

By-Laws
Of Stephenson Lodge No. 135

Article 1

Section 1.

This Lodge shall be known and designated as Stephenson Lodge No. 135 subordinate to and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Section 2.

The stated meetings of this Lodge shall be held at their Lodge Room, in the village of Lapidum in the county of Harford on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and on St John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist's day.

Section 3.

The Lodge shall hold special meetings at the call of the Worshipful Master.

**Article II
Members**

Section 1.

Brethren applying for membership shall petition in writing at a stated meeting, and if vouched for by two members of this Lodge, the petition shall lie over until the next stated meeting, and may be acted on, on that or any subsequent stated meeting; and before the ballot is taken, the applicant shall produce a certificate, or give other, satisfactory evidence, that he was in good standing and had paid all dues to the Lodge of which he was last a member, the unanimous vote shall be necessary to an election.

**Article III
Elections**

Section 1.

The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Tyler shall be chosen by ballot, annually, at the stated Meeting next preceding the festival of St. John the Evangelist and the above officers shall be installed on the evening of their election or as soon thereafter as practicable, and shall hold their offices, until their successors are elected and installed.

Section 2.

A majority of all the members present shall be necessary to an election.

Section 3.

The Worshipful Master and Senior Warden shall appoint their Deacons, and the Junior Warden the Stewards immediately after their installation.

Article IV
Petitions

Section 1.

Every applicant for initiation in the Lodge, shall make his intention known in writing, and state his residence, age and occupation, and the petition must be recommended by two members of this Lodge. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee of three Members, who shall make diligent and strict inquiry into the character of the applicant and report thereon at the next stated meeting, unless fees then time shall be required, on report being made the ballot shall be taken.

Section 2.

In balloting for candidates for initiation, passing, raising or membership, one black ball shall reject.

Section 3.

All candidates shall be balloted for in a Master Mason's Lodge, to take the three degrees and for each degree separately, as to their proficiency for advancement.

Section.4

No candidate shall receive the degrees in this Lodge unless he pays the same in advance, Ten Dollars to accompany his petition, and Twenty Dollars at or before the time of taking the first degree.

Section 5.

Every candidate for advancement shall be examined in open Lodge as to his proficiency in the degree last conferred on him, after which a ballot may be taken on his application.

Article V
Master

Section 1.

The Worshipful Master shall appoint a standing committee of the members to serve during his term of office, and all other committees not specially formed by these by-laws.

Section 2.

He shall cause these by-laws to be read in open Lodge either quarterly or semi annually.

Section 3.

He shall cause those Resolutions which are of a general or permanent nature, or those affecting his Lodge, which were passed at the preceding Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, to be read in open Lodge, at the first stated meeting of the Lodge, after the proceedings of the Grand Lodge shall have been received.

Section 4.

He shall decide all questions of order and his decision shall be final.

Article VI
Secretary

Section 1.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to receive and collect all monies due the Lodge, and pay them over to the Treasurer taking his receipt for the same, to keep a regular account with each member, to take minutes of the proceedings of the Lodge, to make out reports required by the Lodge (except of committees) to keep a register of all delinquencies, rejections, suspensions and expulsions; to fill up all diplomas, keeping an account of the same.

Section 2

He shall keep the seal of the Lodge under his charge, and shall be accountable for the same.

Section 3. He shall keep a register, in which he shall require all visitors to mark their names, and the names and numbers of the Lodges from which they hail or ??? last members of. And for his services he shall

receive Twenty Dollars per annum, payable quarterly and be exempt from dues.

Article VII
Treasurer

Section 1.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies from the secretary, giving his receipt for the same; and to pay them out by order of the Worshipful Master and the consent of the Lodge; to keep a just and true account of his receipts and disbursements, and make a report of the same at each stated meeting next preceding the Festivals of St John the Evangelist, and oftener if required by the Lodge; and shall have his account ready for settlement at the expiration of his term of office, or within one week thereafter, and deliver to his legal successor all monies, accounts vouchers, documents and other property belonging to the Lodge.

