

By-Laws
Buford Masonic Lodge NO, 292, F&AM

CHAPTER 1

The Lodge, its Tile Warrant, Meetings and Order of Business.

Section 1,

This Lodge shall be known and hailed as BUFORD MASONIC LODGE NO. 292, and under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Section 2,

This Lodge is held under the authority of the Warrant granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, at its communication in Macon, Georgia, 1873 A.D., 5873 A.L., to whose Constitution, Rules and Edicts the most implicit respect and obedience shall be paid by its members.

Section 3,

The meetings of this Lodge shall be regular, festival, or called. The regular meeting shall be at 7:30pm, on the second and forth Thursday nights of each month except the months of November and December. One regular meeting will be held in these months on the second Thursday night at 7:30pm.

Section 4,

The Order of business at every stated meeting shall be as follows:

- Reading and confirming of minutes
- Reception of petitions
- Second reading of petitions and balloting
- Communications and bills
- Recognitions of visitors
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Applications for relief
- Business for the good of the order
- Work and Lectures
- Closing

Section 5,

All business of the Lodge must originate at regular meetings, except the burial of the dead, and no appropriation of funds of the Lodge shall be made at any other than regular meetings, or festivals meetings, but degrees may be conferred at the called meetings, or festival meetings, provided the candidates have been duly elected at regular meetings. Any matters concerning finances, or any other matter of equal importance shall be voted upon in open Lodge on regular meeting nights and in proper manner.

Section 5-a,

The Treasurer has permission to draw upon the Lodge General fund to pay the monthly utility bills without vote of the Lodge. Report of payment shall be stated at the regular communication that is closest to due date of utility bill.

Section 5-b,

The Treasurer shall present to the Lodge a quarterly report on the status of current Lodge finances. A majority vote of members present is required to accept the quarterly financial report. A written copy of the report will be placed within the minutes of the Lodge when accepted. This report shall be made at the March, June, October, and December meetings

Section 6,

There shall be TWO festival meetings in each year, on the anniversaries of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, respectively, either for the election and installation of officers or social reunion, at such time as the Lodge may designate.

Section 7,

Called meetings may be held at any time, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, due and reasonable notice of the time and purpose being previously given.

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Section 8,

All meetings of this Lodge, either stated, called, or festival, shall not be held unless the minimum number of members are present and the Charter of Warrant is displayed in view of those Present.

CHAPTER II

Member of the Lodge and their duties.

Section 1,

All members of this Lodge are those who have been regularly initiated, passed and raised therein, or elected to membership, not having demitted or been excluded, and are bound by these By-Laws.

Section 2,

All members of this Lodge shall be bound to avoid all irregularities and intemperance's which may impair their faculties or debase the dignity of their profession. They shall obey these By-Laws in spirit and letter, and at all times uphold the lawful interest of the Lodge and extend the honor of its name.

Section 3,

The various "charges" in the three Symbolic Degrees, respectively, are hereby incorporated in this code as a correct summary of Masonic duties. Any violation of these rules or neglect of the duties herein specified is an offence against Masonry.

Section 4,

EVERY MEMBER shall be bound to attend the due summons of the Worshipful Master for the called meetings, health and business permitting, and shall not retire without permission of the Worshipful Master before the same is closed.

CHAPTER III

Officers, How Elected and Terms thereof.

Section 1,

The following officers of the Lodge shall be elected:

1. Worshipful Master
2. Senior Warden
3. Junior Warden
4. Treasurer
5. Secretary

All the above officers are to be elected by ballot annually, at the meeting next preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, and installation, if circumstance permit at the same meeting. All other officers are to be appointed in accordance with the Masonic Code of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Custodian for the purpose of cleaning, maintaining and general up-keep of the Lodge. Compensation for said Custodian shall be determined by Majority Vote of all Members present on the first meeting in January. Compensation shall be paid quarterly.

Section 2,

All officers duly elected and installed shall hold their office until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 3,

Every Master Mason, a member of this Lodge who is not under the sentence of suspension or expulsion for Un-Masonic conduct, shall be entitled to vote, and no other. A Majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice, and no member shall expose his vote, but the same shall be privately deposited.

CHAPTER IV

Petitions, Ballots, etc.

Section 1,

All petitions for membership shall lie over until the next regular meeting after the one at which they are presented before being balloted upon. In all cases where an applicant is rejected his fee shall be returned to him.

