

By-Laws
of Unity Lodge #58,
A.F. & A. M.
Thorndike, Maine



Chartered May 15, 1828

Approved July 15, 2005

By-Laws

Article I

Name and meetings

- Section 1. This Lodge shall be called Unity Lodge #58, A. F. & A. M., and shall hold stated meetings monthly on the third Wednesday of each month; provided, however, that the lodge may stand closed for two months per year by vote of the lodge.
- Section 2. Stated meetings shall be held at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time.
- Section 3. The Master, or in his absence the Senior Warden, or if both be absent the Junior Warden, shall have power to call a special meeting, whenever in his opinion the interests of the Lodge may require it.
- Section 4. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except that specified in the notice thereof.

Article II

Officers and elections

- Section 1. At the stated meeting in December, annually, the Lodge shall elect a Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Finance Committee, consisting of three members, also one Trustee of the Unity Masonic Temple Association for the term of two years; all of whom shall be severally chosen by written ballots, and a majority of the members present shall be necessary for a choice. But it shall be legal to ballot for the three members of the Finance Committee on one and the same ballot, if the lodge shall so vote.

- Section 2. The Master elect may appoint all the other officers of the Lodge, viz: Marshal, Chaplain, Deacons, Stewards, Tyler, Organist, Historian, Committee of Relief; and such others as he may judge expedient for the welfare and order of the Lodge, whom he may remove at his pleasure. All vacancies shall be filled at the next regular meeting after they occur.
- Section 3. The officers shall be installed as soon after their election as may be convenient.
- Section 4. All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only; therefore no Master, Warden or other officer shall be chosen by seniority, but for his merit.
- Section 5. Should a vacancy occur in any elective office except the Master or Wardens, it shall be filled by appointment at the next stated meeting thereafter.

Article III Committees

- Section 1. The Finance Committee shall consist of three and shall examine and approve all bills and accounts presented to the Lodge; shall examine and certify the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary and make report thereof in writing at the annual meeting, previous to the election of officers. They may offer recommendations for investing funds not otherwise needed.
- Section 2. Excepting the Finance Committee, the Master shall appoint all committees and shall be ex-officio a member of every committee.

Section 3. The Committee of Inquiry shall consist of three discreet, experienced brethren of Unity Lodge, whose duties shall be to inquire strictly into and report in writing upon the moral character and reputation of all applicants for the honors of Masonry in this Lodge. Applications for membership from brethren who have received the degrees in other lodges shall also be referred to such a committee and shall be reported upon in writing. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the appointment of more than one committee of inquiry if it is deemed for the interest of the lodge so to do.

Article IV

Duties and Compensation of Officers

Section 1. The W. M. shall appoint such committees as he may judge is in the best interest of the lodge (except for the Finance Committee); he shall cause these By-Laws to be read in open Lodge at the first stated meeting after the installation of Officers; he shall decide all questions of order and his decisions shall be final; and it shall be his duty to to preserve order and decorum, in all meetings of the lodge for work or business, and it shall be the equal duty of all the members to render a cheerful compliance with the same, avoiding all irregularities or causes of disturbance to any of the members. The Master, when he may consider it expedient to grant relief, may draw an order on the Treasurer for the same by vote of the lodge.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall have charge of all cash and investments of the Lodge; shall receive all interest and

income on invested funds; and shall pay all orders drawn by the Lodge when approved by the Finance Committee.

At the Annual meeting the Treasurer shall render a just and true account of all monies received and paid out by him, and shall deliver all cash and property of the lodge entrusted to his care to his successor in office, taking duplicate receipts therefor, one of which shall be kept by the Secretary.

For the faithful performance of his duties he shall receive such compensation as the Lodge may from time to time determine.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a just and fair record of all the transactions of the Lodge, and read the same when requested; collect all dues and monies not included in the Treasurer's duties, and pay the same to the Treasurer monthly, taking his receipt therefor, and said payment shall be made a matter of record and read at the regular meeting next following said payment; shall issue notifications when directed; shall make out annual returns as required by Grand Lodge;; shall present the chairman of every committee with a copy of its appointment; shall keep a correct list of the members; report the names of members delinquent in dues payments, and any suspensions and expulsions from the lodge, notify candidates of the dates scheduled for conferring degrees, prepare Diplomas for newly raised members; and at the close of the year he shall render a just account of all monies by him received and paid, and a statement of the balance due from members, and

shall deliver to his successor in office all property of the Lodge entrusted to his care, taking duplicate receipts therefor, one of which shall be kept by the Treasurer.

For the faithful performance of his duties he shall receive such compensation as the Lodge may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE V Candidates.

