

THE BY-LAWS OF THE
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CENTRAL LEATHERSTOCKING MASONIC DISTRICT
(Officially known as the Otsego-Schoharie Masonic District Association)

Proposed revisions 2018, Final Draft

PREAMBLE

We, the elected, appointed and installed officers of the Central Leatherstocking Masonic District, in order to foster a spirit of good will and fellowship among masonic lodges and masons in the Central Leatherstocking Masonic District, both present and future, and to promulgate our ancient tenets of friendship, morality, and brotherly love, under the providence of the great architect of the universe and the guidance of the Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, do ordain and establish these by-laws.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The official name of this association is the Otsego-Schoharie Masonic District Association. Due to a restructuring of the masonic districts in the State of New York this association shall be known as the District Association of the Central Leatherstocking masonic district, hereafter referred to as the District Association, however, the legal name shall remain as the Otsego-Schoharie Masonic District Association.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

This association is organized to provide a common vehicle for the exchange, dissemination, and implementation of ideas beneficial to the several lodges within the Central Leatherstocking Masonic District, to provide each lodge within the district a voice in making those decisions, to develop inter-lodge relationships, to foster leadership development, to support the District Deputy Grand Master in carrying out his responsibilities and endeavors, to purchase the aprons for the incoming District Deputy, Staff Officer, and Assistant Grand Lecturers if their respective lodges cannot afford them, to act as an informational repository for masonic artifacts and to adhere to the precepts of the Grand Lodge Of Free And Accepted Masons in the State Of New York.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the association shall be all installed officers, elected and appointed, of the lodges in the Central Leatherstocking Masonic District.

Voting membership shall be limited to all duly elected and installed Masters and Wardens, with the exception that at the annual meeting, **outgoing Masters of lodges that have not yet installed their new Masters shall still be considered voting members for that meeting, provided their dues has been paid up to date.**

Voting eligibility, a voting member registration fee for each lodge's Master and Wardens will be paid before they are eligible to vote on association business. The amount that will be paid annually will be set by the association at the annual meeting. All lodges within the district must pay this registration fee in September as dues to the District Association. Any lodge failing to pay will be fined \$10 for each month past due.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

The elected officers of this association shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person if there are insufficient candidates for both.

Only voting association members can be elected president or vice-president. The secretary and treasurer can be any master mason in good standing in the district.

ARTICLE V - TERMS OF OFFICE

The term of office for each elected officer shall be one year or until a successor is duly elected. Should an officer have to vacate his position due to work schedules, moving out of area, death, etc., a special meeting may be called by the president, or in his absence the vice president, to hold an election for the vacated position. At least 10 days prior notice must be sent to all members for such a meeting.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Regular meetings of this association will be held quarterly on the first Wednesdays of September, December, March and June.

The annual meeting will be on the first Wednesday of June. This meeting is for the purpose of receiving annual reports from the officers and committees, electing officers for the ensuing year, determining the host lodges for each meeting in the ensuing year, and for other business that may arise.

Special meetings maybe called by any elected officer or any three members representing three different lodges. Due and timely notice will be given to the association secretary. An elected officer must be present at all special meetings, and must preside over the business conducted.

All meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. If the meeting is preceded by a dinner, the dinner will commence at 6 p.m. Guest speakers and presentations will occur between the meal and the meeting.

No business may be transacted after 9:00 p.m., with the exception of the annual meeting. To aid in this all minutes of the preceding meeting will be emailed to all members at least 10 days prior to the current meeting for review and correction. All submissions for inclusion on the agenda will be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to allow for independent research.

The order of business shall be:

1. Invocation
2. Salute to the flag
3. Previous minutes-for information only
4. Financial report from the treasurer
5. Lodge roll call
6. Bills and communications
7. Committee reports
8. Old business
9. New business
10. Good and welfare of the district
11. Recognition of staff officer
12. Recognition of district deputy
13. Benediction
14. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII – QUORUM

For the transaction of business, a quorum shall consist of no fewer than three members representing three different lodges in the district, including at least one elected officer who must preside over the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - HONORARY MEMBERS

Any member in good standing of any lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State Of New York may be made an honorary member of this association by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting an honorary member has no voting privileges.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of the voting members present at the annual meeting. If there is only one candidate for the officer the vote may be by a show of hands, but if there are multiple candidates the vote must be by secret ballot. Candidates for office must be nominated and accept the nomination.

ARTICLE X - OFFICERS DUTIES

The president shall:

- Run the meetings, appoint a chaplain, any other vacant officers and all committees both standing and ad hoc.

The vice-president shall:

- Assist the president in the discharge of his arduous duties; and act in his stead in his absence.

The secretary shall:

- Maintain an accurate and permanent record of all proceedings;
- Update these by-laws with any amendment adopted;
- Dispose of all correspondences;
- Notify each member in writing, attaching a summary of the proceedings of the most recent meeting, and the date, time and place of the next meeting, at least 10 days in advance.
- All correspondence with the membership shall be by electronic mail unless the member does not have an e-mail address, in which case the DA Secretary will notify the Lodge Secretary of that Brother, and the Lodge Secretary will be responsible to forward the correspondence to him.

The treasurer shall:

- Maintain an accurate and permanent record of all moneys received and spent, reporting on the same at each meeting;
- Voucher all bills;
- And assist the audit committee.

ARTICLE XI – FINANCES

All donations solicited from the lodges will be on a per-capita basis.

All moneys payable to the association must be received by the association secretary recorded and turned over to the treasurer.

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All bills will be paid by check.

All activities that require an outgoing expense must be authorized by a motion, seconded and approved by a two-thirds majority vote at any meeting and the bill for that expense will be paid upon receipt and the members notified as such at the next meeting.

All drafts on the treasurer's accounts require the signature of one (1) of the four (4) principal officers of the association.

ARTICLE XII - STANDING COMMITTEES

An auditing committee, consisting of a chairman and two other members, shall examine the secretary/treasurer's minutes and books and report at the annual meeting.

A nominating committee, consisting of a chairman and three other members, shall present a slate of nominations for the association officers at the annual meeting all nominated candidates for president and vice-president must be voting members of the association.

An archival committee for the purpose of maintaining a catalog of masonic aprons, jewels, and other masonic items, furnishings, memorabilia, or historic information that are housed by the various lodges and members of the committee.

ARTICLE XIII - PARLAMENTARY PROCEDURE

In addition to the procedures specific to these by-laws, meetings will be conducted in accordance with guidelines set down in Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Any amendment to these by-laws must be submitted in writing and read at a regular meeting, held over until the next meeting, reread, and adopted by a two-thirds vote, all lodges having been given due and timely notice in writing of the content of the proposed amendment.

Submitted: August 1, 2018

By R.:W.: Theodore C. Volkert, PDDGM