

Freedom Military Lodge No. 1775, F.A.A.M.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Communications

The Stated Communication of Freedom Military Lodge No.1775, F.A.A.M. shall be held on the last Weekday of the fifth week of each month, at 7:30 o'clock, P.M., except that in November it shall meet on the second Saturday, at 4:30 o'clock, P.M. and there shall be no meeting in December.

ARTICLE II

Officers

Section 1. In addition to the officers whose election is provided for by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, namely, the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Secretary, and Treasurer, there shall be a Chaplain, Master of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, and Tiler. The Worshipful Master will appoint the Chaplain, Master of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Tiler.

Section 2. The election of officers shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year and at that time there shall also be elected a representative to the St. John's Mite Association to serve for a period of one year; a representative to the Masonic Foundation to serve for the period of one year; and a representative to serve on the Board of Directors of the MESH, Inc. for a period of one year. Trustees shall also be elected, in accordance with Article IX.

Section 3. The officers elected and appointed in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 shall be installed prior to the 3rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge F.A.A.M. of the District of Columbia.

Section 4. The Secretary, Treasurer and Tiler, after ten years tenure in office shall, upon honorable separation from office, be awarded the title of Emeritus.

Section 5. The Worshipful Master upon completion of his service as Master shall be presented with a Past Master's Jewel and Apron or a gift of his choice not to exceed the cost of a jewel or apron. If additional years are served, a gift of his choice not to exceed \$300.00 is given for each year served. In the event a Master does not serve a full year, a vote of the Lodge will determine award of the jewel and apron. Upon presentation, the Past Master's jewel remains the property of the lodge. The return of the jewel to the Lodge upon the death of the recipient is expected.

ARTICLE III

Fees

Section 1. The fee for conferring the degrees shall be \$150.00 to be paid as follows: \$50.00 before receiving the Entered Apprentice's Degree, \$50.00 before receiving the Fellowcraft's Degree, and \$50.00 before receiving the Master Mason's Degree. Active duty Military shall pay one half the regular fee except where Section 3 or 4 is applicable.

Section 2. The fee for affiliation shall be \$50.00, except for active duty Military and those living outside of the 50 mile radius of Washington, DC who shall pay \$25.00. Payment is to accompany the petition for affiliation. This fee shall cover the first year's dues.

Section 3. Clergymen not engaged in secular occupation may receive the degrees without payment of fee.

Section 4. A man, 25 years of age or younger shall, pay \$55.00 for the three Degrees, to be paid in full before receiving the Entered Apprentice's Degree.

ARTICLE IV

Dues

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Tiler; and Clergymen not engaged in secular occupation shall be exempt from the payment of dues, and upon earning the title of Emeritus in their respective offices, the Secretary, Treasurer and Tiler shall become Life Members. Actual Past Masters of this Lodge who have paid their dues to this Lodge for a total of ten (10) years shall become Life Members.

Section 2. The annual dues of each member not exempted from the payment thereof shall be \$50.00 if living within the 50 mile Washington, DC area or \$25.00 if active duty Military or living outside the Washington, DC area, per year payable on the first day of October. The disposition of special assessments as levied by the Grand Lodge shall be determined by Lodge action.

Dues shall be paid during the current Masonic year and non-payment of these dues by the last day of August of the current Masonic year will subject the affected member to be dropped from the rolls of the Lodge by Lodge action at the next Communication. Dues shall be charged pro rata from the first date of the month in which the member was raised, affiliated, or reinstated.

ARTICLE V

Perpetual Membership

Any Brother may purchase a Perpetual Membership at the cost of twenty times the annual fee. All monies paid under this plan shall be deposited by the Trustees in the investment fund. The investment fund may be used to pay dues and Grand Lodge assessments for perpetual and life members.

ARTICLE VI

Life Membership

Any member fulfilling 50 years of continuous service in the Fraternity shall be exempt from payment of any future dues or assessments.

ARTICLE VII

Honorary Membership

A Brother not a member of Freedom Military Lodge, No. 1775 may be elected an Honorary Member of this Lodge for eminent services to Masonry or faithful and extensive service to advance the interest of this Lodge; provided, that no action shall be taken on any recommendation for Honorary Membership until one lunar month after a name has been presented to the Lodge at a Stated Communication and, furthermore, that an unanimous ballot shall be necessary to elect a Brother to Honorary Membership. An Honorary Member shall be exempt from the payment of dues and assessments, and shall not be entitled to ballot or vote.

ARTICLE VIII

Standing Committees

Section 1. There shall be 4 standing committees: A Welfare Committee, a Finance Committee, a Work and Lectures Committee, and a Committee on Masonic Education. Committees will be of not less than (3) Members each. The Worshipful Master shall appoint the Committees to Investigate Petitioners, and any other Committee he shall deem necessary. The Worshipful Master shall be Ex-Officio a member of all Committees in accordance with accepted traditions of the Fraternity.

