

***By-Laws of the***  
**OHIO 15TH MASONIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

| <b>Amendment Log</b>            |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Date of Amendment</i>        | <i>Changes/Revisions Made</i>  |
| September 22, 2007              | Initial Draft  |
| November 19, 2022               | Change Focus to Education for 501.3.c. purposes. Add Awards.               |
| December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 | Revert focus to Association Purpose, assign duties of offices, add awards. |

**ARTICLE I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be OHIO 15TH MASONIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, Inc., and may be referred to in these By-Laws as “*the District*”.

**ARTICLE II – SCOPE**

The Ohio 15th Masonic District Association, Inc. serves the Lodges, and its members, now chartered, or chartered in the future, in the geographic region known as the 15th Masonic District, as defined by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio (Logan, Marion, Morrow and Union counties).

**ARTICLE III – Purpose**

The primary purpose of the Association is to effectively coordinate essential events within the District, including but not limited to the Grand Master Reception, fundraising activities, awards ceremonies, and meetings. In addition to these responsibilities, the Association is dedicated to fostering the principles of Freemasonry through active Masonic Education, social engagement and community involvement throughout the District.

Moreover, the Association’s Officers and members are committed to providing unwavering support and assistance to the Grand Lodge of Ohio, the District Deputy Grand Masters, District Education Officers, District Advisors, and the individual Lodges within the District, as needed. This collaborative effort will not only strengthen the bonds within our Masonic community but also elevate the visibility and impact of our shared values and objectives within the broader community. Through these endeavors, the Association aspires to create a lasting positive influence and enrich the experience of all members involved.

*The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the*

*purposes described in section 501(c)(3). No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.*

#### **ARTICLE IV – Membership**

The membership shall be comprised of all Master Masons in Good Standing, who are members of the chartered Lodges in the District. Such membership shall include: Primary members; Dual Members; and Plural members. A member may hold as many memberships as he desires but he shall only have one vote at any District meeting, and represent only one Lodge.

#### **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

The District shall hold meetings as deemed necessary to effectively conduct its business and activities. Regularly scheduled meetings and events will encompass, but are not limited to, the following:

J.C. Musser Workday - First Saturday in January

Annual Education Meeting – First Saturday in May

Grand Master Reception – Scheduled with the GM

Annual Golf Outing – Scheduled by District President

Annual Business Meeting – Second Saturday in September

PM Convocation – First Saturday in December

In addition to these established gatherings, the District may also organize any other meetings/events as required to fulfill its operational objectives and address the needs of its members.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of at least two (2) Officers and an additional nine (9) members, representing at least six (6) Lodges in the District.

## **ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS**

Section 1. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting and shall be installed into their respective offices at the Past Master's Convocation.

Section 2. The person with the most votes is elected to the position. In case of a tie vote, the ballots shall be destroyed and another vote taken.

## **ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS**

The Officers of the District shall be: President; 1st Vice-President; 2nd Vice-President; Secretary; Associate Secretary; Treasurer and Associate Treasurer. No more than (3) Officers may be from the same District Lodge thus preventing a monopoly of the District Officers Association. A person may hold only one elected office at a time. The outgoing Officer shall be responsible to pass along, to his successor, all property and information relating to that office, in a timely and efficient manner.

### **1. President Duties:**

- a. Support the District Deputy Grand Master & District Education Officer in meeting and supporting the Grand Lodge, during their term in office.
- b. To govern the Association and Officers to the best of his ability so that it may accomplish the purpose for which it exists.
- c. Schedule and direct events to obtain the goals of the District.
- d. Preside over meetings. However, Masonic protocol may call for a District Deputy Grand Master or District Education Officer to preside at a meeting and the President shall yield under those circumstances.
- e. Maintain an accurate record of Inspection attendance.
- f. Assist the District Treasurer with annual budget planning & propose an Annual Plan to be presented at the PM Convocation.
- g. Appoint any necessary committees.

### **2. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Duties:**

- a. To perform the duties of President in his absence.
- b. Responsible for other duties the President may assign him.
- c. Assist with the District Treasurer with annual budget planning.

### **3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Duties:**

- a. To perform the duties of the President/Vice President in his absence.
- b. Responsible for other duties the President may assign him.

