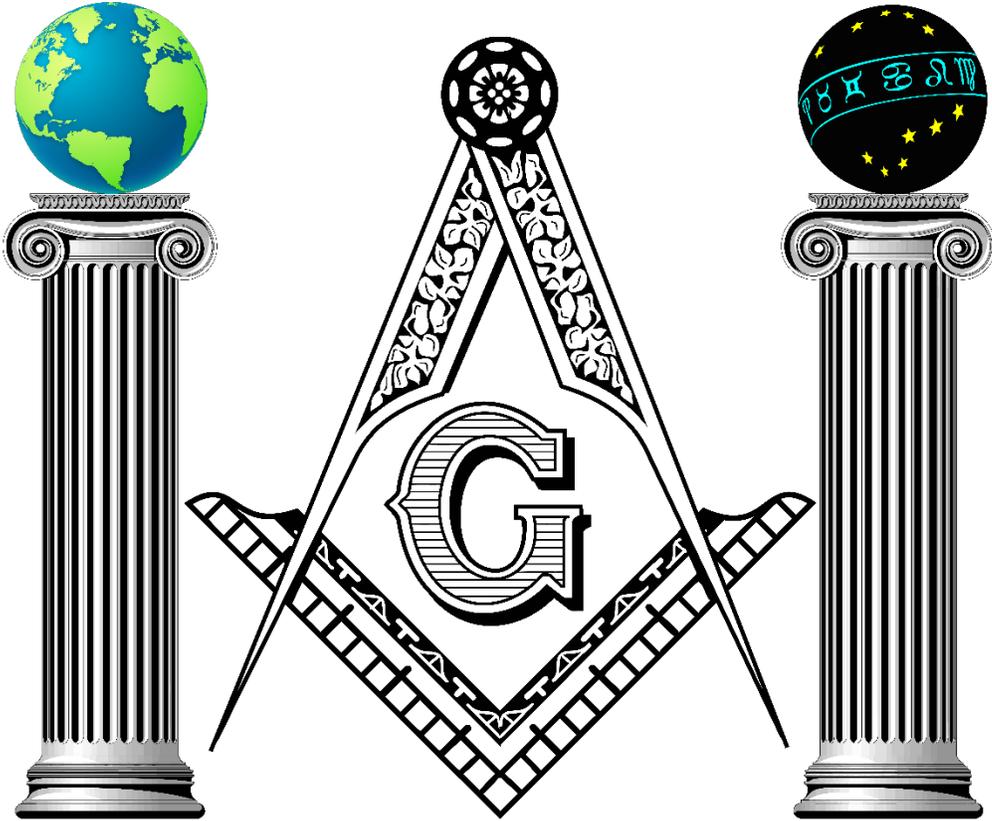


St. George Lodge



Instituted 1871
A. F. & A. M. no. 243 G. R. C

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

amended February 7, 2017

Effective December 1, 2017

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

**OF ST. GEORGE LODGE
A.F. & A.M., NO.243, G.R.C.**

1) Preamble

All former by-laws of this Lodge are hereby repealed and the following enacted.

2) Duty to Grand Lodge

This Lodge fully acknowledges the supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the province of Ontario, and it will at all times pay respect and obedience to its laws, rules, orders, and regulations.

3) Regular Meetings

The regular meetings of this Lodge shall be held on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August. The hour of the meeting shall be 7:30 p.m., except the January meeting when the Worshipful Master is installed and the Officers invested and the annual visit of the District Deputy Grand Master. At these two meetings, the Lodge shall open at 7:00 p.m.

Should the regular meeting in January fall on New Year's day, the meeting will be held the following night.

4) Emergent Meetings

As provided by the Book of Constitution, emergent meetings may be held; but should a Lodge of Emergency be called at the solicitation of a Brother for his own benefit, he shall pay to the Secretary, for the Lodge, all the expenses of such a meeting.

5) Election of Officers

At the regular meeting on the first Tuesday of December, this Lodge shall annually elect the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary by written Ballot, and by open vote, Assistant Secretary, Tyler, 2 Auditors, Examining Board consisting of 3 Installed Masters, of which the ruling Master can be one and all of the remaining officers.

