

CONSTITUTION AND BY\_LAWS  
OF THE  
TARRANT COUNTY YORK RITE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1

CONSTITUTION

Section A.

There is hereby established on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2002 in the city of Fort Worth, Texas an organization to be known as The Tarrant County York Rite Association. The association exists only at the will and pleasure of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Section B.

This association has no authority, right or aim to concern itself in any manner with the business or other affairs of any Chapter or Council in this district or any member thereof. The purpose of this association is to further the goals and objectives of York Rite Masonry in this area and to afford any assistance possible to any other Masonic Body.

1. The association shall sponsor a yearly school of instruction and Education in York Rite ritualistic work.
2. The association shall sponsor, organize and conduct the annual Parry award grading of Chapters and Councils in the 26<sup>th</sup> district.
3. The association shall assist The Texas Masonic Retirement Center in any program deemed desirable by TMRC, and that is agreeable to the association.
4. The association shall sponsor and conduct the Heroes of York Rite Breakfast in Waco each year during the Grand York Rite session.
5. The association shall sponsor and promote any ideas or program for the improvement of brotherhood and to widen the acquaintance among the brethren of the Masonic fraternity.

ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP

Section A.

All members of Chapters and Councils in the 26<sup>th</sup> Capitular / Cryptic District Of Texas are eligible for regular membership in the association. All other York Rite Masons are eligible for honorary membership. Symbolic Lodge members present at any meeting of the association are guest.

Section B.

Each regular member present shall be entitled to one vote in the transaction of business. Honorary members and guests shall have no vote in the transaction of any business, but may enter into the discussion of matters before the association and they may serve on committees when appointed.

ARTICLE III  
OFFICERS

Section A.

1. The officers of this association shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, and a Secretary. All officers shall be elected from the regular membership by a majority vote of regular members present.
2. No President shall succeed himself in office except by two-thirds vote of members present.
3. In case of death, resignation, inability or refusal to serve by the President, the First Vice-President shall assume the duties of that officer until the next regular meeting at which time that office shall be filled by election. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, the President may appoint a pro-tem officer until the next regular or called meeting at which time that office will be filled by election.
4. The duties of the President of this association will be the administration of the affairs of this association in a similar manner as the Worshipful Master administers the affairs of a symbolic lodge. He may appoint any committee or a member to carry out any task or program in which the association is involved.
5. The First Vice-President, in the absence of the President for any reason, shall assume the duties of the President. In the absence of the President and First Vice President, The Second Vice President shall assume those duties. The First and Second Vice Presidents shall also assist the President in any task or program as requested by the President.
6. The Secretary shall keep a record of all business conducted at meetings of the association. He shall collect all monies of the association, make a record of all monies collected, and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. *He shall also file annual 990-N tax returns.*
7. The Treasurer shall collect all monies of the association from the Secretary, make a record of all monies collected, keep them safe, expend monies as authorized by the association and make a financial report at regular meetings of the association.

8. The election and installation of officers shall be at the January meeting and their term of office will extend to the next January meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

##### Section A.

No less than four regular meetings shall be held per annum.

1. The first regular meeting of the association each year will be held on the last Tuesday in January, and each meeting thereafter on 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays during the year.
2. The President may with just cause, reschedule or cancel any meeting.

##### Section B.

Called meetings may be held at any time when set at a regular meeting or when written notice is mailed to all regular members at least five days prior to such meeting.

##### Section C.

Any business proper to be conducted by this association may be conducted at either a regular or called meeting, except amendments to the by-laws, which shall be considered or voted on only at regular meetings.

##### Section D.

All meetings should be opened and closed with a prayer.

#### ARTICLE V ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section A. The order of business at regular or called meetings shall be as follows unless altered by the President or presiding officer.

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Pledge of allegiance.
3. Reading of all unapproved minutes.
4. Report of committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New Business.
7. Announcements.
8. Closing Prayer.

ARTICLE VI  
FINANCES

Section A.

The work of this association shall be carried out by voluntary contributions, dues paid by regular members, and fund raising projects conducted by the association.

1. The amount of the dues shall be determined by the association.
2. Dues are due each January.

ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS

Section A.

No amendment to these by-laws, either by alteration, addition or termination shall be made except in the following manner:

1. The proposed amendment must be in writing, signed by the proposer and presented and read at a regular meeting, at which time it may be discussed and amended if needed.
2. At the next regular meeting, it shall be voted on without any further discussion and approved by a two-thirds majority of regular members present.
3. The association may be dissolved in the same manner as prescribed in Article VII, Amendments.

