

ORGANIC STRUCTURE

ART. 20. The organic structure of the Local Lodge shall be composed of the Council, Chairmen of appointed Committees, and Delegates which shall govern the affairs of the Local Lodge.

The Council is the administrative and controlling body of the Local Lodge when the assembly is not in session. The Council has the power to administer and control the affairs of the Local Lodge, but not the power to impose new assessments. The Council shall not incur expenses other than those necessary for the administration of the regular affairs of the Local Lodge. In case of emergency, the Council, by a majority vote thereof, may appropriate a sum of money, not to exceed \$300.00 with which to meet expenses incidental to such emergency; and the appropriation so made shall be reported to the assembly at its next meeting. The Council shall neither have the power to change or modify the deliberations of the assembly nor the power to change or modify the laws of the Local Lodge.

ART. 21. Unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge, the Local Lodge shall hold its election during the month of February of each year. At such election, the assembly is to elect:

- (a) The President
- (b) The Vice President
- (c) The Orator
- (d) The Recording Secretary
- (e) The Financial Secretary
- (f) The Treasurer
- (g) Five Trustees
- (h) Two Masters or Mistresses of Ceremony
- (i) The Guard
- (j) The Arbitration Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners

The Council is constituted of the President, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Orator, the Recording Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Treasurer, the five Trustees, the two Master or Mistresses of Ceremony and the Guard. The Council meets in ordinary session once each month and in special session whenever the meeting is called by the President or at the written request of five of its members.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Council, it shall be filled by holding a special election to fill such vacancy at the next regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Within fifteen days from the installation of officers, the Local Lodge shall require that the Financial Secretary and Treasurer be placed under bond in such amount as the assembly may determine, and the Local Lodge shall pay the premium for such bond. In case the Financial Secretary and Treasurer are required to receive funds in behalf of the Grand Lodge on account of mortuary or insurance benefits afforded by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge may adopt such requirements with regard to the posting of bond by such Financial Secretary and Treasurer as it may determine.

PRESIDENT

ART. 22. The President is the highest ranking officer and the leader of the Local Lodge and as such:

- (a) Calls and presides over all the meetings of the Council and of the assembly.
- (b) Sees that the laws of the Local Lodge are observed and the deliberations of the Council and of the assembly are carried out.
- (c) Sees that the laws of the Order are respected and observed, and the orders of the Supreme Lodge and of the Grand Lodge are obeyed.
- (d) Controls the affairs of the Local Lodge and supervises the performance of duties by the other officers of the Council.
- (e) Signs the minutes of the meetings of the assembly and all orders of payment, checks, correspondence and all documents which invest the responsibility of the Local Lodge.
- (f) Unless the laws of the Local Lodge provide otherwise, the President appoints all committees of the Local Lodge, of which the President is an ex-officio member.
- (g) Refrains from making proposals at the meetings of the assembly; participates in discussions only to clarify the issues presented, and votes only in case of a tie.
- (h) After hearing the opinion of the Orator, the President rules upon controversies involving the application of the laws. The member who disagrees with the ruling and the interpretation of the President shall appeal within 10 days to the State President, in case the Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and to the National President, in case the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.
- (i) When disorder arises in the meeting of the assembly or of the Council, the President may silence or censure the member or members causing such disorder. If such member or members persist in causing disorder, the President may fine, silence or expel the member or members from the hall or suspend the meeting.
- (j) May appoint a Chaplain whose primary duties shall be to conduct, whenever practicable, all religious exercises of the Local Lodge. The Chaplain shall also perform such other duties relating to the office, as shall be assigned to the office from time to time by the President.

VICE PRESIDENT

ART. 23. The Vice President is the second ranking officer of the Local Lodge. As such, the Vice President assists the President and takes the Presidents place when the President is absent or unable to act. In the absence of the President, the Vice President performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with like power which the President would have, if present.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

ART. 24. The office of Immediate Past President shall be given to the member who has served one complete term as President of the Local Lodge immediately preceding the incumbent. If, on account of death, disqualification, resignation or removal, the office of Immediate Past President becomes vacant, the office shall be filled from the preceding former Presidents in the inverted order of their tenure of office. In case there is no preceding former Presidents, the office of the Immediate Past President shall be filled by electing such officer from among the members of the Local Lodge who have served a full term as officers of such Local Lodge. The Immediate Past President assumes the office of President whenever the President and the Vice President are unable to act or are absent from the meeting of the Council or of the assembly, and performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with like powers as the President, if present.

ORATOR

ART. 25. The Orator gives opinions concerning the application and interpretation of the laws of the Order and sees that the laws of the Order are observed and properly applied. In matters which relate to the administration of the affairs of the Local Lodge, the Orator is subordinate to the President. In matters relating to the exercise of Judicial Power, the Orator is subordinate to the State or National Orator.

The Orator, either on the Orators own initiative or upon complaint being made to the Orator, shall have power to prefer written charges against a member who has violated the laws of the Order.

RECORDING SECRETARY

ART. 26. The Recording Secretary is the custodian of the archives and the keeper of the seal of the Local Lodge. The Recording Secretarys duties are:

- (a) To take and record the minutes of the meetings of the Council and of the assembly, which minutes are to be read at the successive meeting.
- (b) To make up and keep up to date the membership roll of the Local Lodge.
- (c) To care for correspondence and write letters which the Recording Secretary is directed to write by the President or other higher officer in the ranking units of the Order.
- (d) To be the sole officer through whom a member may communicate with the Grand Council.
- (e) To write and send notices for meetings.
- (f) To act as the clerk of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission when such Commission is in session, except in case the Recording Secretary is an interested party.
- (g) Within ten days after receipt, to forward to the State Recording Secretary all appeals referred or presented to the Recording Secretary by members because of administrative irregularities. The appeals when forwarded, shall be accompanied by a report of the views expressed by the

Council.

