

BY-LAWS OF

WILLIAMS LODGE NO. 176 A.F.&A.M.

(Revised, updated and restated April 1, 2014, approved by Grand Lodge April 7, 2014)

ARTICLE 1

SECTION 1. The name of this lodge shall be Williams Lodge No. 176, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.

SECTION 2. It shall be located at or near Cornelius in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

SECTION 3. It hereby acknowledges obedience and yields allegiance to The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina.

ARTICLE 2

SECTION 1. Where the term THE CODE appears in these by-laws, it shall have direct reference to THE CODE of law of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina.

ARTICLE 3

SECTION 1. This lodge hereby adopts the following design, an impression of which is made hereon, as its official seal: [\[46-4\]](#).

(Impress seal of lodge here)

ARTICLE 4

SECTION 1. The officers of this lodge, their respective qualifications, and their powers and duties shall be those prescribed in THE CODE, together with such other duties as shall pertain properly to their respective offices by the usage and customs of the Craft, and as may be required of them, from time to time or which may be prescribed in these by-laws. [\[Chapter 59\]](#).

ARTICLE 5

SECTION 1. In addition to the duties prescribed in THE CODE for the Treasurer, he shall prepare and file with the lodge by the first stated communication in January each year a report showing the receipts, disbursements, and financial condition of the lodge for the preceding year ending December thirty-first. He shall make and file a similar report at any other time the lodge or the Master directs. His reports shall be referred to the Committee on Finance and Budget. [\[59-11\]](#).

ARTICLE 6

SECTION 1. In addition to the duties prescribed in THE CODE for the Secretary, he shall make and file with the lodge at the first stated communication in January each year a report of the work done, condition of the accounts of the lodge with its officers and members, and other matters relating to the finances and business of the lodge which may be under his care. He shall make and file a similar report

at any other time the lodge or the Master directs. His reports on financial matters shall be referred to the Committee on Finance and Budget. [[59-12](#); [Chapter 59](#)].

ARTICLE 7

SECTION 1. In addition to the duties prescribed in THE CODE for the Tyler, he shall perform such other duties as the lodge or the Master may direct, from time to time. [[59-16](#)].

ARTICLE 8

SECTION 1. A stated communication of this lodge shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

SECTION 2. By a majority vote at a stated communication the lodge may dispense with stated communications during either or all of the months of June, July and August, and those falling on legal holidays, except the annual communication which shall be governed by THE CODE. [[45-2](#)].

SECTION 3. All communications shall be held at the lodge hall in Cornelius in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

SECTION 4. The annual communication of this lodge shall be held on the stated communication in November.

ARTICLE 9

SECTION 1. The fees for the degrees in this lodge shall be One Hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus the cost of the criminal background check assessed by the Grand Lodge, all of which must accompany the petition and be paid in full before the petition shall be received by the lodge.

ARTICLE 10

SECTION 1. The annual membership dues in this lodge shall be Sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) which each member shall pay in advance on or before the first day of January.

NOTE: An amendment to Section 1 of this article shall not become effective until January first next following the date it is approved by the chairman of the Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges. [[77-2](#); [77-3](#)]. (This article amended, effective 7/31/2000)

ARTICLE 11

SECTION 1. The fee for affiliation with this lodge shall be Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) which must accompany the application for affiliation and be paid in full before the application shall be received by the lodge.

ARTICLE 12

SECTION 1. The standing committees of this lodge together with their respective duties shall be as prescribed in Chapter [61](#) of THE CODE.

ARTICLE 13

SECTION 1. The Master and Wardens shall constitute the Committee on Charity as provided in Regulation [61-2](#) of THE CODE, and during the recess of the lodge they shall have power to draw orders on the Treasurer for any sum, not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-five dollars (\$125) for any one case, to relieve the distress of a worthy brother or those dependent upon him.

ARTICLE 14

SECTION 1. The Committee on Finance and Budget shall consist of three members to be appointed annually.[\[61-3\]](#).

SECTION 2. The duties of this committee shall be those prescribed in Chapter [61](#) of THE CODE. [\[61-3\]](#).

ARTICLE 15

SECTION 1. The Treasurer, Secretary, Tyler, and any other officer or member shall receive such compensation for their respective services as shall from time to time be prescribed and fixed by resolution of the lodge. [\[43-3.20\]](#).