PROCEDURE FOR ABOLISHMENT OF THREE YORK RITE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CREATION OF A NEW ONE:

At a regular meeting of three Tarrant County York Rite Associations: (The Certificate Men's Association, The Past Presiding Officers Association and the Chapter and Council Officers Association, on January 30, 2001, members present in each of the associations, elected to abolish the three named associations and create one new association to replace them. A committee was appointed to write the by-laws for the new association and present them to the regular meetings of the three associations on May 29, 2001 for consideration.

The committee has completed the task and submits the attached constitution and by-laws for the new association to be named "The Tarrant County York Rite Association". It is recommended that this letter be attached to and made a part of said constitution and by-laws.

Since the officers of two of the associations, (The Past Presiding Officers and The Chapter and Council Officers Association) elect and install officers in mid-year and the Certificates Men's Association elects and installs officers in January, the following two proposals are made either of which will be made the transition of officers and projects as plausible as possible:

The Past Presiding Officers Association and The Chapter and Council Officer's Association would hold no election of officers in 2001. The present officers of these two associations would remain in office and continue their respective projects and duties of office until January 29, 2002, at which time the associations would be abolished without further discussion or vote. The Certificate Men's Association would be abolished. The Tarrant County York Rite Association would then elect and install officers and assume the duties in the Constitution and by-laws.

The Past Presiding Officers Association and The Chapter and Council Officer's Association would hold election and installation of officers during 2001 but the officers would be elected and installed to carry out the duties and responsibilities of these associations only until January 29, 2002 at which time these associations would be abolished without further discussion or vote. The Certificate Men's Association would be abolished. The Tarrant County York Rite Association would then elect and install officers and assume the duties as established in the Constitution and By-Laws.

All assets and liabilities of the three abolished associations would transfer to the Tarrant County York Rite Association on January 29, 2002.

Respectfully submitted:

Billy Melton

W. David Elam

Amendments:

The bylaws were amended on May 29, 2012 by unanimous vote of the association.

Article I – Section B - 4 – was changed as follows:

From: The association shall sponsor and conduct the J. W. Carter Breakfast in Waco each year during the Grand York Rite session.

To: The association shall sponsor and conduct the Heroes of York Rite Breakfast in Waco each year during the Grand York Rite session.

Article III - Section A – was changed to split out the duties of the Secretary / Treasurer.

Article III, Section A – 3 referenced the Secretary / Treasurer together, and now references them separately.

From:

In case of death, resignation, inability or refusal to serve by the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of that officer until the next regular meeting at which time that office shall be filled by election. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President or Secretary / Treasurer, the President may appoint a pro-tem officer until the next regular or called meeting at which time that office will be filled by election.

To:

In case of death, resignation, inability or refusal to serve by the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of that officer until the next regular meeting at which time that office shall be filled by election. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, the President may appoint a pro-tem officer until the next regular or called meeting at which time that office will be filled by election.

Article III – Section A – 6 referenced the Secretary / Treasurer, and now Article III – Section A – 6 references the Secretary duties and Article III – Section A – 7 was inserted for the Treasurer duties.

From:

Article III – Section A – 6 – The Secretary / Treasurer shall keep a record of all business conducted at meetings of the association. He shall collect all monies of the association, make a record of all monies collected, keep them safe, expend monies as authorized by the association and make a financial report at regular meetings of the association. *He shall also file annual 990-N tax returns.*

To:

Article III – Section A – 6 – The Secretary shall keep a record of all business conducted at meetings of the association. He shall collect all monies of the association, make a

record of all monies collected, and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. *He shall also file annual 990-N tax returns.*

Article III – Section A – 7 – The Treasurer shall collect all monies of the association from the Secretary, make a record of all monies collected, keep them safe, expend monies as authorized by the association and make a financial report at regular meetings of the association.

Previous article III – Section A – 7 was renumbered to 8 with no change, as follows.

Article III – Section A – 8 – The election and installation of officers shall be at the January meeting and their term of office will extend to the next January meeting.

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The bylaws were amended on Oct 9, 2012 in effect by the Grand Chapter / Grand Council ratifying the district number changes, which included changing Tarrant County District from 27 to 26. Therefore, changes in wording were made to Article I – Section B – 2 and Article II – Section A to reflect District 26.

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Typos were corrected on Nov 16, 2012 in the Amendments section of this document.

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The bylaws were amended on January 22, 2019  
Article III – Section A – 1, 3 and 5 were modified to change the officers from Vice President to reflect a First Vice President and Second Vice President.