and specifications of any building to be purchased, erected, repaired, or remodeled, and complete financial statement and plan for financing the indebtedness to be incurred, to the Grand Lodge Properties Committee for review and then to the Grand Master for final action. The approval of plans for financing shall in nowise obligate the Grand Lodge for any indebtedness incurred by a Particular Lodge. All plans, specifications, statements, and other documents must be submitted in duplicate.

14.03 Other Provisions.—(Optional)

AUTHORITY OF GRAND LODGE

15.01 By-Laws Under Grand Lodge Authority.—These By-Laws are adopted under authority of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida and nothing herein shall be construed in anywise to conflict with the Constitution or Regulations of such Grand Lodge, but shall be construed in harmony therewith and to fully effectuate the intent and purpose of such Constitution and Regulations.

15.02 Grand Lodge Law Part of These By-Laws.—The terms and provisions of the Constitution and of the Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida are hereby specifically referred to and made a part of these By-Laws by reference and in all matters not dealt with herein the Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge shall control and govern this Lodge.

15.03 Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge Supreme Law.—The Constitution and Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida as the same now are or may hereafter be changed, altered, or amended shall be the supreme law of this Lodge and any By-Law or any part or portion thereof in conflict therewith shall be null and void.

AMENDMENTS

16.01 Amendments.—

(1) These By-Laws may be amended only as follows, viz: The proposition must be made in writing at a Stated Communication, and if approved by a majority vote, shall lie over to the next Stated Communication, of which the membership shall be given written notice; and if three-fourths of all the members of the Lodge then present vote in favor thereof, it is adopted, and will go into effect after approval of the Grand Lodge or its authority. Proposed By-Laws or amendments, after adoption by the Lodge, shall be submitted for approval in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 24.04.

(2) Any proposed amendment to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge or its authority, as follows:

Original and three copies of such By-Laws or revision signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon, shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary.

Rulings and Decisions

By-Law of a Lodge cannot disavow and disclaim jurisdiction over Masons sojourning within jurisdiction of the Lodge although such Masons may be members of other Lodges. (1956 Proc. 198)

By-Law of a Lodge relating to jurisdiction of Lodge must recognize original and concurrent jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. (1956 Proc. 198)

Lodge By-Laws cannot prescribe penalty for offense against Masonic Law. In each case the penalty shall be fixed by vote of the Lodge as provided by Regulation 44.50. (1956 Proc. 198)

By-Laws of a Lodge cannot prescribe mandatory "Order of Business" since the business of a Lodge must be transacted under absolute direction of the Master. (1956 Proc. 198)

(a) By-Laws of all Particular Lodges in conflict or inconsistent with the Uniform Code were repealed by action of the Grand Lodge in adopting the Uniform Code of By-Laws.

(b) The Uniform Code of By-Laws became the By-Laws of all Particular Lodges upon its adoption by Grand Lodge and each Lodge should insert information relative to fees, dues, etc., in the blanks in the Uniform Code; and, with the blanks in the Uniform Code thus filled in, the Uniform Code became the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, together with such By-Laws of the Lodge as had been regularly adopted and were not in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of the Uniform Code.

(c) The adoption of Section 5.01 of the By-Laws in blank did not have the effect of leaving any Lodge without a regular meeting time. The Uniform Code contemplated that each Particular Lodge would fill in the blanks in the Uniform Code with the information contained in their old By-Laws and that the Uniform Code, with such insertions, became the By-Laws of each Particular Lodge. (1959 Proc. 56, 164)

The Uniform Code of By-Laws may be translated into Spanish, published, and copies furnished to Spanish speaking members of the Lodge, but the official By-Laws in the custody of the Secretary of the Lodge shall be in the English language and constitute the controlling law of the Lodge, and all amendments to the Uniform Code of By-Laws shall be submitted in the English language but the Lodge may also translate such amendments into the Spanish language for use of Spanish speaking members of the Lodge. (1964 Proc. 65-66, 268)

By-Law 10.06 is not in conflict with By-Laws 13.02 and 13.03 of Uniform Code of By-Laws which require all Lodge funds to be in custody of Lodge Treasurer including the Charity Fund. (1970 Proc. 55, 284)

If a member wants to purchase a Perpetual Membership he shall pay twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge that is in effect on December 28th of that year. (1994 Proc. 101) (moved from pg. 243b)

The Lodge's By-Laws are binding upon a Perpetual Member and that enforcement for collection and/or penalty for non-payment of special assessments is the same as for basic dues. (2002 Proc. 101)

Honorary Perpetual Memberships require two separate actions: (1) the ballot for the Honorary Membership and (2) the purchase of the Perpetual Membership, which does not require a ballot. (2008 Proc. 106)

A Plural Member suspended or expelled for any cause from his Lodge of Original Membership shall automatically be suspended or expelled from all Florida Lodges in which he is affiliated. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member expelled or suspended for any cause other than non-payment of dues shall be automatically expelled or suspended from all Florida Lodges in which he is a member. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member suspended for non-payment of dues from a Lodge with which he is affiliated shall be automatically suspended from all Lodges with which he is affiliated but not from his Lodge of Original Membership. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

All Petitions requiring an investigation and a ball ballot, with the exception of a Petition for Plural Membership or a membership transfer from one Florida Lodge to another, require a Background Check. (2009 Proc. 121)

Any Lodge wishing to have an advance night for any purpose may do so at a Called Communication of the Lodge when called for that purpose. Or the Lodge may hold a practice night at the Lodge when wishing to demonstrate the proficiency of its Officers before advancing to the next highest Office. (2013 Proc. 131-132)

The terminology "twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of application" shall be the amount as stated in the By-Laws effective the day the Grand Master signed the By-Law Amendment due on or before December 28th for the ensuing year. In making this Ruling and Decision I refer to the fact that dues are payable in advance on or before December 28th of each year so the rate referred to for dues would be the amount due on December 28th of the year the By-Law Amendment is signed by the Grand Master. (2014 Proc. 123)

If one written nomination is made for one or more office(s) and no other written nomination has been made for such office(s), a motion can be made from the floor to elect the nominated member by Acclamation. Once the motion is seconded, the member(s) may be elected by a majority, show of hands vote by the members present, thereby completing the election process. If more than one (1) member is nominated in writing for any office, a majority vote by written ballot is required to complete the election process for that office. (2016 Proc. ____)

The term "annual dues" with reference to the purchase of a Perpetual Membership is defined as the total amount of dues owed to the Lodge PLUS the Grand Lodge per-capita assessment. If only the Lodge portion of the annual dues were considered in purchasing a Perpetual Membership, a short fall to the income distributed to the Lodge would be created. (2016 Proc. ____)

