

*Masters & Wardens Association
Of The
Fifteenth Masonic Districts*

BY-LAWS (REVISED)

I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the “Masters & Wardens Association” of the Fifteenth Masonic Districts.

II – MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Association shall consist of the two District Deputy Grand Masters of Districts 15-A and 15-B and all Master Masons who are members in good standing in any Lodge holden under the Grand Lodge of Virginia within the Fifteenth Masonic Districts.

All Master Masons in good standing are encouraged and welcome to attend the regular meetings of the Association.

III – PURPOSES

To bring the several Lodges of these Districts into closer fraternal relations , thus making a contribution to the ongoing programs of Freemasonry in this area;

To discuss matters of mutual interest to the Craft in general and such other matters as the officers and members may desire to bring to the attention of the Association;

To sponsor, promote, and cooperate with programs intended to advance the interests of the Masonic Fraternity or any appendant body thereto with the permission of the proper authorities;

To inform the membership at each meeting of any Brother or member of his family who may be hospitalized or be, in any way, incapacitated or in distress.

IV – OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. There shall also be appointed a Chairman of the Committee of the Ill and/or Distressed.

V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs and of all meetings of the Association, shall provide any and all programs of interest at meetings, and be responsible for the printing and dissemination of the editions of the “GRIP”, the official publication of the Association.

The President and Vice-President shall be jointly responsible for the arrangements and details of the official visit of the Grand Master to the Fifteenth District.

V – DUTIES (cont'd)

The President and Vice-President shall be jointly responsible for the arrangements and details of the District Memorial Service in memory of our deceased brethren. This service will be held on the first Sunday in June at the Chapel at the Masonic Home of Virginia, 500 Masonic Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23223-5557.

In the event of the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall conduct the meetings of the Association during such absence.

The duty of the Secretary shall be to keep a written record of all meetings and transactions of the Association and perform all other duties pertaining to his office.

The Treasurer shall receive all monies due to the Association from any activities whatsoever, keep a fair and concise record of all receipts and disbursements for the Association and perform all other duties pertaining to his office.

VI – ELECTIONS

The President and Vice-President shall be elected from the two District Deputy Grand Masters of the Fifteenth District for the current year. The Brother receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as President; the Brother receiving the second highest number of votes shall be elected as Vice-President.

A secret ballot must be taken for the office of President and for any other office for which there is more than one nominee.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be Past Masters of the Fifteenth Masonic Districts. The President shall have the first nomination for each of these offices. All other nominations, if any, shall come from the floor at the time of the elections.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Ill and/or Distressed shall be appointed by the President and will serve during his term of office.

VII – MEETINGS

The Association shall meet at the Westhampton Masonic Temple, 9290 Three Chopt Road, Richmond VA, at 8:45 AM on the Fourth (4th) Saturday of every month EXCEPT the months of June, July, August, and December. The President has the authority to change the meeting date from the 4th Saturday to another if the 4th Saturday falls on a Holiday Weekend or conflicts with another Masonic Event of higher importance. (Membership must be notified of the change in advance)

When there will be a Breakfast prior to any meeting it will be served at 8:00 AM and the business portion of the meeting will convene at 8:45 AM.

The President may designate another location or call special meetings as he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the Lodges of the District.

VIII – DUES

The Lodges of The Fifteenth Masonic Districts shall be requested to make an annual contribution of \$ 50.00 for the administration of the affairs of the Association.

IX – ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Advisory Committee is established to assist any and all Lodges of the Fifteenth District in any manner requested by any of the constituent Lodges. The purpose of the committee is to lend its combined expertise to attempt to resolve conditions or problems that may arise within the Districts.

The Committee will be composed of the two District Deputy Grand Masters of the current year, the immediate Past President of the Association, one Past Master, three Committeemen elected at-large, and others as deemed necessary by the committee.

One Committeeman will be elected by the Membership for a Term of Three Years at every November meeting to replace the Committeemen whose term has expired. The terms of the Committeemen Elected at Large are as follows: one will serve three (3) years, one will serve two (2) years, and the third will serve one (1) year. All others on the committee serve at the pleasure of the President

The Chairman of the Committee will be elected by the District Deputy Grand Masters of the current year.

*** The in-coming nominees for DDGM of the Fifteenth Masonic Districts shall be ex-officio members ***

X – ASSOCIATION CLASSES

Class names shall be Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Master.

The Association's current President shall appoint a Sponsor for the Junior Deacon Class. The Appointee's name shall be announced during the Association's November meeting. He shall remain with this class through their completion of one (1) year as Worshipful Master (5 Year Obligation).

The Sponsors shall be proficient in the requirements of a Warden's Certificate, stationed officer duties and ritual mechanics.

The Association Secretary shall provide to the new sponsor the names, addresses, and phone numbers for all incoming Junior Deacons and a copy of the Association's By-Laws by the end of December.

Classes shall meet monthly to conduct class business and ritual practice with the exception of June, July, August and December. Meetings during those months are at the class's discretion.

Each class shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Chaplain. Terms of office are at the class's discretion. Vacancies will be filled in a timely manner.

Article X – Continued:

Officer's Duties shall be:

Sponsor: Exemplify the principles of Freemasonry. Attend class meetings. If in the event the Sponsor must be absent he will secure a substitute with knowledge and skills to teach the class. Promote brotherhood between class members. Encourage a positive balance between the member's family, religious preference and membership in Masonic Bodies. Give instruction on the requirements of a Warden's Certificate, stationed officer duties and ritual mechanics.

President: Conduct business meetings, ensure remaining officers fulfill their duties, plan social activities and encourage member participation.

Secretary/Treasurer: Record and maintain minutes from meetings to include members present and absent, reports and announcements. Prepare all correspondence to include notes of recognition, such as birthdays and thank you notes. Record monetary income and expenditures maintaining all receipts. Provide a monthly report.

Chaplain: Invoke the blessing of Deity to begin meetings or at other appropriate times. Report on the sickness or distress of members, their families or significant others and provide appropriate correspondence.

Each officer shall maintain a current list of members' names, addresses and phone numbers.

The effective date of this Article is November 17, 2018.

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be changed or amended when an amendment has been proposed at a regular meeting of the Association, must lay over to the next regular scheduled meeting after notification to the membership of the same has been published in the "GRIP", and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present to adopt the proposed amendment.

These By-Laws were read, discussed, voted on and adopted by a majority of the Members present at the regular meeting of the Association on November 17, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry W. Woo, President

Previously Adopted Amendments

Article IV – 05-26-79

Article VI – 05-26-79

Article VII – 10-24-09

Article V – 10-24-09

Articles I – IX – 03-27-10

Article X - 01-01-16

All Articles Amended 11-17-18