Section 2,

All ballots for membership shall be unanimous: but the Master, if there is one negative ballot, before declaring the result, shall order a new ballot taken. No further ballot shall be allowed. A candidate for initiation or restoration, once rejected, shall not be at liberty to apply again until after the expiration of (12) calendar months from such rejection.

Section 3,

When an applicant is rejected by this Lodge, no member or visiting Brother shall discover by any means whatever, who opposed his admission, nor shall any member or visiting Brother inform the petitioner, or any other person, except another Master Mason in good standing, of anything which may have occurred in relation to any petition (except the petitioner himself) that he was admitted or rejected, or inform him who was present at the time of such action, or divulge any business whatever that may have been transacted by or in the Lodge concerning the petition. Any member of this Lodge violating this section shall be deemed guilty of Un-Masonic conduct and dealt with accordingly. Any visiting Brother violating this section shall never again thereafter be permitted to visit this Lodge or become a member thereof. In order that no Brother may plead ignorance thereof, it is hereby made MANDATORY that the Worshipful Master read this section immediately after the rejection of any candidate.

CHAPTER V

Dues, Fees, Etc.

Section 1,

The total of \$250.00 in fees for the degrees of Masonry shall accompany the petition from each candidate, shall cover the current year's dues and a gift, \$25.00 in a separate fund maintained as "Building Fund" for use of major building repair only and the fees to the Grand Lodge. (See section 7-102 and 7-104 of the Masonic Code).

Section 2,

The annual dues be \$100.00 plus the Grand Lodge assessment, payable in advance to the Secretary by December 31st of current year. At the first meeting in April of each year the Secretary shall report, in open Lodge, before any other business is taken up, those who may be in arrears with their dues at least 18 months. Members declared emeritus by the Grand Lodge shall be exempt from Lodge dues, however that member will still be financially responsible for Grand Lodge fees and per capita tax. This change will NOT be retroactive, however an emeritus may choose to pay their fees or dues if they so desire. The dues shall be specified as follows: From January 1st through December 31st.

Section 2-b,

A member who is actually 18 months in arrears for dues shall be suspended indefinitely at the regular communication held on the forth Thursday of June.

Section 2-c,

No dues will be remitted by this Lodge, for any reason, except a Brother who is financially unable to pay his dues, after a majority vote of members present and voting at a regular communication.

Section 2-d,

The sum of \$3.00 per year is to be taken from the dues of each member of the Lodge to be placed in the Charity Fund of Buford Lodge No. 292 F&AM for the maintenance of said Fund. The Lodge is not limited, restricted to or prohibited from adding additional monies to said Fund, with consent of the Lodge.

Section 2-e,

On the first meeting in January, the Lodge shall determine by majority vote the amount of money the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden (as a group) be allowed to disperse to any one person or group of people as emergency relief. If said person or group of people shall need further assistance, a committee shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master to determine said need, their report made to the Lodge and the matter decided by a vote of all members present.

Upon the death of a Member of this Lodge, a donation of \$50.00 shall be given to the Masonic Home Square and Compass Fundraiser in the Brother's name to purchase a brick in the garden. If the Square and Compass Fundraiser is closed then it should be made to the Operations Fund as a Memorial Gift in his behalf.

CHAPTER VI

Committees and Mode of Appointment.

Section 1,

There shall be two Standing Committees of the Lodge:

1. Committee on Finance
2. Committee on Charity

Section 2,

The Committee on Charity shall consist of the Worshipful Master and Wardens. It shall be their duty to look after the distressed and neediest of the membership and submit each case to the Lodge for action.

Section 3,

The Committee on Finance shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master on the day of his installation. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for submitting the budget for the ensuing year. The budget shall not exceed the anticipated income as determined by the Chairman, Worshipful Master, Treasurer, and Secretary. A copy of the proposed budget shall be made available to all members of Buford Lodge #292 in good standing, and presented no later than the 4th Thursday in January of each year. A majority vote of members present is required for the passage of the budget and a copy will be placed upon the minutes.

Section 3-a,

Pursuant to the Georgia Masonic Code (25-116) The Worshipful Master shall appoint an Audit Committee on or before the last regular communication in November of each year to examine all transactions of the Lodge. There shall be a written, detailed report of these findings submitted to the Lodge at the annual election of officers and no later than the first meeting in January.