4. Secretary Duties:

- a. Perform administrative duties of the District.
- b. Record minutes of regular and special meetings.
- c. Maintain all correspondence and publicity.
- d. Other duties that may be assigned to him.

5. Associate Secretary Duties:

- a. Assist the Secretary in his duties.
- b. Perform the duties of Secretary in his absence.

6. Treasurer Duties:

- a. Perform Financial Duties of the District.
- b. He shall receive, deposit, record and disburse all funds of the District.
- c. Present the Treasurers Report at District meetings.
- d. Have books prepared for audit and review prior to District Annual Meeting.

7. Associate Treasurer:

- a. Assist the Treasurer in his duties.
- b. Perform the duties of Treasurer in his absence.

## **ARTICLE IX – FINANCIAL**

Section 1. All funds of the District shall be deposited in a financial institution, insured by the FDIC, or similar federal agency.

Section 2. The following Officers shall be authorized signatories on all accounts of the Association, to include, but not necessarily be limited to: checking account(s); savings account(s); and Certificate(s) of Deposit: the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Section 3. The District may, from time to time, assess a Per Capita charge against the Lodges located in the District, utilizing the membership charged with “GL Per Capita” from the Annual Return most recently published by the Grand Lodge. The amount of such Per Capita shall be voted by the District Association and only a simple majority vote shall be required.

## **ARTICLE X – VACANCIES**

In the event of the death, resignation or removal from Office of the Secretary or the Treasurer, then the Associate Secretary or the Associate Treasurer, as appropriate, shall become authorized signatories until a new Secretary or Treasurer can be elected. Only one (1) signature shall be required.

In the event of illness, resignation or withdrawal of an Officer, the Senior DDGM may appoint a member until a special election can be held to fill the unexpired term. Such election shall be held at a regular District meeting, provided that a minimum of two weeks' notice has been sent to all Lodges and/or members. The DDGM may utilize the Grandview Membership system to provide such notification, if necessary.

## **ARTICLE XI – INCORPORATION**

This organization is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, as provided for in Section 1702.01 et seq Revised Code of Ohio, as amended.

## **ARTICLE XII – AWARDS**

The District has established awards to recognize Masonic principles, and to encourage and promote Masonic values. These awards shall be presented at the Annual Awards dinner in September.

### **Section 1. R.W.B. Charles Roby Award**

Paragraph 1. The R.W.B. Charles Roby Award is an individual award presented to a worthy Brother for demonstrating excellence in Masonry. The DDGM's shall consult and make the selection.

Paragraph 2. The Brother selected for the award shall receive an individual award plaque. In addition, the Brother's lodge shall receive the memorial plaque, on which the brother's name shall be added, to be displayed in the lodge for a period of one year, until the next annual awards ceremony.

### **Section 2. Edgar Miller Award**

Paragraph 1. The Edgar Miller Award shall be presented to the lodge that has the largest number of its own members at their own inspection. The numbers shall be compiled from the sign-in

sheets provided by the District Officers at the inspection meetings.

Paragraph 2. The award shall be calculated by the number of members present, divided by the total number of members on the lodge's last annual return. That percentage shall be multiplied by the "Multiplier" in the table to determine the total.

| Min<br>"X" | Max | Min<br>"X" | Max | Min<br>"X" | Max | Min<br>"X" | Max | Min<br>"X" | Max   |
|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-------|
| 1          | 50  | 201        | 250 | 401        | 450 | 601        | 650 | 801        | 851   |
| 2.0        |     | 4.0        |     | 6.0        |     | 8.0        |     | 10.0       |       |
| 51         | 100 | 251        | 300 | 451        | 500 | 651        | 700 | 851        | 900   |
| 2.5        |     | 4.5        |     | 6.5        |     | 8.5        |     | 10.5       |       |
| 101        | 150 | 301        | 350 | 501        | 550 | 701        | 750 | 901        | 950   |
| 3.0        |     | 5.0        |     | 7.0        |     | 9.0        |     | 11.0       |       |
| 151        | 200 | 351        | 400 | 551        | 600 | 751        | 800 | 951        | 1,000 |
| 3.5        |     | 5.5        |     | 7.5        |     | 9.5        |     | 11.5       |       |

Paragraph 3. The Award shall be in the form of a memorial plaque, with the lodge name and number engraved on an individual plate. It shall be displayed in the lodge for a period of one year, until the next annual awards meeting.