Section 2. The Welfare Committee shall investigate all applications for relief and/or other charitable purpose and report findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Lodge. The Committee may authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$250.00 to meet emergency conditions on the concurrence of two of its members. The Committee shall report annually at the Called Communication in the 4th quarter on the expenditures authorized during the proceeding Masonic year. No application shall be considered by the Lodge nor any appropriation made for the relief of a Brother while he is within the Lodge.

Section 3. It is recommended that the Worshipful Master appoint to the Finance Committee the Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden and Sr. Deacon, who shall audit all accounts referred to it; examine the books, accounts and vouchers of the Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees, make an inspection of the assets of the Lodge held by the Trustees, and review a detailed statement prepared by the Treasurer of the receipts and disbursements of the Lodge for the year ending September 30; of the indebtedness owing to the Lodge and by the Lodge and submit the same to the Lodge for approval by majority vote of the members present at the first Stated Communication in the 4th quarter of each year.

The Committee shall also prepare and submit to the Lodge at the same communication an annual budget in which shall be detailed the estimated revenue and expenditures of the Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year.

This Committee may also call upon any Past Master or member of the Lodge to assist them as additional Committee members

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Work and Lectures Committee to instruct the officers of the Lodge in the ritual of the three Degrees and shall make a report to the Lodge on the first Stated Communication in the 4th quarter on the proficiency of the officers.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Education to oversee the instruction of Candidates receiving the several Masonic Degrees, and to present instruction to the Lodge in general.

ARTICLE IX

Trustees

Section 1. There shall be 3 Trustees of the Lodge elected by ballot for a period of 3 years except the first trustees shall be elected one each for one, two and three years. A Trustee completing a 3 year term can not be immediately reelected. Any vacancy that may occur shall be filled by ballot at the second Communication after the vacancy occurs and after due notice shall have been given to the Lodge membership, except as provided for below. All vacancies that exist on the first Stated Communication in the 4th quarter may, at the discretion of the Master, be filled by ballot at that time and declaration by the Master to the Lodge members present that such a vacancy or vacancies exist shall constitute due notice to Lodge membership. Whenever a Trustee becomes incapacitated due to illness, or other reason which prevents him from functioning as a Trustee, a vacancy shall be considered to exist among the Trustees and such shall be filled in a manner stated above. Such incapacitation shall be determined by a special committee appointed by the Master. The Committee report shall be read in open Lodge and the Master shall on the basis of the report declare that a vacancy exists among the Trustees. The Master may appoint a temporary trustee to fill a vacancy until such time the new Trustee is elected. The member of the Trustees serving in the third (final) year of his Trusteeship shall be the Chairman of the Trustees except the first trustees where the trustee in the last year of his term shall be the chairman.

Section 2. The title to all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, except funds of the Lodge in custody of the Treasurer shall be vested in the Trustees and their successors in office in trust for use of the Lodge. No part of the principal of investment funds vested in the Trustees shall be used for Lodge operations unless a request to do so is presented at a Stated Communication, held over one lunar month with timely notice given to the members of the Lodge and approved by majority vote of the members present. Funds for the payment of Annual Grand Lodge Dues and Assessments for Life Members shall be transferred by the Trustees to the Treasurer at the first Stated Communication of the 3rd Quarter.

Section 3. No Trustee shall have any pecuniary interest in any invested funds or in any business or corporation transacting business with the Lodge whereby a conflict of interest could develop except that this restriction shall not apply to bona fide shareholders in a financial institution or public traded corporation.

Section 4. The Trustees and their successors forever are empowered to Institute any suit or action deemed necessary by and in behalf of the Lodge for its use or benefit, or to defend any suit brought against them as representatives of the Lodge.

ARTICLE X

Grand Lodge Voting

The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden or their proxies shall cast their votes at Grand Lodge communications. The Past Master's vote shall be cast by the senior Actual Past Master present, not otherwise voting, after polling the other Past Masters.

ARTICLE XI

Salaries

For the faithful performance of their duties the Secretary, Treasurer and Tiler shall receive such compensation as the Lodge may direct.

ARTICLE XII

Appropriations and Amendments

Section 1. No appropriation shall be made for any purpose, except for charity, other than the necessary and current expenses of the Lodge unless there be at the time in the hands of the treasurer the amount to be appropriated over and above all existing liabilities of the Lodge.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment to these By-Laws must be presented in writing and read at a Stated Communication and shall lie over one month with due notice being given to the membership; a 60% vote of the members present being necessary to adopt.

Section 3. No part of these By-Laws can be temporarily suspended.

These By-Laws, having been presented to and approved by the Lodge on October 26, 2006, and as corrected on January 30, 2008; having been presented to the Grand Lodge for review and approval; and having received approval of the Grand Lodge at the Communication on March 29, 2008 are considered to be adopted and in effect since the original date of approval by the Lodge.