

Mount Vernon Lodge No. 14

Free & Accepted Masons

By - Laws



Georgetown, Kentucky

ARTICLE I

Meetings

Section 1. The stated meetings of this Lodge shall be held on the first and third Monday nights of each month, and on the anniversary of Saint John's Day, the 27th of December, except when December 27th shall fall on Sunday; in which event the meeting may be held on the day before or the day after at the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master Elect. Installation of officers will occur in the month of December, following the election of officers, on a date decided by the Worshipful Master Elect. In the event that a regular meeting shall fall on a holiday, a regular meeting shall be held at the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master. There shall be at least one regular meeting per month.

Section 2. Called meetings may be ordered by the Worshipful Master or in his absence by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both by the Junior Warden.

Section 3. The Junior Past Master shall preside in the absence of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden.

Section 4. The regular hour for all stated and called meetings shall be at 7:30 PM. The Worshipful Master may for convenience change these hours for any particular meeting.

Section 5. RULES OF ORDER

- (a) The Worshipful Master may speak to points of order in preference to other members, and shall decide all questions of order, subject however, to an appeal from such decisions to the Lodge upon motion being made and seconded.
- (b) When a member rises to speak he shall respectfully address himself to the Worshipful Master.
- (c) No member shall speak more than twice upon any question without leave of the Lodge, nor more than once until every member present wishing to speak shall have been heard.
- (d) Every member present, when a question is put, shall vote thereon, unless for reasons given he shall be excused by the Lodge.
- (e) Every motion shall be reduced to writing before debate, if required or requested by a member.
- (f) When a question is under discussion, no motion can be made, unless to amend, to commit, to postpone for the previous question, to refer it, to lay on the table.
- (g) When the previous question shall have been moved and seconded, the question shall be "shall the main question be now put" and if upon each question the nays prevail, the main question shall not then be put.
- (h) On motion of the previous question no members shall be permitted to speak more than once.

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- (i) No member but one of the majority which decided a question shall be permitted to move a reconsideration of the same question.
- (j) While a member is speaking no other member should entertain any private discourse nor pass between the speaker and the chair.
- (k) When the Lodge shall have been opened it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to call:
 - 1. Introduction of Guests
 - 2. Reading minutes.
 - 3. For petition to be presented.
 - 4. For petition to be acted upon.
 - 5. For report from Standing Committees.
 - 6. For report of Select Committees.
 - 7. Sick and distressed.
 - 8. Correspondence.
 - 9. Deferred business.
 - 10. Payment of dues.
 - 11. New business.
 - 12. Work.
 - 13. Good of the Order.

Section 6. On motion to adjourn there shall be no debate.

ARTICLE II Officers of the Lodge

Section 1. The elected officers of the Lodge shall consist of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Tiler. The remaining officers of the Lodge shall be appointed by the Master. The appointed officers of the lodge are the Senior and Junior Deacon, the Senior and Junior Stewards, the Marshal, the Chaplain, and the Trustees.

Section 2. The elected officers shall be chosen by ballot as required by the constitution and shall continue in office until their successor are duly elected and installed.

ARTICLE III Officers' Duties

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Section 1. TREASURER

- (a) To receive all money of the Lodge from the Secretary; give receipt therefore, and safely deposit same subject to withdrawal by check on warrant of the Secretary countersigned by the Master.
- (b) To give bond with good and sufficient surety, the minimum amount of which will in no instance be less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), premium payable by the Lodge.