6) Regularity of Attendance

To secure that regularity so highly necessary for the good government of a Lodge, it is expected that every officer will attend punctually at the hour named in the summons.

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DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

7) The Master

Beyond the Ancient charges, regulations, and the duties laid down by the book of Constitution, the Master is responsible for the safe keeping of the Warrant, and other lodge records, books and papers, and holds all furniture, jewels and paraphernalia and other property of the lodge in trust for the members. He shall sign all orders on the Treasurer for the ordinary expenses of the lodge, and shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees.

8) The Senior Warden

Beyond the regular duties appertaining to his office, the Senior Warden shall, under the Master, prepare and maintain an inventory list, especially see to the safe and proper keeping of the furniture, jewels and paraphernalia

of the lodge. The Senior Warden elect shall examine the inventory of the same immediately before entering the duties of the office. He shall be assisted by the Stewards.

9) Junior Warden

- 1) Beyond the regular duties pertaining to his office, the Junior Warden shall attend to the necessary arrangements for refreshments on all ordinary occasions and is, in ex-officio, chief of the Stewards.
- 2) The Junior Warden shall prepare and maintain a list of inventory pertaining to his office and all lodge assets not under the jurisdiction of the Senior Warden. The Junior Warden shall keep monthly records and prepare a financial statement prior to installation, for review by the auditors.

10) The Chaplain

The duties of this officer speak for themselves, and it is very desirable to have his punctual and regular attendance.

11) The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the lodge, and preserve in proper order all papers and documents relating thereto. He shall keep a correct register of the members of the lodge and their respective accounts with the lodge; sign all authorized certificates, and affix the seal of the lodge thereto, issue all necessary notices and summonses for meetings, etc., and countersign all orders of the Master. He shall prepare all returns required by Grand Lodge, and notify the first named brother or chairman of every committee of his appointment, the names of his associates and the nature of their duties.

He shall receive all moneys paid by the members and others to the lodge and pay the same to the Treasurer, without deduction, before the next regular meeting, and shall generally discharge all other duties appertaining to the office of Secretary.

His accounts shall be annually made up and submitted to the auditors at the same time and in the same manner as those of the Treasurer. He shall be exempt from lodge dues during the term of his office, and shall receive such remuneration as the lodge shall direct.

12) The Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary shall assist the secretary under his direction and discharge his duties in his absence. He will also perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Worshipful Master as may be set out in the By-laws for this office.

13) The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys of the lodge from the secretary, and pay all orders duly signed by the Worshipful Master and the secretary, and orders of the charitable and benevolent committees.

He shall keep books in which his receipts and disbursements shall be regularly entered so as to exhibit at one view the balance in his hands at every regular meeting and the books and vouchers must be ready for inspection by the Worshipful Master and Wardens of the lodge at any time.

He shall deposit to the credit of the lodge all moneys received from the secretary, or other sources, within one week of receiving such moneys in a government regulated financial institution, such institution to be designated by the lodge.

Moneys of the lodge or accounts to be paid shall be by cheque only after being voted on and passed in open lodge. The signing officers of the lodge shall be the Worshipful Master, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Any two of the three may sign for the lodge.

He shall annually, at least one week previous to the first Tuesday in January, submit his accounts and vouchers

to the auditors for examination, and also prepare a financial statement with sufficient copies available at the lodge for all the members. If his term of office is complete, he must transfer to his successor all moneys, books, and other property of the lodge in his possession.

14) The Deacons

The Deacons shall attend the Master and Wardens to assist in opening the lodge at the appointed time and in the ceremonies and preparation of the candidates, and otherwise as the Master and Wardens direct.

15) The Director of Ceremonies

The Director of Ceremonies shall see that the lodge is properly prepared, and that all Brethren appear in lodge in the clothing prescribed in the Book of Constitution and to the best of his ability, that every Brother when in lodge, at refreshment or in procession, is placed according to his station. He is also responsible for the formal introduction of visitors and the Presentation of Grand Lodge Officers.