ARTICLE 16

SECTION 1. Not later than the first stated communication after the adoption of this by-law, the lodge shall elect by a majority vote three members, qualified as provided by THE CODE of the Grand Lodge, as trustees, one to serve one year, one to serve two years, and one to serve three years. At each succeeding election of officers one trustee shall be elected by a majority vote to serve three years; he shall be qualified as provided by THE CODE. [\[Chapter 60\]](#).

ARTICLE 17

SECTION 1. The powers and duties of the trustees shall be those prescribed in THE CODE.

ARTICLE 18

The Master may, in his discretion, to appoint a Chaplain for a full Masonic term as provided in Regulation [53-1.1](#)

ARTICLE 19

SECTION 1. The Master in his discretion may appoint a Chaplain under the provisions of Regulation 53-1.

SECTION 2. When voting upon issues requiring the use of the ballot box (Petitions for the Degrees, Applications for Affiliation, Honorary or Life Memberships), if one black cube is found on the

examination of the ballot, the Master shall destroy the ballot and require the members to ballot again, cautioning them that white balls elect, and black cubes reject and reminding them to vote for the good of masonry. If a single black cube is found after the second ballot, the Master shall not immediately announce the result, but shall require the person casting the black cube to communicate his reason for the negative vote to the Master, who shall keep the identity of the person making the objection in strictest confidence. At the next stated meeting, the Master shall reveal the reason given for the negative vote, but not the identity of the member casting the black cube. The Master will then ask the lodge to vote, by a show of hands, on the validity of the reason for the black cube. The majority vote shall govern whether the candidate is elected.

If the brother casting the black cube does not present his reasons to the Master within one week, the Master shall, at the next stated communication, declare the candidate elected and the lodge shall proceed as if there had been no black cube cast. *(The article amended, effective 1/1/2009.)*

SECTION 3. The Master shall have the power to direct the Secretary and the Treasurer to pay to any Masonic charity the sum of Fifty dollars (\$50) in memory of a deceased brother or his immediate family to include his wife, mother, father or children from lodge funds as the Master may be directed by the deceased brother's surviving spouse, child or parent or to such Masonic charity as the lodge may direct through a majority vote, if none is selected by the family as described above.

SECTION 4. A candidate's annual membership dues shall be remitted in the year in which he is raised.

SECTION 5. There shall be no smoking or use of any type of tobacco products in the lodge room or lodge building at any time.

SECTION 6. The Master of the lodge shall furnish a portrait of himself which will be displayed in a prominent place in the lodge recognizing him as the current Master. Upon completion of his term in office and fulfilling the requirements as set forth in The Code to be a Past Master, the portrait will be placed among the archives of the lodge with those of other Past Masters.

SECTION 7. Upon completion of his term in office and fulfilling the requirements as set forth in The Code to become a Past Master, the Master of the lodge shall receive a Past Master's pin, certificate, and other amenities for his service as the lodge may deem appropriate.

SECTION 8. The delegates who attend the Annual Grand Lodge Communication shall be reimbursed for their expenses, to include mileage, hotel and up to three (3) meals.

ARTICLE 20

OBSOLETE

ARTICLE 21

SECTION 1. When the lodge is opened on a stated communication, the following order of business shall be observed, subject to change or modification by the lodge or the Master that will adapt it to a proper disposition of the business of the lodge. [\[44-2.1\]](#).

- A. Reading of the minutes of the last stated and all intervening communications. [\[45-21.1\]](#).
- B. Unfinished business. [\[45-21.2\]](#).
- C. Reading and acting on correspondence. [\[45-21.3\]](#).
- D. Reports of investigating committees. [\[45-21.4\]](#).
- E. Balloting on petitions and applications. [\[45-21.5\]](#).
- F. Reception of petitions for the degrees and applications for membership, restoration, or advancement. [\[45-21.6\]](#).
- G. Reports of standing committees: [\[45-21.7\]](#).
 - (1) On Charity. [\[61-2\]](#).
 - (2) On Finance and Budget. [\[61-3\]](#).
 - (3) On Reference. [\[61-4\]](#).
 - (4) On the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. [\[61-5\]](#).
 - (5) On Masonic and Eastern Star Home. [\[61-6\]](#).
 - (6) On Masonic Education. [\[61-7\]](#).
 - (7) On Demolay [\[61-8\]](#)
- H. Reports of special committees. [\[45-21.7\]](#).
- I. New business. [\[45-21.8\]](#).
- J. Motions and resolutions. [\[45-21.9\]](#).
- K. Informal communications affecting the Craft. [\[45-21.10\]](#).
- L. Degree work, including examination of candidates. [\[45-21.11\]](#).
- M. Reading and approval of minutes, except when opened in ample form. [\[45-21.12\]](#).
- N. Closing the lodge. [\[45-21.13\]](#).

