

# The 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District Association By-Laws:

## Article I

### NAME

**Section A** – The name of this Association shall be “The 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District Association.”, and this Association exists only at the will and pleasure of the Grand Lodge of Maine, acting through the Grand Master and in turn through the District Deputy Grand Master in the 23<sup>rd</sup> District.

## Article II PURPOSE

**Section A** – This Association is a cooperative service organization dependent upon the Masonic Lodges of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District of Maine for support and has no authority or right to concern itself in any manner with the business or other affairs of the Lodges of this District, or of any member thereof. All members of this Association shall retain all rights and privileges invested in them as Master Masons under the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Maine and nothing herein shall ever be construed to restrict such rights in any manner.

**Section B-** The Purpose of this Association shall be:

- (1). To assist the District Deputy Grand Master and members of any Grand Lodge Committee in the performance of their duties when requested.
- (2). To promote a cooperative plan of attendance when all the Lodges of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District act as a host to the Grand Master and visiting Masons when in attendance at the annual Regional or District meetings.
- (3). To foster and encourage ideals and plans determined to promoting better spirit of Brotherhood and widen acquaintances among the Brethren of this District.
- (4). To promote and support educational meetings designed to bring more light to all Master Masons.

## Article III MEMBERSHIP

**Section A** – The membership shall consist of at least the Masters and Wardens from each Lodge within in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District and shall by virtue of their respective offices be regular members of this Association.

Any other Lodge members that wish to attend including the District Deputy Grand Master and the District Representative may do so and in fact is encouraged. The outgoing District Deputy Grand Master shall be invited to the meeting to introduce the newly appointed District Deputy Grand Master.

**Section B**– Any Master Mason, from the district, present, shall be entitled to one vote in the transaction of business.

**Section C**- Mason of the year: Each Lodge shall present a written nomination letter for 1 candidate at the district association meeting prior to the annual district meeting. Those lodges in attendance at the association meeting will be allotted 3 votes with the principal officers preferred. Each lodge will present its candidate at the annual district meeting for public recognition.

#### **Article IV. OFFICERS**

**Section A**– The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected from the regular membership by a majority vote of the regular members present.

**Section B** – In case of the death, resignation, inability or refusal to serve as the President, the Vice-President, shall assume the duties of that office until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time that office shall be filled by election. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President Secretary or Treasurer, the President may appoint a pro-tem officer until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time that office will be filled by election.

#### **Article V MEETINGS**

**Section A**- The meetings shall be held under the direction of the District Deputy Grand Master.

**Section B**- The meetings will be conducted by the Association President. If the Association President is unable to conduct the meeting the Vice President will preside.

**Section C** – The regular meetings of this Association shall be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM sharp and shall close at or before 9:30 PM. During the months of June, July, August, and December the Association meetings will be suspended.

**Section D**- The meetings shall be conducted in an orderly fashion with business and Masonic Education the theme. Each lodge should have representation at the meetings to present any ideas and or concerns.

**Section E-** Masonic education i.e. (schools of instruction), will be scheduled by the District Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand lecturer with a rotating lodge schedule.

**Section F** – The election of officers shall be held at the first regular or called meeting in January. The new officers will assume their duties at the close of that meeting. Each officer should be from a different Lodge. Each officer shall remain in office until a successor is elected.

**Section G-** Special or called meetings may be held at any time. Each lodge secretary will be notified and asked to relay the information to his respective brethren. The trestle board and district web site will also be used as a venue for this communication.

**Section H** – Any business proper to be transacted by this Association may be transacted at either a regular or called meeting, except amendments to these By- Laws.

**Section I** – All meetings of this Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

**Section J-** The District Deputy Grand Master shall audit the Secretary's and Treasurer's books at the time of the Annual Meeting and submit his findings to the Association.

## **Article VI ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section A** – The order of business at regular or called meetings shall be as follows, unless otherwise ordered by the President.

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|---|--------------------------|
| <b>1. Opening Prayer</b>                          | <b>6. New Business</b>   |
| <b>2. Roll Call of Lodges</b>                     | <b>7. Announcements</b>  |
| <b>3. Reading of minutes of preceding meeting</b> | <b>8. Program</b>        |
| <b>4. Reports of Committees</b>                   | <b>9. Closing Prayer</b> |
| <b>5. Old Business</b>                            |                          |

## **Article VII COMMITTEES**

**Section A** – The President may appoint such committees as he deems desirable and necessary to carry out the various activities of the Association.

**Article VIII  
FINANCE**

**Section A**– The work of this Association shall be carried on only by voluntary contributions, in a manner to be determined by the Association.

Currently a suggested contribution of \$25.00 per year per Lodge is payable at the Annual Meeting.

The regular meeting locations will be shared by the Lodges of the District and the host lodge will supply the refreshments.

The annual 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District meeting with Grand Lodge shall be hosted on a rotating lodge schedule with the hosting lodge providing the meal and all lodges contributing to the expense of that event.

**Article IX  
AMENDMENTS**

**Section A**– No amendments to the by-laws, either by alteration or addition, shall be made unless in the following manner:

(1). The proposed amendment must be in writing, signed by the proposers, and presented and read at a regular meeting of this Association, at which time it may be discussed and amended, if necessary.

**Adopted: January, 2009 by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District of Maine.**