16) Stewards

The Stewards under the direction of the Senior Warden, shall see to the safety and careful keeping of the jewels, paraphernalia and furniture of the lodge and under the Junior Warden, shall have the arrangement and ordering of refreshments

17) Inner Guard

The Inner Guard shall attend each meeting punctually at the hour named in the summons, to guard the interior of the lodge, to receive visitors and examine all candidates for admission, and to give direction to the Tyler.

18) The Tyler

The Tyler shall attend punctually, and diligently watch the exterior of the lodge, and see that all candidates for admission are properly prepared, and that all brethren register, and perform all other duties as may be directed by the lodge or its officers.

19) The Historian

The Historian shall research and record the history of the lodge which is to be kept with the records of the lodge. He will also report his findings to the District Historian when requested.

20) The Auditors

The Auditors shall examine all accounts, any time they deem necessary or at the request of the lodge, and when found correct recommend them for payment. Examine the books of the Treasurer and the Secretary and submit a written report annually to the lodge on the night of and before the installation of the officers.

21) Charitable Trust

The Master, on the day of his installation, shall appoint three brethren as a Charitable Committee. It shall be their duty to visit every sick and needy Brother of the lodge, or his dependents, when made known to them. All applications for relief shall be referred to this committee.

A separate benevolent account shall be kept in the name of the lodge in a government regulated financial institution, the same to be administered by the charitable committee. Withdrawals there from shall be made by the Treasurer for such amounts and for such purposes as the majority of the charitable committee may deem necessary. Donations to the fund are solicited from the members and may be sent to the Master, Secretary or Treasurer.

22) The Committee of General Purpose

The Committee of General Purpose shall, subject to the approval of the Worshipful Master, consist of all officers and past Masters of the lodge. This committee shall meet at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November.

The committee may examine all business pertinent to the lodge and make recommendations to the membership. They may summon any officer(s) or member(s) of the lodge having any books, records, or lodge papers to attend the meeting. The Senior Warden shall, subject to the approval of the Worshipful Master, be the chairman of the committee.

FEES AND MEMBERSHIP

23) Initiation, Joining Fee. Etc.

The fee upon Initiation and Registration (Master Mason Certificate) shall be Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). This will include the current Book of Constitution, and a current copy of the lodge bylaws. The current year's dues pro-rated will be assessed for the initiate. Then upon attaining the 3rd degree the candidate will be responsible for the cost of a Master Mason's apron. The initiation fee and pro-rated dues are payable at the time of initiation.

The fee upon Affiliation and Registration shall be Forty-Five Dollars (\$45.00). The current year's dues pro-rated will be assessed for the affiliate. The affiliation fee and pro-rated dues are payable at the time of affiliation.

24) Conferring Degrees

(Deleted 2007)

25) Balloting

No person shall be initiated in, and no brother shall be admitted a member of this lodge, or have degrees conferred upon him, if in the ballot more than one black ball shall appear against him; but to prevent mistakes, the Master may direct the ballot to be forthwith taken a second time which shall be final.

NOTE: Before declaring the result of the ballot, the ballot box shall be placed on the alter for examination by any member of the lodge. The result of the ballot having been declared by the Master, no further ballot is admissible.

26) Lodge Dues

The annual dues of each member, except the Secretary, who shall be exempt, shall be;

- a) Resident Member: One Hundred and Ten (\$110) Dollars
- b) Non-Resident Member: Eighty (\$80) Dollars
- c) Resident Members who have reached the age of 80 years as of December 31st, Eighty (\$80) Dollars
- d) Non-resident Members who have reached the age of 80 years as of December 31st, Seventy (\$70) Dollars
- e) Members achieving the age of 85 years as of December 31st, and having 25 years membership in St. George Lodge are exempt from dues.

A non-resident member will be one who's primary residence is in excess of 25 km radius from the Lodge.

The fiscal year of the lodge shall be the calendar year. Members who are initiated or members who affiliate shall have their dues prorated from the month in which they join to the end of the fiscal year. The Prorated dues shall be based on a ten-month period. Membership fees are due on the first day of January each year.

27) Arrears of Lodge Dues

Any brother who neglects payment of dues for two years shall forthwith receive a special notice from the Secretary, and after due trial, may be suspended until such arrears are paid. Such notice shall be sent by registered mail to the last known address of the member.

