

BY- LAWS
MONROE LODGE No. 27
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS



MONROE, MICHIGAN

March, 1999 Edition

ARTICLE I

STYLE AND TITLE

This lodge shall be known and hailed as Monroe Lodge No. 27, F.& A.M., under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Michigan.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Regular Communication of this Lodge shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, provided, that should the second Wednesday fall on a holiday, the Regular Communication shall be held on the following Wednesday.

Section 2. The Worshipful Master may call Special Communications at any time not otherwise prohibited by Grand Lodge Regulations, by giving due and timely notice.

ARTICLE III

LODGE OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Lodge shall consist of the Worshipful Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Chaplin, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, necessary Stewards, a Marshall, a Tiler, and a Board of Trustees consisting of three members.

Section 2. The first five Officers named in Section 1 of this article shall be elected by ballot and by a majority of the votes cast at the Regular Communication of November in each year. The following Officers shall also be elected by ballot at the same meeting: a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, and further one Trustee shall be elected for a term of three years. The following Officers shall be appointed by the newly elected Worshipful Master at the same meeting: a Marshal, necessary Stewards, a Chaplin, and a Tiler.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The duties of the several officers shall be as prescribed by Grand Lodge Regulations (4.16.4 and following) and those hereinafter provided.

Section 2. The Secretary shall notify members of all communications of the Lodge through a publication adopted by the members; notify each candidate of his election or rejection; furnish the chairman of every committee with the names of his associates together with a memorandum of the subject confided to them by the Lodge; serve as an ex-officio member the Delinquent Dues and Assessments Committee; prepare and have printed on or before the Regular Communication in February a roster of the Lodge, the same to be available upon request to the members of Monroe Lodge only; adhere strictly to the requirements of Article IX, Section 2 of these By – Laws; and at the expiration of this term of office transfer all books, papers and other property of the Lodge in his custody to his successor.

Section 3. The Treasurer ~~and Secretary~~ shall submit to the Lodge at each Regular Communication a written report of the financial condition of the Lodge in detail.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to guard the interests of the Lodge in all matters of joint concern with other Masonic Bodies pertaining to the Temple and the property contained herein and to perform such other duties as may be imposed by the Lodge or directed by the Worshipful Master. ~~The Trustees are the liaison between the Lodge and the Temple Board Association. They shall have charge of all notes, deeds, bonds, mortgages, and other evidences of the monies owing the Lodge and shall make such investments and in such manner and amount as determined by the Lodge. They shall also have general supervision of all property of the Lodge and repairs, insurance, improvements, etc., and at each Regular Communication they shall report their action, if any, to the Lodge for approval.~~

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Tiler to attend and open the Lodge Room at the hour appointed for meetings and make all necessary preparation for the communication; to see that the Lodge Room, clothing, furniture, etc., are kept clean and in good condition.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the Stewards to prepare the candidates for the ceremony of the several degrees and to furnish proper refreshments and other necessities for the Lodge when required, keeping an account of the same.

ARTICLE V

COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

The Secretary ~~and Tiler~~ shall receive such sums as salary for the ensuing year as the Lodge may determine at the Annual Communication, ~~which is held at the December Stated Meeting~~. The Secretary shall be exempt from the payment of Annual dues including per capita levied by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VI

VACANCIES IN OFFICE

In case a vacancy occurs in any office, except that of Worshipful Master, the same shall be filled as follows:

The Treasurer, Secretary, or Trustee must be elected by a majority of the votes cast at any Regular Communication provided the members are duly notified of such vacancy and the time of the election.

Any other office, elective or appointive, shall be filled by appointment of the Worshipful Master.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens shall, by the virtue of their office, constitute a Committee on Relief, and the Worshipful Master may draw a warrant on the Treasurer for an amount not to exceed fifteen (~~\$15~~ 50) dollars in any one case of need. In case of dire need the amount may be increased to thirty (~~\$30~~ 100) dollars by and with the consent of the full committee.

Section 2. The Worshipful Master shall, no later than his installation, appoint the following Standing Committee, who shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are appointed.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee shall consist of three or more members, shall audit all bills filed with the Secretary and shall audit the books of the Treasurer and Secretary and render its report to the Lodge at the annual Communication for each year. In addition, this Committee shall prepare each year, in advance for Lodge consideration and approval at the Annual Communication, a budget covering anticipated expenses and estimated income for the ensuing Masonic year.