Section 2. SECRETARY

- (a) To keep current minutes of the transactions of the Lodge.
- (b) To collect and receive all money of the Lodge; keep true account thereof, and promptly pay the same to the Treasurer, taking receipt thereof.
- (c) To have charge of the seal of the Lodge, and affix the same to all papers and documents requiring it.
- (d) To issue notices to attend the stated and called meetings of the Lodge under the direction of the Master.
- (e) To issue summons when directed by the Lodge.
- (f) To promptly make the returns required by Sections 153-156 of the Constitution and remit to the Grand Secretary the amount of dues and other indebtedness owed by the Lodge to the Grand Lodge. After each election he shall immediately report to the Grand Secretary the names of the officers elected and appointed. Such report shall be made in December; whether there was or was not an election.
- (g) To report all suspensions, expulsions and reinstatements by the Lodge to the Grand Secretary.
- (h) To promptly transmit to the Grand Secretary, copies of all By-Laws and Amendments thereto; adopted by this Lodge.
- (i) To submit his books and accounts to an examination whenever required to do so by this Lodge or the Grand Lodge, and in no event at less intervals than annually.
- (j) To give bond with good and sufficient surety, the minimum amount of which will in no instance be less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), the Lodge to pay the premium.
- (k) The Secretary shall enter in the minutes of each stated meeting, the amount of money on hand at the beginning of that meeting; the amount received and the amount paid out; and the balance then in the hands of the Treasurer.
- (l) The Secretary shall be compensated by an amount voted by the members present at the first stated meeting in January of each year.

Section 3. TRUSTEES

(a)

The Board of Trustees will consist of three past masters of the Lodge, not currently serving on the Masonic Building Association. The Trustees will be appointed by the Worshipful Master each year. In the event that a Trustee shall become unable or unwilling to perform his duties, the Worshipful Master may appoint a Trustee with the same qualifications.

(b) The duties of the Trustees shall be to manage the Lodge property and audit Lodge finances.

(c) The Trustees, or any of them, may be removed for cause by a vote of the members present in Lodge.

Section 4. TILER

(a) The Tiler shall see that all members and visitors record their name in the Lodge Register before entering the Lodge room.

**ARTICLE IV
Visiting Members**

Section 1. Brothers, not members of the Lodge, may be admitted to the meetings, but they shall not take part in debate, or in any business of the Lodge without permission of the Worshipful Master, except the Grand Officers for the time being.

Section 2. No visitor shall be admitted unless vouched for or upon due trial and examination.

Section 3. The name, degree and residence of every visitor, and the name and number of the Lodge to which he is or was last a member, shall be recorded by him in the Lodge Register.

**ARTICLE V
Admission of Brothers and Advancement of Candidates**

Section 1. Application for initiation or membership must be made in writing and recommended by at least two (2) members, and presented at a stated meeting; it shall then be referred to a select committee who shall make due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner, and report in writing at the stated meeting, one month from time of appointment, unless granted further time by the Lodge.

Section 2. All fees for initiation and subsequent degrees shall be determined as voted by the members of the Lodge. The current annual dues must accompany the initiation fee for the Entered Apprentice degree. All fees for the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees must be paid before the degree is conferred.

Section 3. No Brother shall be admitted to membership unless he produces a demit from the Lodge of which he was last a member; unless satisfactory reasons be given, and approved by the Lodge, why such demit cannot be procured.

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Section 4. A petition cannot be withdrawn after being referred to a committee, except for unanimous consent of the Lodge by ballot, nor even by unanimous consent after the committee has reported unfavorably thereon.

Section 5. In balloting on a petition, if only one (1) negative appears, a second ballot shall immediately be taken. If on the second ballot, one or more negatives again appears, the petitioner shall be declared rejected, and if for initiation no ballot shall be taken for the same candidate in less than twelve (12) months, or if it were a ballot for advancement of candidates or for membership, no ballot shall again be taken for the same candidate in less than six (6) months.

Section 6. No candidate shall be advanced until he shall become proficient in the preceding degree, as evidenced upon thorough examination in open Lodge.

ARTICLE VI Contributions

Section 1. Each member of this Lodge (except life members, as defined by the Grand Lodge) shall pay \$26.50, plus Grand Lodge assessments, as local lodge dues. Same to be paid in advance.

Section 2. The Secretary shall, when notifying the membership of the Lodge of each annual meeting, also notify them of the amount of their indebtedness to the Lodge. He shall, at his discretion, either before or after Lodge meeting, collect said annual dues, and if collected before the meeting, include report of amount of dues collected in his report to the Lodge.