28) Grand Lodge Fees

The Master, being responsible for the Grand Lodge Fees, shall forward the same to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible after the 30th of June and the 31st of December.

29) Withdrawal of Members

- 1) Save as hereinafter provided, a member of the lodge not in arrears of dues may resign and upon doing so, he shall be furnished with a Certificate of Standing. Such resignations shall take effect from the receipt of the same by the Secretary, and shall be reported to the next regular meeting of the lodge.
- 2) The lodge may, by resolution, accept the resignation of a member in arrears for dues, in which case the certificate shall state the fact and the amount of his indebtedness.
- 3) a) An application for a demit shall be in writing and signed by the applicant.

b) every application for a demission, from a brother residing within the jurisdiction of the lodge, shall be referred immediately to a committee of not more than three Masonic brethren appointed by the Master, which committee shall make inquiries concerning the request and report thereon to the Master prior to the next regular meeting of the lodge and follow all procedures as outlined in sections 191 through 198 inclusive in the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.
- 4) No member, who is under suspension or against whom a charge of UN-Masonic conduct is pending, shall have the right or be permitted to resign.

30) Re-Admission of Members

Should any member resign from the lodge or cause his name to be erased from the books for non-payment of dues, he shall not be admitted without a ballot subject to section 197(a) and (b) and section 198(a) and (b) of the Constitution.

31) Honorary Members

A brother who has rendered service to the Craft in general, or to the lodge in particular, may on a three-fourths ballot, be elected as a honorary member, notice of motion been given at a previous meeting and such proposition being inserted in the summons calling the regular meeting at which the ballot will be taken. The election of an honorary member will be subject to the regulations as outlined in the Grand Lodge Book of Constitution

32) Life Membership

No new Life Memberships will be accepted after March 3, 1998. Any Life Memberships in existence prior to that date will be dealt with in accordance with procedures as outlined in the Grand Lodge Book of Constitution.

33) Property, Jewels, Etc.

The Books, Papers, Jewels, Paraphernalia, and Furniture of every kind belonging to the lodge, being at all times vested in the Master and the Wardens for the time being, they are responsible for the same. They shall be annually examined previous to the Installation of the master elect, and an inventory of them shall be kept in the minute book of the lodge. The Master shall annually insure or cause to be insured, all property of the Lodge, against all perils, for such sum as the lodge may direct.

34) Clothing

Brethren shall at all times, appear when in lodge, in proper Masonic clothing as prescribed by the book of Constitution.

35) Discussion

Every Brother, when speaking, shall address himself to the Master, and no brother shall speak twice to the same question unless in explanation, or the mover in reply.

36) Motions

All motions shall be in writing, except the usual motions for receiving petitions, receiving and adopting reports, and for paying accounts.

37) Visitors

No visitor shall speak to any question without the leave of the Master, nor shall be on any occasion allowed to vote. During his continuance in lodge, he shall be subject to its by-laws

38) Alteration of By-laws

No alteration shall be made to these by-laws unless a notice of motion given at a regular meeting, which shall be duly entered on the minutes and inserted in the summons for the next regular meeting, when the proposed alteration shall come on for discussion and on a resolution, regularly moved and seconded, being passed in favour by two-thirds vote of the members present, it shall become law, when sanctioned by the Grand Master.

39) Signing of By-laws, copies, Etc.

These by-laws, when fairly written in a book, shall be signed by the Master and the Secretary, and have the seal of the lodge affixed. A copy of these By-Laws shall be delivered to each member, free of expense.

40) Contingencies

Should any contingency arise, not provided for by these bylaws, the lodge will be guided in its action by the Ancient Masonic usage, and by analogy to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

We the undersigned being Worshipful Master and Secretary do hereby certify that at the regular meeting of the St. George Lodge No. 243 held on the 7th day of February 2017, the foregoing by-laws were read in open lodge and on a motion by W.Bro. Terry Smith, seconded by R.W. Bro. Ron File they were legally accepted by the requisite majority.



W. Bro. Ronald E Rowe,
Worshipful Master



W. Bro. Ronald M Rowe,
Secretary