DELINQUENT DUES AND ASSESMENTS

The committee on Delinquent Dues and Assessments, consisting of three or more members, shall investigate each case of delinquency shown on the Secretary's report to the Worshipful Master in May of each year, and after personal interviews with all delinquents within the area and by correspondence with those outside the territory, report to the Worshipful Master and the Lodge at the first subsequent Regular Communication. The Worshipful Master and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of this Committee. **If no committee is appointed, it shall consist of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens.**

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee on Membership shall consist of no less than five members. At least three members of the Committee on Membership shall interview each petitioner, who shall present his Letter of Inquiry to the Committee. At least one member of the Committee shall make a report to the Worshipful Master and the Chairman of the Investigating Committee on the qualifications of the candidate. This action shall not relieve the Investigating Committee from making a home call and interviewing the business acquaintances of the applicant, but they are obliged to investigate further any suspicious or questionable findings of the Membership Committee.

MASONIC HOME

~~A Committee on the Masonic Home consisting of three or more members, one of whom shall be the Junior Deacon; whose duty shall be:~~

- ~~A) To be sufficiently informed to answer, or obtain answers, to all Lodge questions pertaining to the Masonic Home.~~
- ~~B) To serve as liaison between the Lodge and the Masonic Home in all joint Lodge and Home endeavors.~~
- ~~C) To keep in touch with the Home Board of Control for the mutual benefit of the Lodge and the Masonic Home.~~
- ~~D) To assist in such other Lodge and Home activities as the Grand Master may direct.~~

Section 3. The Worshipful Master may appoint such other special committees as need or experience shall dictate. The Worshipful Master shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees.

ARTICLE VIII

FEES

Section 1. The fee for the Entered Apprentice Degree *must* accompany the petition and the Fees for the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees must, in each case, be paid previous to the applicant receiving the degree.

Section 2. The fees for conferring the degree shall be as follows:

For the Entered Apprentice Degree	\$50.00
For the Fellowcraft Degree	\$50.00
For the Master Mason Degree	\$50.00

~~Section 3. An additional fee of \$5.00 shall be collected from each newly initiated Entered Apprentice, pursuant to the Grand Lodge Regulations on Revenues.~~

ARTICLE IX

DUES

Section 1. Every member of the Lodge, including Plural members, except the Secretary, Honorary members, Life members, Prepaid members, and those whose dues shall have been remitted for charitable purposes, shall pay annually to the Secretary ~~\$40.00~~ **\$73.50** ~~Forty Dollars~~ ~~plus \$1 dues increase per year for the next ten years starting January 1, 2000,~~ plus any per capita and special assessments levied by the Grand Lodge, which shall be due and payable January 1st each year in advance. Members raised or affiliated by ~~Demit~~ **during the calendar year are exempt from dues.** ~~first quarter of the year are liable for dues for the entire year, during the second quarter for three quarters, during the third quarter for one half and during the last quarter for one quarter years dues; plus any special assessment or per capita levied by the Grand Lodge.~~ Provided further, that the dues of a Brother admitted by Certificate of Transfer shall begin to run at the time provided in Grand Lodge Regulations.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to mail to each member, together with the notice of the Annual Communication, a statement of his dues account. Not later than the Regular Communication of February and March, he shall send to all members still owing dues second and third statements of account which shall be plainly marked "second" and "third" notices respectively. At the Regular Communication held in ~~April~~ **May**, he shall furnish the Worshipful Master, in writing, with the names of all members owing dues. This list shall be referred to the Delinquent Dues Committee for investigation and report pursuant to Article VII, Section 2, hereinbefore. **At the September Regular Communication, members that are still delinquent shall**

~~be voted on for NPD. At that time, unless satisfactory reasons for not doing so appear, the Worshipful Master shall order the Junior Warden to prefer charges against the Brothers in arrears and press each case to speedy conclusion, observing at all times the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge in such cases provided, and preserving the prerogatives of the Lodge and its officers.~~

Section 3. The applicant for restoration following withdrawals shall send the current year's dues in full if his application is made during the first half of the year, or one-half the current year's dues if made during the last half of the year.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be altered, amended or replaced in the following manner:

Notice of such proposed change shall be presented in writing at a Regular Communication, read to the Lodge and spread upon the minutes. It shall lie over until the next Regular Communication before being acted upon. It shall then require the concurrence of two thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting in order to be adopted and the approval of the Most Worshipful Grand Master before becoming effective.

Voted on and passed at our Regular Communication on March 10, 1999