ARTICLE 22

SECTION 1. Miscellaneous laws are as follows:

A. The Master shall put all questions distinctly; if any division is called for, he shall request those who voted in the affirmative to rise and he shall count them; and then the negative, then he shall declare the result. [\[45-23.9\]](#).

B. In case of a vote on any question, the majority of those present voting for or against shall be necessary to a decision except when more than a majority is required by law for a decision, in case of a tie the presiding officer shall decide; *provided*, he has not already voted. [\[59-2.25;63-13; 63-16; 45-23.18;45-23.19\]](#).

C. When a brother is about to speak, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Worshipful Master. [\[45-23.2\]](#).

D. If any brother in speaking or otherwise shall transgress the rules of the lodge, the Master or any member may call him to order; he shall take his seat immediately, and the member calling him to order shall state the point of order. The Master shall decide the question of order without debate, except that the brother called to order may be allowed to explain. If the decision be in favor of the brother, he shall be at liberty to proceed if he continues to be in order. [\[45-23.2\]](#).

E. When two or more members rise at once, the Master shall name the one entitled to the floor.

F. No visitor shall address the lodge without leave being first obtained or unless he be called on by the Master.

G. When the Master is stating a question or addressing the lodge or when a brother is speaking, no person shall enter, go out of, or cross the room, nor shall one be permitted to enter into private discourse. [\[45-23.14\]](#).

H. No motion for reconsideration shall be made, except by a member voting in the majority and at the same communication when the question shall have been decided. [\[63-13; 45-23.18; 45-23.19\]](#).

I. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Master; and if it be in writing, it shall be read by the Secretary before debate.

J. Every motion shall be reduced to writing if a member requests it. In filling in blanks the largest sum or number and the longest time shall be first stated. [\[45-23.5\]](#).

K. Any motion may be withdrawn by the mover before decision or amendment, but not thereafter. [\[45-23.6\]](#).

L. No new motion or proposition shall be admitted while a question is pending before the lodge. [\[45-23.12\]](#).

M. No brother shall speak more than twice on the same subject or question unless he obtains the permission of the Master. [\[45-23.7\]](#).

N. Every member appointed on a committee must serve unless, for reasons given, he shall be excused by the Master. [\[61-9\]](#).

O. No brother shall interrupt another when speaking except by permission of the Master and the brother then speaking. [\[45-23.7\]](#).

P. No brother shall engage in conversation during the conferring of the degrees except when it is necessary to facilitate the work. [\[71\]](#).

Q. No brother shall smoke in the lodge room while a degree is being conferred. [\[45-20\]](#)
Smoking or any tobacco use is prohibited in Williams Lodge.

ARTICLE 23

SECTION 1. THE CODE, laws, edicts, and resolutions of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, and all future revisions, amendments, additions or changes made thereto by said Grand Lodge are hereby made a part of these by-laws as fully as if set forth herein; and no part of these by-laws which conflict therewith shall be valid or effective.

ARTICLE 24

SECTION 1. These by-laws shall be amended only in the following manner: [\[44-2.1\]](#). The proposed amendment shall specify the affected section or subsection and shall contain the entire section or subsection rewritten in such form as to express the law as intended, and shall be submitted in writing and read at a stated communication as a substitute for the existing section or subsection, or as an addition thereto, or as a change in the seal of the lodge, as the case may be; after which it shall lay over for one lunar month when it shall be read again and submitted to a vote, and adopted by not less than two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the members present. While such amendment is under consideration, it may be amended if the amendment thereto is germane to the subject. After the adoption of such amendment or revision, two complete copies thereof with two copies of a Certificate on Official Form 60 under the seal of the lodge shall be forwarded to the Grand Lodge Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges and no amendment, revision, or change in the by-laws shall be effective until the date it is approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges; an amendment providing for an additional subsection shall be lettered as a section or a subsection but not as an additional article. [\[43-10;45-3.4.E\]](#).

ARTICLE 25

SECTION 1. When these by-laws become effective, all previous by-laws are hereby repealed. All previous resolutions and enactments which are inconsistent, or in conflict with THE CODE or these by-laws are hereby repealed and are void.