Section 1. Every candidate for the degrees within the gift of the Lodge shall make application in writing, shall sign his name in full, shall state his residence, age, occupation, and whether he has ever made application to, or been rejected by any lodge (and if so which and when) and shall send such application to the Master or Secretary, accompanied by a recommendation signed by two Master Masons, one or more of whom must be members of Unity Lodge. A deposit of Ten Dollars shall accompany all applications. If the applicant be rejected the deposit shall be returned; if he be accepted and initiated it shall be passed to his credit; but if accepted and he shall refuse or neglect to attend for six months after his acceptance or to make reasonable excuse for such neglect, the deposit shall be forfeited to the use of the lodge, and he shall sustain the same relation to the Lodge as before application.

Section 2. No candidate shall be initiated or balloted for in this lodge unless he has been proposed at least four weeks, without first obtaining a dispensation there-

for, nor without making a strict inquiry into his moral character, and in no case whatever shall any applicant be balloted for until he has been reported upon by a Committee of Inquiry in writing.

Section 3. In balloting, if more than one negative vote appears the balloting shall cease and the candidate be declared rejected; but if on the first ballot one negative only appears, a second ballot shall immediately take place, and if on the second ballot a negative still appears, the candidate shall be declared rejected.

Section 4. No one shall inspect the ballot save the Master or Wardens and no brother shall be permitted to make known to another or to the lodge, what manner of vote he cast.

Section 5. No restrictions of any sort shall be placed upon a brother in the matter of voting nor shall he be questioned how or why he exercised that right.

Section 6. Every candidate shall pay the full fee for each degree, previous to his receiving it.

Section 7. No candidate shall be entitled to advancement in this lodge without satisfactory evidence of proficiency in degrees already received.

Section 8. No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall be passed or raised in this lodge without the recommendation of the lodge in which he was first admitted. (Grand Lodge Laws, Section 107.)

Section 9. Any Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft who desires to be crafted or raised in Unity Lodge must present a recommendation from the lodge in which he was first admitted (or to which he last belonged)

and must make application in writing, signing his full name, giving his age, occupation and residence; and must be recommended by two Master Masons, one or more of whom must be members of Unity Lodge; and such applications shall take the same course as applications for all the degrees. A deposit of Fifteen Dollars must accompany the application.

Section 10. Any Master Mason who was raised in another lodge who desires to become a member of Unity Lodge must present a demit from the lodge in which he was raised (or to which he last belonged) and must make application in writing, signing his full name, giving his age, occupation and residence; and must be recommended by two Master Masons, one or more of whom must be members of Unity Lodge; and such applications shall take same course as application for the degrees. If elected he must sign the By-laws within six months from his election; otherwise he forfeits his election.

Section 11. Any Master Mason who was raised in another lodge who desires to become a dual member of Unity Lodge must make application in writing, signing his full name, giving his age, occupation and residence, the name and location of the Lodge to which he belongs and evidence of being in good standing there; and must be recommended by two Master Masons, one or more of whom must be members of Unity Lodge; and such applications shall take same course as application for the degrees. If elected he must sign the By-laws within six months from his election; otherwise he forfeits his election.

Section 12. A brother who has withdrawn from this lodge, or one who has been deprived of membership in this lodge, who desires to again become a member, must make application in writing, signing his full name, and such application shall take the same course as applications for degrees. If elected he must sign the By-laws within six months from his election.

Article VI Membership.

Section 1. Every candidate who shall receive the third degree in Unity Lodge shall thereby become a member of said lodge and the Secretary shall record his name up on the roll of membership. (Grand Lodge Laws, Section 111).

Section 2. The members of this lodge shall sign the By-Laws in full at the time of their admission.

Section 3. Any member neglecting for the space of one year to pay his dues and assessments shall be suspended from, or deprived of, membership; but notice shall be mailed to him by the Secretary at his last known address. Art. VIII Section 5 may apply in cases where payment would cause hardship.

Section 4. Any brother who has been suspended for non-payment of dues can reinstate at any time within three years, by paying to the Secretary the amount of his dues at the time of his suspension, and the Secretary shall report the fact at the next stated meeting of the lodge, so that it shall appear upon the records.

But after three years he may only be restored to membership by making application, on an Applica-

tion for Reinstatement, after payment or remission of arrears, and receiving a unanimous vote of those present, but if rejected the amount of dues paid shall be returned. (Section 51, Page 1-27 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maine).

Section 5. Any brother who has withdrawn his membership from Unity Lodge and shall be desirous of again becoming a member, may be admitted by making application on an Application for Affiliation and must receive a unanimous vote of those present.

Article VII Honorary Members

Section 1. Any member of Unity Lodge whose long and faithful services shall in the opinion of the members entitle him to the consideration and gratitude of the Lodge may be elected an Honorary Member; provided he shall have been proposed at a stated meeting and shall receive a unanimous ballot at a subsequent stated meeting.