(h) To carry out all orders which the Recording Secretary may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher ranking officers of the Order.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ART. 27. The Financial Secretary is the collector and accountant of the Local Lodge. The Financial Secretary's duties are:

- (a) To collect dues and assessments, giving proper receipt therefor.
- (b) To write orders of payment, affixing the Financial Secretary's signature thereon, together with that of the President.
- (c) To present orders of payment to the Treasurer, who issues checks thereon, which checks the Financial Secretary presents to the parties to whom they are payable, exacting at the same time money due from such parties to the Local Lodge.
- (d) To make up and keep up to date financial records, particularly those entrusted to the Financial Secretary by the Grand Lodge or Supreme Lodge. Those financial records are: The ledger, the journal book, the financial statements, and the orders of payments.
- (e) To notify by mail those members who are in default with the payment of dues and assessments.
- (f) To announce members in default with the payment of dues and assessments to the assembly.
- (g) To communicate, at the end of each meeting of the assembly, the total collections and disbursements made on the day of the meeting.
- (h) To make a quarterly financial report, which report is to be audited and signed by no less than three trustees, a copy of which is to be sent to the State Financial Secretary.
- (i) To make payment of the Capita Tax, computed on the basis of the number of members listed on the membership roll at the end of each quarter, which payment shall be made, without the necessity of deliberation on the part of the assembly of the Local Lodge, not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th of each year.
- (j) To carry out all orders which the Financial Secretary may receive, in matters affecting the office, from the President and from higher ranking officers of the Order.

TREASURER

ART. 28. The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Local Lodge. The Treasurer's duties are:

- (a) To receive at the end of each meeting all money collected by the Financial Secretary and to issue proper receipt therefore.
- (b) To record in and keep up to date the Cash Book of the Local Lodge, in which record the Treasurer shall register monthly income and disbursements of the Local Lodge.
- (c) Not later than three days after each meeting, to deposit in previously designated banks the funds received by the Treasurer in accounts opened

in the name of the Local Lodge.

(d) To issue and sign checks upon the receipt of proper order of payment and consign them to the Financial Secretary for delivery to the payee thereof.

(e) To withdraw funds from savings accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge; provided the withdrawal slip bears the signature of the President, of the Financial Secretary, and of at least one Trustee, in addition to the Treasurers; and provided further that the assembly of the Local Lodge may dispense with the signature of the Trustee when deemed advisable.

(f) To carry out such orders which the Treasurer may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher ranking officers of the Order.

TRUSTEES

ART. 29. The Trustees supervise the affairs of the Local Lodge and are members of the Council. Their duties are:

(a) To examine and audit the books kept by the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the Local Lodge.

(b) To examine and audit the quarterly report of the Financial Secretary, certifying as to its correctness by affixing their signatures thereon; provided, however, that such report shall not be valid unless it bears the signature of no less than three Trustees in addition to that of the Financial Secretary.

(c) To perform such additional duties, in matters pertaining to their office, imposed upon them by the laws of the Order or by the deliberations of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

MASTERS AND/OR MISTRESSES OF CEREMONIES

ART. 30. The Masters and/or Mistresses of Ceremonies are officers of the Local Lodge who participate in ceremonial activities prescribed by the laws of the Order during the course of the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

GUARD

ART. 31. The Guard is the doorkeeper of the Local Lodge. The Guard's duty is to exclude strangers from the meetings of the assembly and to admit those members who have identified themselves by announcing their presence to the President, who, in turn, orders the Guard to either admit or exclude such members.

HERALD

ART. 32. The Herald is a ceremonial officer of the Local Lodge appointed for the occasion by the presiding officer during the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge. The duties of the Herald are to assist the presiding officer, in conformity to the laws of the Order and in due ritualistic form, on the occasion of the institution of the Local Lodge, the installation of officers and the initiation of

new members in the Local Lodge.

LOCAL LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

ART. 33. The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is the judicial tribunal of the Local Lodge. The rules and regulations which prescribe the mode of procedure, the jurisdiction, the powers and the revenue incident to the functioning of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission are set forth in the Judicial Code of the Order.

The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) regular members, known as Commissioners, and five alternate members, known as Alternate Commissioners. The Local Lodge Commissioners and the Local Lodge Alternate Commissioners are elected at the annual meeting for electing officers of the Local Lodge for a period of one (1) year and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Local Lodges holding biennial elections shall elect their Arbitration Commission members for a period of two (2) years and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be filled by the Alternate Commissioner who received the highest number of votes during the election of the Alternate Commissioners.

STATE DELEGATES

ART. 34. The State Delegates are the representatives of the Local Lodge who represent it at the Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge. The State Delegates and their alternates are to be elected by the assembly of the Local Lodge once every two years and their number shall be that which is fixed by the laws of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge may permit the President of the Local Lodge to be an ex-officio member of its State Delegation.

Suggested Committees

Communications Committee
Budget Committee
Membership Committee
Charities Committee
By-Laws Committee
Scholarship Committee
Events / Social Committee

Think about what committee you have most interest in participating on. Committees usually choose their own chair and come up with their own criteria and schedules. Chairs of committees report each month as appropriate at general or board meetings.