Section 3. Failing To Pay After Notice. If the delinquent fails to pay dues an indebtedness in conformity with the notices., the Lodge may suspend him by a majority vote of those present, if the indebtedness be one full year's dues; if the indebtedness be for two full years dues, he shall be automatically suspended; however, if a satisfactory reason for the delinquency be given, the lodge may excuse him by a three-fourths vote of those present. In either event the action shall be noted in the minutes. It shall not be necessary to go through any formalities of a trial other than as stated in this Section and in Sections 153-155 of the Constitution.

Section 4. The Lodge dues of a petitioner for initiation or admission shall begin immediately upon his election.

ARTICLE VII Charges

Section 1. When a Brother shall be guilty of any act, evidencing a settled depravity or a wanton disregard of moral obligations, it shall be the duty of any Brother who may be informed thereof to communicate the information to the master, whose duty it shall be to reprove, warn, and advise the guilty party, and under no circumstances shall the Master reveal the name of the person furnishing the information.

Section 2. Any Brother aware of gross moral delinquency in a member of this Lodge shall report the same to the Master who shall immediately communicate the same to the Lodge, whereupon the Master

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shall appoint a committee of three to examine into the matter, and, if they deem it necessary, report charges with proper specifications against the delinquent. A copy of which, with a motion of the action of the Lodge thereon, shall be furnished to the accused Brother by the Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII Trial

Section 1. When charges shall have been preferred against a member of this Lodge, a committee of not less than three shall then be appointed by the Master to take evidence “for as well as against him,” which committee shall cite the accused to appear before them at a given time and place, with such testimony as he may desire to present in his defense. The whole testimony for and against shall be reduced to writing by the committee and when completed a time shall be fixed for hearing the same by the Lodge at a stated meeting, of which the Secretary shall duly notify the accused Brother. The Lodge shall then proceed to award such judgment as the good of the institution of Masonry may require.

ARTICLE IX Committees

Section 1. At each anniversary meeting after installation of officers the Master shall instruct the Trustees to audit the accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer and report thereon in writing to the Lodge.

Section 2. The Master, at the same time, shall appoint a committee of three to be known as the Relief Committee, whose duty it shall be to look after the needy and sick brethren and their families.

ARTICLE X Restorations

Section 1. If any Brother be expelled, it shall require a unanimous ballot to reinstate him.

Section 2. A Brother suspended for non-payment of dues shall rest under the suspension of the Lodge only until payment thereof shall be made. Payment of the amount owed up to the time he was suspended shall restore him to membership without any further action of the Lodge, but a notation of the fact shall be made in the Minutes, provided however, if he shall remain suspended for two years or longer, he can be restored to good standing only on payment of the amount owed at the time of his suspension, and re-elected to membership by consent of three-fourths of the members present, expressed by ballot after regular petition, which must be referred to and reported on by a committee the same as any other petition for membership.

ARTICLE XI Demit

Section 1. Any application for a demit must be made in writing and signed by the member desiring it.

Section 2. Demits cannot be refused by a Lodge to a member of any degree whose indebtedness is fully paid, if there be no charges pending against him.

ARTICLE XII

By-Laws

Section 1. Each Brother, when raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason shall be presented with a copy of these By-Laws. The Worshipful Master shall insist that he read it carefully.

Section 2. No part of these By-Laws shall be repealed, annulled, suspended or amended, unless a proposal be presented in writing at a stated meeting, one month previous to the discussion of or action thereon, when if two-thirds of the members present vote in favor of such motion it shall be adopted, provided however, they may be suspended for the time being by a unanimous vote of all members present, except when such suspension conflicts with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

Section 3. All By-Laws heretofore adopted by this Lodge are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE XIII

Historical Artifacts of the Lodge

Section 1. No historical artifacts shall be removed from the Lodge without permission through motion made and passed in open Lodge, except for the annual communication of Grand Lodge when the Hawkins Bible may be offered for the use of the incoming Grand Master at his installation.

Section 2. Historical artifacts are defined as relics, portraits, photographs, videos, books, documents, furniture, etc deemed by the Lodge to have historical significance.