Honorary members shall not be subject to annual dues.

Honorary members are not exempt from assessments.

ARTICLE VIII Fees and Dues.

(For historical perspective - in 1932 the fee for the 3 degrees was \$30 and dues were \$2.)

Section 1. The fees for the three degrees, including diploma shall be Ninety-five Dollars (\$95) and shall be ap-

portioned as follows when they are all conferred in this lodge, viz:

For the First Degree, including deposit	\$30
For the Second Degree	30
For the Third Degree, including GL fee for Geo. Washington National Masonic Memorial	35
For the Second Degree when not initiated in this lodge	30
For the Third Degree when not initiated or crafted in this lodge	35
For the Second and Third Degrees when not initiated in this lodge	65

Section 2. Every member of Unity Lodge, unless exempt, shall at or before each annual meeting in December pay to the Secretary Forty Dollars as dues plus any assessments that may have been approved for the ensuing year.

Section 3. Should the revenue of this lodge be insufficient to defray its expenses and such charities as the lodge may from time to time bestow, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to make report of the same to the lodge, and an assessment may be made upon the members of any sum which a majority of those present may deem necessary; provided, that previous notice of such proposed action shall be given in the summons calling said meeting. Currently an assessment of at least the amount of the Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax per member per year is expected.

Section 4. On the first day of January of each year the Secretary shall strike from the roll the names of all members who are delinquent in the payment of dues or assessments to the Lodge for a period of one year.

Section 5. The provisions of these By-laws shall not deprive the lodge of the power to remit dues and/or assessments at any time in cases in which the lodge decides that circumstances of the brother require it.

ARTICLE IX

Funds

Section 1. An amount equal to \$2.00 per member together with such other monies as may be donated, bequeathed, or appropriated for this purpose shall annually be added to a Building Fund the principal of which is to remain intact and the interest used for building maintenance.

Section 2. An amount equal to \$2.00 per member together with all monies given or bequeathed to this Lodge and not otherwise appropriated by the donor, shall annually be added to a permanent Charity Fund, to be by the Treasurer invested as he may consider most advantageous to the institution. Only the interest income from said fund may be used and only for Charitable purposes until this fund shall amount to Ten thousand Dollars, and after that money from the principal can only be spent by vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Stated Communicaion of the Lodge and with prior notice of the vote to all members.

Section 3. The Lodge Treasurer shall annually at the Annual Communication read the names of all donors to these funds and those memorialized thereby (ie. money donated in memory of someone other than the donor) that the names are thereby perpetuated.

ARTICLE X

General Concern of the Lodge.

Section 1. No disputes concerning nations politics or religion shall in any case be permitted in the lodge. Any brother who shall violate this provision, or be guilty of any irregular or immoral conduct at any meeting shall, for the first offense, be reprimanded by the Master; if he repeat such offense he may be suspended or expelled.

Section 2. No brother shall leave the lodge without permission from the Master, or engage in any private conversation while the brethren are at work..

Section 3. Any member who shall reveal the name of a brother who may have opposed in the lodge the admission of a candidate into the order, shall be liable to be suspended or expelled.

Section 4. If any visiting brother shall be guilty of the violation of this article, he may be ever after excluded from a seat in this lodge.

Section 5. In view of the problems caused by alcoholism and the Grand Lodge of Maine's long standing support of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention, alcoholic beverages are not to be allowed at Unity Lodge even if the Grand Lodge of Maine changes its policy and allows them.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments and Suspensions of By-Laws

- Section 1. No amendment, alteration or additions shall be made to these By-Laws except at a stated meeting and with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present; nor unless it shall have been proposed in writing at a previous stated meeting, due notice of the same being given in the summonses calling said meeting.
- Section 2. The operation of a By-Law can not be suspended, nor can the lodge at a special meeting alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated one. (Grand Lodge Laws, Section 136).

ARTICLE XII

Former By-Laws Repealed

- Section 1. All former By-Laws for government of Unity Lodge are hereby repealed.
- Section 2. These By-Laws shall take effect when approved by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Approved July 15, 2005
By M.W. Claire V. Tusch,
Grand Master

Petitioners for Unity Lodge No.58
Chartered May 15th, 1828

DANIEL WEED

B. F. NICKERSON

ISAAC ADAMS

OTIS WILLIAMS

SAMUEL NUTT

JOHN R. WHITE

REUBEN BRACKETT

THOMAS JONES

PETER G. JACKSON

RICHARD CORNFORTH

BENJAMIN WILLIAMS

WALTER EDMUNDS

NICHOLAS ABBOTT

SAMUEL SEARS

ROBERT THOMPSON