Section 4,

All committees, except the Committee on Charity, shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master, and shall consist of three Master Masons in good standing, when not otherwise directed as to the number. All reports of committees shall be in writing unless otherwise ordered by the Lodge.

CHAPTER VII

Offences, Trials, Penalties, Relief.

Section 1,

All charges for Masonic offences shall be presented to the Secretary in writing, and shall be disposed of by turning the same over to the Trial Commission of the Grand Lodge of Georgia for final disposition.

Section 2,

On all trials the Secretary shall record the evidence presented, and in cases where an appeal arises, shall furnish a copy of said evidence to the Grand Lodge.

CHAPTER VIII

Miscellaneous Provisions.

Section 1,

Applications for advancement may be entertained at any regular communication and as often as the candidate may think he is prepared and has proved to be suitably proficient, such applications shall be voted upon, however, as in the case of petitions for membership, and the ballot shall be unanimous.

Section 2,

The Treasurer and Secretary shall not receive compensation for their services.

Section 3,

No one shall ever inspect the ballot but the Master, and no Brother shall be permitted to make known to another or to the Lodge what manner of vote he has or will cast. The secrecy of the ballot shall be inviolable.

Section 4,

The Master shall appoint all refreshment committees and it shall be their duty to perform as they see fit, so long as the same shall be fit and proper and in the best interest of the Lodge.

Section 5,

Any matter which has once been disposed of shall not again be considered by the Lodge, except by a majority of the Lodge.

Section 6-a,

In the case of dissolution of Buford Masonic Lodge #292 or loss of Charter to the Grand Lodge of Georgia or any other cause of which makes Buford Masonic Lodge #292 null and void; it will be decided by a majority vote of current members at time of dissolution or voidance of disbursement of Lodge properties and holdings and location of the disbursement of proceeds from sale or from holdings, including checking and savings accounts, bonds, certificates or any other cash convertible holdings. Funds or proceeds should go to some form of charity, such as the Masonic Children's home of Georgia or other recognized tax-exempt organization whose primary focus is children or local families to Buford, Georgia. Notice must be mailed to all current members stating time and place for said meeting, discussion and vote, vote must be in written form, tiled and recorded and the results along with ballots turned over to the Grand Lodge of Georgia for their records.

Section 6-b,

No additions, alteration, deletion, or amendment shall be made to these By-Laws unless proposed to the Lodge in writing, and shall have been read at two regular meetings of the Lodge and concurred upon at the second reading by two-thirds of the members present.

Section 6-c,

Should any part of these By-Laws or any addition or amendment thereto be in conflict with the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, then said Constitution, Laws and Edicts Shall supersede these By-Laws.

Section 7,

It shall require a majority of the members present to determine any question before the Lodge, except in the case of where otherwise provided by these bylaws.

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06-28-2018 By-Laws Amendments/Additions

- Wiley Forrester, PM
- Mark Smith, PM
- Paul Fussell, WM

Treasurer permission to pay utilities without vote, Treasurer quarterly report mandatory, Amendment to annual dues, specify dues dates, specify when names are read for suspensions, Finance Committee when to submit budget, eliminate section 6 and replace with new section, specify where deceased brother donation is placed.

10-2014

- Wiley Forrester, PM
- Walter D. Dacus, PM
- Anthony Prickett, PM

Emeritus Status and Per Capita Tax, Dissolution of the Lodge, Endowment Fund, Deceased Brother Donation to Children's Home.

09-10-2010

- Wiley Forrester, PM
 - Walter D. Dacus, PM
 - Mike Fincel, PM
- Dues, Tres/Sect, code to by law

10-2007

- Mike Fincel, PM
- Journey Gower, PM
- Harvey Langley, PM

07-2001

- Warren Banks, PM
- C. Harvey Langley, PM
- Doyle Henderson, PM & Secretary

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09-1999

- Warren Banks, PM
- Fred Lee Seawell, III
- Stephen C. Bailey
- C. Harvey Langley, PM & Secretary

09-1995

- E. Kenneth Bryant, PM
- Warren N. Banks, PM
- William R. Mullinax, PM
- F. Doug Street, Secretary

09-1988

- Journey Gower, PM
- Phil H. Floyd, PM & Director of Work
- Ronald B. Kilgore, PM of #230
- F. Doug Street, Secretary

Respectfully Submitted by
Wiley Q. Forrester, PM
April 12, 2018