Section 3. District Traveling Masters' Award – The District Traveling Masters' Award shall be presented to the lodge that has the most officers (cumulative total) attending the district inspections for the year. The award shall be an individual plaque presented to the lodge at the annual awards meeting.

Section 4. District Traveling Brethren Award – The District Traveling Brethren Award shall be presented to the lodge that has the most members, cumulative total, attending the district inspections for the year. The award shall be an individual plaque presented to the lodge at the annual awards meeting.

Section 5. District Ritual Excellence Award – The District Excellence Award shall be presented to the Lodge that presents the best degree work at their inspection. The Award is presented for each of the three (3) degrees. The DDGM's shall consult and make the selections.

Section 6. District Lantern Award – The District Lantern Award, originated on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Lodge, shall be presented to the Lodge raising the most Master Masons during the year, calculated by the Annual Return. The

Lantern shall be displayed in the lodge for a period of one year, until the next annual awards meeting.

Section 7. Phil Hoffman Secretary Award – The Secretary Award shall be presented to the secretary that presents the best work at their inspection. The DDGM's shall consult and make the selection.

Section 8. District Passport Program – The District Passport Program shall be an incentive for brethren to visit the lodges and attend the meetings in the district. A brother purchases a "passport" from a DDGM, then shall have it stamped by a DDGM when he attends an inspection or meeting. When the passport is filled, the brother shall receive a Certificate and pin for the first award. Subsequent awards shall be a Certificate only. There is no limit to the number of Certificates that a brother may receive.

The Officers of the Association may employ games, incentives, and programs (i.e. Traveling Gavel) to assist with attendance and promotion of the Association goals. Any such awards and/or programs shall be in compliance with all provisions of the Grand Lodge of Ohio Code.

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### **ARTICLE XIII - Bingo Games**

(added November 19, 2022)

Section 1. The Lodges of the 15th Masonic District may be permitted to conduct bingo games, as provided for in Sections 2915.01 through 2915.15 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 2, Any conduct of bingo games shall be done through the Lodges located in the Ohio 15th Masonic District.

Section 3. A separate charity checking account for said bingo game(s) shall be established for the individual lodge.

Paragraph 1. The account shall be set up as follows:  
Ohio 15th Masonic District Association, Inc.  
c/o (legal lodge name and number as provided for by the IRS).  
Lodge mailing address, to include city, state and zip code

Paragraph 2. The authorized signatories on said account(s) shall be the District President, the District Secretary, the District Associate Secretary, the District Treasurer, the District Associate Treasurer, and the members of the respective Lodge who are authorized signers per the Lodge By-Laws.

Section 4. Donations (payments) shall be made to the District on a quarterly basis.

### **ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular District meeting, as set forth in Article V, due notice having been given to the Lodges at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A proposed amendment shall be given first reading, and lie over until the next regular District meeting. At said meeting, the amendment may then be given second reading and a vote taken.

Section 2. It shall require two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting for the amendment to be approved. In no case shall any member be permitted to cast more than one vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.



## **ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Ohio 15th Masonic District Association, Inc., all assets and excess funds remaining, after payment of final expenses, shall be evenly distributed between the Grand Lodge of Ohio's 501 (c) (3) Grand Lodge Foundation and the 501 (c) (3) Ohio Masonic Home Endowment Foundation. Should these Foundations not be in existence at such time, then upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. If neither of these organizations meets those requirements, or are not in existence at that time, then assets shall be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

MATTHEW E. BOSH, President  
363 Denning Ave  
Marion, OH 43302

MATTHEW K. POLLOCK, Secretary  
567 Girard Ave.  
Marion, OH 43302

ZACHARY DEAN, 1st Vice President  
442 Carolyn Drive  
Marion OH 43302

LARRY L LANCE, Treasurer  
217 Fuson St  
PO Box 52  
West Liberty OH 43357

NICHOLAS SALTZMAN, 2nd Vice President  
304 East High Ave  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311