

Knight Masons of the USA
UNIVERSAL BY-LAWS
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 18, 1989
Revised February 14, 2014

ARTICLE I - NAME

- a) The name of this Council shall be Appalachian Council No. 121, Knight Masons.
- b) It shall be located at (or near) Lenoir (*city*) in Caldwell County, North Carolina (*state*)
- c) It holds its Charter from, and owes fealty and allegiance to the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America and to the Masonic Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction in which it operates.

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS

The stated meetings of this Council shall be held on the 4th Tuesday of February, May, August and November at 7:30pm. The last stated meeting in each calendar year shall be the Annual Meeting for election of officers. Special Meetings may be held at the time and place designated by the Excellent Chief.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- a) The following Officers shall be elected and installed each year and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and installed: Excellent Chief, Senior Knight, Junior Knight, Scribe, and Treasurer.
- b) The following officers shall be appointed by the Excellent Chief and shall serve at his pleasure: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Director of Ceremonies, Priest, Steward, and Sentinel. (*See Article XVII of the STATUTES*).
- c) The Excellent Chief may appoint such committees as may be useful for carrying on the Council's affairs. The Excellent Chief shall be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership in this Council shall be by invitation only. To be eligible for membership candidates must be Royal Arch Masons in good standing in Lodge and Chapter. Good standing in the prerequisite Bodies is necessary for continuing membership. (*See Article IX and Article XII of the STATUTES*).
- b) Invitations for membership shall be given after unanimous election by the Council using secret ballot or ballot by first class mail. If an invitation is not accepted within three years of its date of issue, such invitation shall be rendered null and void. However, the individual may be re-proposed at a later date and he must be re-elected by ballot.

ARTICLE V - FEES AND DUES

- a) The fee for degrees and plural membership shall be two times national joining fee (which is now \$25.00) Appalachian fee \$50.00 now. (*not less than \$20.00 See article XII of the STATUTES*)
- b) Annual dues shall be \$5.00 payable annually in advance.

- c) c) A member in good standing may become a life-member of this council by the payment of \$100.00 (*not less than 20 times annual dues*) to the Life Membership Fund. (*See Article XIII of the STATUTES*)

ARTICLE VI - LOCAL REGULATIONS

(Under this article the council may provide laws for definitely exclusive local matters not in conflict with the STATUTES. The Council may make as many sections under this article as may be required to meet the need of such exclusively local law. If this article is not used, then it should be left blank and marked NOT USED.)

ARTICLE VII - TERMINATION

In the event this Council shall cease to exist, except for the purpose of consolidation or merger, the Excellent Chief, Scribe, and Treasurer shall, within 30 days thereafter, transmit to the Grand Scribe all the property of the Council, including, without limitation, all the books, records, jewels, paraphernalia, and funds or assets thereof.

ARTICLE VIII - CONFLICT DISCLAIMER

Anything contained in these By-Laws in conflict with the Statutes of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America is hereby declared null and void.

ARTICLE IX - COUNCIL FUNDS

All Council funds shall be kept in the name of the Council in a financial institution in which the funds are federally insured. (such as F.D.I.C. etc.)

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a 2/3 majority vote of those members present if written notice has been given to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting where action is to be taken. Such By-Laws shall become effective when signed by the M.E. Great Chief. (*See Article XVIII of the STATUTES*).

ADOPTED: 10/16/2017
Date

W. Berry Rigdon
Excellent Chief

ATTESTED: J. David Cashion
Scribe

APPROVED: 10/16/2017
Date

D. Allen Surratt
Great Chief