Article VIII
Tyler

Section 1

The Tyler shall serve all notifications and summons, issuing from the Lodge or Worshipful Master, keep the Lodge-rooms in good order, the regalia of the Lodge, clean and fit for use, and see that every brother is properly clothed before he is admitted into the Lodge-room, and for his services shall receive seventy five cents for each stated meeting and be exempt from dues.

Section 2

In case of absence of the Tyler the Brother who discharges the duties of his office shall be entitled to the compensation for said services.

Article IX
Rules of Order of Business

Section 1

First, unfinished business,
Second, Reports of committees of Investigations,
Third, Balloting on Petitions,
Fourth, reception of Petitions of degrees,
Fifth, Motions, Resolutions and general business,
Sixth conferring degrees.

Section 2

Applications for advancement must be made at a stated meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, of which due notice shall be given the members.

Section 3.

The sense of the Lodge, on all questions shall be determined by yeas and nays, the members ??? holding up hands, or by ballot.

Section 4.

No business shall be transacted at a special meeting, except that specified in the order.

Section 5.

In all cases, every member present when the question is put, shall vote, unless he may be, for special reasons, excused by the Lodge.

Section 6

A majority of votes shall govern, when not otherwise provided.

Section 7.

In the ordinary business of the Lodge, any member voting in the majority may move for a reconsideration of the resolution.

Article X
Committee of Charity

Section 1

The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens shall be the Committee of Charity, and shall be

authorized to draw from the funds of the Lodge by an order from the Worshipful Master, any sum not exceeding Five Dollars, for the relief of any one object at one time.

Section 2.

The Lodge shall have authority by resolution of a majority of the members present, to bestow any sum of money, not otherwise appropriated, for any charitable or benevolent purpose, the Worshipful Master to draw the money from the funds of the Lodge by a written order, and apply the same as the resolution of the Lodge shall direct.

Article XI

If a candidate for Initiation or Membership is rejected, or a Brother suspended or expelled, no brother shall either directly or indirectly make known to him who the Brother or Brethren were that opposed him, or in any manner make known any of the transactions of the Lodge, that it would be improper to make public, unless it be to a brother in good standing, Any Brother so offending, shall be deemed guilty of Unmasonic Conduct, and shall be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled, as the Lodge may determine the nature of the case to demand, and immediately after a rejection, suspension or expulsion taken place, the Worshipful Master shall cause this article to be read, that none may plead ignorance of its existence.

Article XII Of Diplomas and Demitions

Section 1.

Every member of this Lodge in good standing, shall be entitled to a Diploma, upon application to the Lodge, for which he shall pay to the Secretary a fee of one dollar.

Section 2

Any Brother in good standing may at any time demit from this Lodge, on making his desires known, and producing the Secretary's receipts for his dues in full.

Article XIII
Fees and Contributions

The fee for Initiation shall be Ten Dollars, for Passing, Ten Dollars, for raising, Ten Dollars, admission Two Dollars, to be paid in advance. The annual dues shall be Four Dollars, to be paid quarterly viz on the first Wednesday in February, May, August and November.

Article XIV
By-Laws

Section 1.

Any Brother desirous of a change or alteration of these By-Laws, shall present the same in writing at a stated meeting when, if it shall be deemed expedient, an order shall be issued directing the Members to be notified that such an amendment was offered, and would be acted on at the next stated meeting, at which time, if a majority of the members are present, it shall be called up, and a vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be required to adopt the amendment.

Section 2.

Every Member shall be furnished with a copy of these by-laws at the expense of the Lodge.

Section 3.

These by-laws shall be recorded in a book, and every member shall subscribe his name thereto.

W.W. Viridin, Jr. M.D., Worshipful Master
James R. Smith, Senior Warden
Conrad Baker, Junior Warden
Wm. B. Stephenson, Treasurer
Wm. T. Makinson, Secretary
W. Stump Forward, Junior Deacon
Robert M. Gilmore, Tyler
Dav E. Wilson
R. J. Jackson